

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2007  
BOROUGH OF SPELTHORNE**

**AT THE MEETING OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, KNOWLE GREEN, STAINES ON THURSDAY 21 JUNE AT  
7.30PM**

Ayers F.	Dunn S.A.	O'Hara E.
Beardsmore I.J.	Flurry K.E.	Packman J.D.
Bell E.M.	Forsbrey G. E.	Pinkerton J.D.
Bhadye S. (Deputy Mayor)	Grant Mrs D.L.	Pinkerton Mrs J.M.
Bouquet M. L.	Hirst A. P. (Mayor)	Rough Mrs M.W.
Broom P.A.	Hyams N.A.	Sider R. W.
Budd S.E.W.	Jaffer H.R.	Smith-Ainsley R.A.
Colison-Crawford R.B.	Leighton Mrs V.J.	Spencer Mrs C.L.
Collis M.J.	McShane D.L.	Strong C.V.
Crabb T.W.	Napper Mrs I.	Trussler G.F.
Davis C.A.	Nichols Mrs C.E.	Weston Mrs P.
	Nichols L.E.	

Councillor A.P. Hirst, The Mayor, in the Chair

**202/07 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.D.G. Kuun, M.T. Royer and H.A. Thomson and from Mr M. Litvak and Mr T. Davies.

**203/07 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2007 be approved as a correct record.

**204/07 SOUTH EAST EMPLOYERS CHARTER FOR MEMBER DEVELOPMENT**

The Mayor, Councillor A.P. Hirst, called upon the Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman, the Leader of the Minority Group, Councillor C.V. Strong and the Chief Executive, to re-sign the Statement of the Council's Commitment to the South East Employers Charter for Member Development. This was then signed in the presence of the Council.

**205/07 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR**

**Civic Service**

The Mayor reminded Members of the Civic Service to be held on Sunday 8 July 2007 at St Andrew's Church, Upper Halliford and asked them to respond to the invitations that had been sent out.

**Golf Day**

The Mayor reminded Members of the Golf Day to be held at Ashford Manor Golf Course on 2 August 2007. For those who did not play golf there would be a dinner on that evening which they were welcome to attend. Proceeds would be going to the Mayor's Charity Fund.

**Council v Staff Bowls Match**

The Mayor announced that a bowls match against the staff was being arranged for later in the year and urged Members to start practising now for what would be an enjoyable evening.

## **206/07 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive announced that Trevor Davies, the independent Vice-Chairman of the Council's Standards Committee, had stood down from his appointment as he had taken up a position with Woking Borough Council and this disqualified him from serving on this Council.

The process to advertise for a replacement would commence shortly.

## **207/07 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman, expressed his regret at the news that Trevor Davies had to stand down. He had voluntarily served on the Standards Committee since 2005 and it would be a loss to an important part of the Council's safeguards. He paid tribute to his work that had included an active part in the Council's Planning Code and Complaints' procedure. He had a memento to present, which would be passed on to Mr Davies.

## **208/07 DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2008**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on a draft Calendar of Meetings for 2008, covering the 12 months period from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. A revised draft Calendar was circulated at the Council meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the revised draft Calendar of Meetings for 2008, covering the 12 months period from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, be approved.

## **209/07 OUTTURN AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2006/2007**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Audit Committee on the Outturn and Statement of Accounts 2006/2007. A copy of the Draft Statement of Accounts 2006/2007 had been circulated to all Members of the Council under separate cover.

**RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts 2006/2007 be approved and that they be signed by the Leader of the Council and by the Chief Financial Officer [i.e. the Strategic Director (Support)].

## **210/07 CHANGE TO THE COUNCIL'S CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN**

The Council considered the report of the Strategic Director (Support) on a change to the Council's criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

The change to the Council's criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen was opposed by the minority party.

**RESOLVED** that a change to the Council's criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen, by the deletion of the Borough residency requirement [i.e. existing "clause (b)"], to enable a nominee who no longer lives in the Borough to be considered for appointment as an Honorary Alderman, be approved.

