

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2007  
BOROUGH OF SPELTHORNE**

**AT THE MEETING OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, KNOWLE GREEN, STAINES ON THURSDAY 19 JULY AT  
7.30PM**

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

Mr M. Litvak

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

**242/07 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms P.A. Broom, K. Chouhan, Mrs D.L. Grant, H.R. Jaffer, Mrs M.W. Rough and Mrs C.L. Spencer.

**243/07 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2007 be approved as a correct record, subject to the name of Miss M.M. Bain being added to the list of apologies and removed from the recorded vote list in Minute 216/07, the name of Councillor Smith-Ainsley being added to the recorded vote list in Minute 216/07 and the correct titles for Councillors Mrs Dunn, Ms Hyams and Mrs Rough being added in Minute 216/07.

**244/07 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR**

**Mayor's Charity Lunch**

A Charity lunch would be taking place on Sunday 29 July at the home of Mr and Mrs Gerry Ceaser. Tickets could be obtained from the Mayor's secretary.

**Golf Day Dinner**

The Mayor reminded Members of the Golf Day dinner which was to be held at Ashford Manor Golf Club on the evening of 2 August 2007 and to which non-players were also welcome. Proceeds would be going to the Mayor's Charity Fund.

**Council v Staff Bowls Match**

The Mayor announced that the bowls match against the staff would be held on 8 August 2007 at 6pm and encouraged Members to arrive for a practise at 5pm so that they might reclaim the cup from the Officers this year.

**245/07 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Mayor reported that under Standing Order 13, two questions had been received from members of the public. He invited each person to put their question in turn, and for responses

to be given by the responsible Executive Portfolio Holder. He confirmed that a written response would also be sent to the questioners.

**(1) Question from Diane Appleby: -**

“Why are flats once again excluded from an important Borough plan such as waste management and recycling. The statistics suggest 1,000 households in Staines are flats, that they contribute millions of pounds in taxes but receive less services than anyone whose home is a 'house'.

Residents living in flats wish, after years of exclusion, to become part of the move to reduce the amount of rubbish that goes into landfill. Increasingly inhabitants are skilled knowledge workers recruited internationally who understands the need to conserve resources and recycle.

My own flat is one of 87 - we have requested a site visit which we recorded in writing on 31st May, but after 6 weeks no progress has been made.

Will the portfolio holder please tell those of us within the 'forgotten flats sector' what exactly is the timing for waste collection and re-cycling for our flats? And when will we receive our site visit? "

**The Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Councillor G.E. Forsbrey replied as follows:**

“Thank you for raising your concern with this issue Ms Appleby. There are about 8,000 flats and maisonettes in the Borough and I can assure you that they are far from forgotten.

I fully understand that it may appear we are not dealing with the problem, but we are trying to resolve it as quickly as possible. We have employed staff to specifically map the Borough's difficult properties and find solutions wherever possible.

We are currently just completing that work and will be notifying you and other residents, before the rollout of the new scheme, whether or not we can move your flats onto the new alternate weekly system. In some cases this may be possible but in others, where the bin area will need reconfiguring, we will initially have to keep to weekly collections.

It is our intention that over time, we will move as many flats as possible onto the new scheme. Given the number of properties concerned, and the fact that no flats have the same design of bin area, this is a large task and takes time to resolve.

Therefore, we very much appreciate your willingness to recycle, but ask for your patience as we work our way through the flat properties. Visits will probably be completed by the end of August, but all residents will be notified well before the start of the new service on the 24th September.

Furthermore, to encourage recycling from people who live in flat complexes we will, over the next nine months, be upgrading bank site to provide extra facilities for recycling.”

**(2) Question from Andrew McLuskey: -**

“Given the widespread concern over how the new refuse system will be affected by warm weather, will the Council reconsider its decision NOT to run a summer trial?”

**The Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Councillor G.E. Forsbrey replied as follows:**

“The pilot scheme was run with 100 participants over a 7 week period which covered the warmest April on record. The pilot also demonstrated that the two wheelie bin system increased recycling of materials.

The pilot also demonstrated that food waste could be dealt with appropriately and without any major problems. Furthermore, the cost to the Council of running another trial would be in excess of £40,000.

We are working closely with other Surrey Authorities to look at the infrastructure needs for dealing with kitchen waste. At the current time there are no outlets close to Spelthorne, which have sufficient capacity to take food waste for treatment and we are therefore reliant on Surrey, as the waste disposal authority, to provide such outlets.

It is unlikely any of these will come on stream before 2009, but we are working across Surrey to ensure collection issues are addressed so a cost effective scheme can be put in place once disposal facilities become available. Spelthorne is keen to be at the forefront of this collection process when it becomes a reality.