## **211/07 NOMINATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN HONORARY ALDERMAN OF THE BOROUGH**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor J.D. Packman, proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley seconded the nomination of former Borough Councillor, Frank Davies for appointment as an Honorary Alderman of the Borough.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That former Borough Councillor Frank Davies be nominated for appointment as an Honorary Alderman of the Borough.
- (b) That a Special Meeting of the Council be held on Thursday 26 July 2007 for the formal appointment of former Borough Councillor Frank Davies as an Honorary Alderman of the Borough.

## **212/07 REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor J.D. Packman, presented his report, which outlined the various matters the Executive had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

## **213/07 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor J.D. Pinkerton, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

## **214/07 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Performance Management and Review Committee, Councillor F. Ayers, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

## **215/07 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor E. O'Hara, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

## **216/07 MOTIONS**

Under Standing Order 16, Councillor C.V. Strong proposed and Councillor E. M. Bell seconded the following motion:

“This Council notes the prolonged level of poor service the Borough of Spelthorne has received from the County Highways Authority.

Council resolves to deplore the poor service level and calls upon the County Highways Authority, as a matter of urgency, to present to the Borough of Spelthorne a detailed scheme for improving the maintenance services it is providing.”

Under Standing Order 18.6 (i), the Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley seconded the following amendment to the above Motion:

“This Council resolves to refer the matter of highways maintenance improvement to the Surrey County Council Local Committee in Spelthorne for consideration, being the appropriate local forum for dealing with this issue on behalf of the County Highways Authority.”

In accordance with Standing Order 21.4, a request was made by the Leader of the Council, Councillor J.D. Packman, for the voting on the above matter to be recorded. The vote was as follows:

FOR (34)	Councillors F. Ayers, Miss M. Bain, I.J. Beardsmore, E.M. Bell, S. Bhadye, M.L. Bouquet, P.A. Broom, S.E.W. Budd, R.B. Colison-Crawford, M.J. Collis, T.W. Crabb, C.A. Davis, Mrs S.A. Dunn, K.E. Flurry, G.E. Forsbrey, Mrs D.L. Grant, A.P. Hirst, Mrs N.A. Hyams, H.R. Jaffer, Mrs V.J. Leighton, D.L. McShane, Mrs I. Napper, Mrs C.E. Nichols, L.E. Nichols, E. O'Hara, J.D. Packman, Mrs J.M. Pinkerton, J.D. Pinkerton, M.W. Rough, R.W. Sider, Mrs C.L. Spencer, C.V. Strong, G.F. Trussler and Mrs P. Weston
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The amendment was carried.

The amendment was then put as the substantive motion and again carried.

**RESOLVED** to refer the matter of highways maintenance improvement to the Surrey County Council Local Committee in Spelthorne for consideration, being the appropriate local forum for dealing with this issue on behalf of the County Highways Authority.

## **217/07 GENERAL QUESTIONS**

The Mayor referred to the new Constitution and to Standing Order 14, which permitted Members to ask general questions. He stated that by inference the interpretation of this Standing Order meant that Members were only permitted to ask one question. However, on this particular occasion only, he was prepared to exercise his discretion and to allow Members to ask the questions which they had submitted in writing by the new deadline of 12 Noon three clear days prior to the Council meeting.

### **Under Standing Order 14, Councillor C.V. Strong asked the following questions:**

**Q1.** "How many extra support staff will be employed for the roll-out of the Alternate Weekly Collection?"

### **The Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman, responded as follows:**

"Within Customer Services 5 extra temporary staff have been appointed to provide coverage until Christmas 2007. One staff member has also been assigned to Environment Services as project support officer and liaison with schools."

Councillor Strong then exercised his right under Standing Order 14.2 to ask a supplementary question which sought to establish when the numbers of support staff had been revised.

Councillor Packman responded that staffing levels reflected the response to the changing requirements of the scheme as it had evolved and been developed further.

**Q2.** "Who approved the bringing forward of the commencement date of the Alternate Weekly Collection to September 24th?"

### **The Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman, responded as follows:**

"This issue was discussed at length by the Programme Board as the original proposal for the end of October was thought to be too close to Christmas to allow the scheme to bed in before then. Furthermore, having a longer four week roll out from September through to October enables manageable zones, which should help to spread any customer issues. The date was, therefore, moved forward to Sept 24 to allow time for the new system to settle in prior to Christmas. The final approval for the AWC roll-out will take place at the July Executive meeting."