Furthermore, our feedback from 8 roadshows, where we have talked to several hundred people, is that the public are very positive toward the new Alternate Weekly Collection system.

Therefore, we believe the pilot succeeded in its aim and we do not see any benefit of extending the trial. Some people have misconceptions about the Alternate Weekly Collection Scheme and we will be using the summer months to inform people of the facts.”

**246/07            PETITIONS**

The Mayor invited Mrs. Sandra Collins to present a Petition, the suit of which was the opposing of the introduction of an Alternate Weekly Collection System for Refuse and Recycling, and invited her to address the Council.

Mrs. Collins presented the Petition, which the Mayor duly received, and she outlined her reasons for submitting it .

She indicated that Residents were strongly opposed to the introduction of alternate weekly collections for refuse and recycling due to the public health hazard that they believed it would cause. The World Health organisation had recommended weekly collections in temperate climates and 11 other Councils had reverted to weekly collections following public protest.

Residents were happy to recycle and many did so actively in excess of the Council’s current provision for recycling.

The Petition requested the Council to reconsider its policy of fortnightly general household waste collection and ensure that kitchen waste was collected on a weekly basis.

**RESOLVED** that the Petition be noted.

**247/07            THE LICENSING ACT 2003 – DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY  
2008-2011**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2008-2011. A copy of the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2008-2011 had been circulated to all Members of the Council under separate cover.

**RESOLVED** that the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2008-2011 be adopted for consultation.

**248/07            AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE – APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Audit Committee on a change to the Audit Committee terms of reference to include approval of the Statement of Accounts.

**RESOLVED** that the change to the terms of reference of the Audit Committee to include approval of the Statement of Accounts, be approved and that the Council's Constitution be revised accordingly.

**249/07            INDEPENDENT MEMBER APPOINTMENTS**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Standards Committee on the appointment of an independent non-elected member to the Standards Committee.

**RESOLVED**

- a) That the arrangements proposed for the advertising and selection of Independent non elected Members of the Standards Committee as outlined in the report of the Monitoring Officer including the person specification be approved.
- b) That a Selection Panel of four members, comprising the two Group Leaders or their nominated representatives, one further member nominated by the Conservative Group Leader, and the Chairman of the Standards Committee assisted by the Monitoring Officer, be appointed to consider any applications received and make recommendations on appointment to the Council; and
- c) That one Independent Member be appointed to replace Mr Trevor Davies for a term to expire at the Annual General Meeting in 2009.

**250/07            NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Standards Committee on the new Model Code of Conduct for Members.

**RESOLVED**

- a) That the new model Code of Conduct in the form attached at appendix 2 to the report of the Standards Committee be adopted from 1 October 2007.
- b) That all Members undergo training on the new Code of Conduct or if unable to do so to give an undertaking to read and fully understand the requirements of the Code and this be actioned through Group Leaders.

**251/07            NOMINATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor J.D. Packman proposed, the Deputy Leader, Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley seconded and Councillor R.W. Sider endorsed the nomination of former Borough Councillor Gerry Ceaser for appointment as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

**RESOLVED**

- a) That former Borough Councillor Gerry Ceaser be nominated for appointment as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.
- b) That a Special Meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 23 October 2007 for the formal appointment of former Borough Councillor Gerry Ceaser as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

**252/07            REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor J.D. Packman, presented his report on some of the matters the Executive had dealt with on 17 July 2007 and answered questions from Members. A copy of the report had been circulated to all members of the Council under separate cover.

**253/07 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Improvement and Development Committee, Councillor Mrs P. Weston, presented her report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**254/07 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor R.W. Sider, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Licensing Sub-Committees had dealt with since the last Council meeting and answered questions from Members.

**255/07 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 and answered questions from Members.

**256/07 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr M. Litvak, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**257/07 GENERAL QUESTIONS**

**Under Standing Order 14, Councillor R.W. Sider asked the following question:**

“Can the Strategic Director (Community) assure me that this Council will pursue every avenue to prosecute each and every person found to be ‘Fly Tipping’ in the Borough, irrespective of the amount of such fly tipping involved?”

**The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley replied as follows:**

“Within the resources available every effort is made to apprehend fly tippers within the Borough. All fly tips apart from those on private land are removed within 48 hours of notification and where the fly tipper or the origin of the rubbish can be identified the fly tipper or the originator of the rubbish is pursued.

On most occasions, however, neither the fly tipper nor the origin of the rubbish can be identified. Also, on many occasions even when the vehicle registration is known, the registration is false, and we are unable to identify the vehicle.

It is imperative that we deal with fly tipping as it costs this Council £170 for every tonne removed and in 2006/07 we removed 525 fly tips, which resulted in 320 tonnes of waste: that’s £55,000!