Councillor C.V. Strong then exercised his right under Standing Order 14.2 to ask a supplementary question seeking an assurance that the decision of the Executive would be placed before Council as a recommendation.

Councillor J.D. Packman responded that the responsibility and the decision was a matter for Executive.

### **Under Standing Order 14, Councillor I.J. Beardsmore asked the following questions:**

**Q1.** "When are the special meetings on the way forward of the recycling scheme going to be held?"

### **The Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman, responded as follows:**

"The Waste Seminar is taking place on 9 July 2007 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber."

**Q2.** "It was agreed that only the right environmental message should be concentrated on. What is meant by the 'right' environmental message?"

**The Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman, responded as follows:**

"We need to ensure that residents are aware of these issues in relation to waste collection and disposal, rather than focusing on recycling targets alone. Through both our work and joint work with Surrey we hope to ensure that residents start to understand the waste hierarchy. However, this Council maintains the national environmental message to "Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle".

Councillor I.J. Beardsmore then exercised his right under Standing Order 14.2 to ask a supplementary question about the measures to be taken on the right messages if residents find waste rotting in bins during summer months.

Councillor J.D. Packman responded that he would ask the Officers to give him a detailed reply.

**Under Standing Order 14, Councillor Mrs C.E. Nichols asked the following question:**

"Now that the Council's trial of the new bins at selected properties has finished, what trials will the Council be running over the crucial summer period? Is the Council considering trialling a complete ward before rolling out the alternate weekly collection to the whole Borough?"

**The Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman, responded as follows:**

"There will be no trials over the summer period. I presume this question relates to food waste. We have taken note of reactions in other Boroughs and Districts and will ensure that appropriate guidance is given. In all these areas common sense advice about food waste disposal have prevented problems. The trials also have a considerable cost associated with them and, therefore, the trial will not be continuing.

Additionally, please rest assured that the Portfolio lead for the Environment – Councillor G.E. Forsbrey and senior staff are working closely with other Surrey districts on the whole issue of collecting kitchen waste.

As and when facilities exist for North Surrey districts to dispose of food waste, Spelthorne will be well placed to consider swift introduction of such schemes as will be appropriate."

Councillor Mrs C. E. Nichols then exercised her right under Standing Order 14.2 to ask a supplementary question about the timescale for the introduction of food waste collection.

Councillor J.D. Packman stated that he did not have any information on this matter.

**Under Standing Order 14, Councillor L.E. Nichols asked the following question:**

"The air quality in some areas of the Borough is very poor and below expected standards, especially around Sunbury Cross. Why have the published air quality statistics presented on the Council website not been updated since September 2006? When will the up to date statistics be published?"

**The Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman, responded as follows:**

"Spelthorne currently monitors airborne nitrogen dioxide levels in 38 locations in the Borough, including several in the Sunbury Cross area.

We currently have a problem with the link between our air quality results spreadsheet and the Council's website. Consequently the results table on our website has not been updated correctly. This problem is currently under investigation and will be resolved as soon as possible.

We are also currently experiencing a delay in receiving the results from the contractor we use to analyse the tubes. Despite submitting tubes to the contractor on a monthly basis we have only received ratified data up until the end of December 2006. It is understood that other local authorities are experiencing similar problems and we are pursuing this matter with the contractor. As soon as the outstanding results become available we will update our website accordingly.

We will be unable to provide any results for the monitoring location in The Parade, Sunbury Cross for the period October 2006 to January 2007. This is due to the fact that, the lamp-post used to mount the tube at this location has been removed. Consequently we have had to identify a new monitoring location in this area which has been in use since February 2007.

The majority of airborne nitrogen dioxide in the Sunbury Cross area is due to traffic related pollution. Although nitrogen dioxide levels are elevated in some areas of the Borough, levels are beginning to fall in a number of locations, presumably due to the use of cleaner, more efficient vehicles. The higher levels of nitrogen dioxide found at our monitoring point in The Parade, Sunbury Cross are due to the fact that this is a roadside monitoring location, and would not be representative of the levels of pollutants that people would experience throughout the day."

Councillor Nichols then exercised his right under Standing Order 14.2 to ask a supplementary question which indicated that the answer given was not dissimilar to the answers given to questions raised at the last two area forums.

Councillor Packman gave an assurance that the Council would play its part in combating pollution.