I have therefore been assured by the Strategic Director (Community) that every effort is made to pursue offenders on every occasion that a fly tip is found and our Officers regularly discuss the issue with adjoining Council’s and our respective partners, such as the Surrey Police.”

**Under Standing Order 14, Councillor Mrs P. Weston asked the following question:**

“Can the Head of Communications and Community Safety inform me what plans are in place to combat the increasing anti social behaviour being experienced in the Borough Parks in Ashford in particular and in other parks in Spelthorne in general”

**The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley replied as follows:**

“As the portfolio holder for community safety and community engagement I work closely with the portfolio for young people and appropriate officers on issues such as this. Complaints about Anti social behaviour in our parks rise and fall dependant on the time of year.

Key agencies work together to reduce the effects and have a flexible approach in order to effectively deal with the problems as they arise.

The Council, in partnership with Surrey Police, employ various staff who patrol the parks on a regular basis. These include the Stanwell community warden, the Parks Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), the Street Scene officer, and the Parks and Open Space management staff.

Problems are managed through the Joint Action Group (JAG), which is a monthly multi agency tasking and problem solving group, who examine the main issues in the borough and agree an action plan to tackle and reduce them.

In relation to the Ashford parks in particular, partners are working to reduce the problems and committing resources to try and solve them.

For example, police have stepped up their patrols and the Parks PCSO meet each week with the Council's community safety team to determine areas for priority to patrol, share intelligence and action joint work. Both Parks have CCTV systems, which are regularly checked.

New "Respect" signs have been placed in both parks, and the police have seized alcohol and issued official warnings regarding unlawful use of motor bikes in the parks.

Over the summer the Borough's Youth Development officer is arranging a range of activities based at youth centres in the five towns and will also be running the Urban Games, which is geared toward young people who do not take part in the more popular team games.

In summary therefore, the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership is working together using intelligence, information and analysis to determine where the problems are, implement solutions, and provide visible staff presence in the hotspot locations.

I am also aware that the portfolio holder for young people, Councillor Grant, has requested a meeting with the police and the Strategic Director (Community) to discuss Ashford parks in particular."

**Q3. Under Standing Order 14, Councillor Mrs C. Nichols asked the following question:**

"Will the Portfolio holder confirm that the Council's stated position is that it has no objection in principle to incineration at the Charlton site and will he give an indication of the annual waste tonnage that currently passes through Charlton and the maximum annual waste tonnage that the site would handle if an incinerator is added?"

**The Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Councillor G.E. Forsbrey replied as follows:**

"A report was agreed by Executive on 18 July 2006 which set out the Council's concerns about the submitted Surrey Waste Plan 2006. We objected to the 'soundness' of the Plan on a number of matters.

This is a matter of record and Councillor Nichols could have read this information for herself.

In summary, the County Council's draft Waste Plan does not expressly propose an incineration at Charlton Lane, but they do refer to 'thermal treatment' which encompasses a range of technologies.

We have objected to any large scale facility at Charlton Lane because of its significant potential adverse impact on landscape, amenity and traffic. We have also objected that the draft plan fails to assess the impact of smaller scale facilities and their suitability, or otherwise, at any of the sites identified in the plan – including Charlton Lane and the lack of acknowledgement in the plan of the constraints each site has.

We have made it clear that any proposal at Charlton Lane, is likely to give rise to landscape, amenity and traffic impacts greater than the existing development, and this would not be acceptable to the Council.

In relation to the second part of the question, I am somewhat surprised that Councillor Nichols is still not aware of the responsibilities that Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey County Council have.

The tonnages at Charlton Lane site are a matter for the County, as they are the disposal authority. Similarly, as the disposal authority they would also determine any issues around an energy from waste plant.

Therefore your question needs to be put to the appropriate Authority, in this case Surrey County Council.”

Councillor Mrs Nichols then exercised her right under Standing Order 14.2 to ask a supplementary question and opened by saying that she had read the relevant documents. Although she was aware of the Council’s objection to a large incinerator on the basis of its effect on the visual amenity, she sought to establish whether the Council would be objecting in principle to an incinerator at Charlton. She said that an officer giving evidence at The Examination in Public of the Surrey Waste Plan was asked outright by the Inspector whether Spelthorne Council objected in principle to an incinerator at Charlton and he answered "no".

Councillor Forsbrey responded that he would discuss the matter with the officer involved to establish the implications of his comments and advise Councillor Mrs Nichols in due course.

**Q4. Under Standing Order 14, Councillor I. Beardsmore asked the following question:**

“Split between capital and revenue budgets and including publicity and customer support; how much has been committed to date for the introduction of Alternate Weekly Collection of waste?”

**The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, Councillor M.L. Bouquet replied as follows:**

“The total combined original budget provision for 2007-08 is £2.126m. This includes money for marketing and customer support. This represents an increase of £384k on the 2006-07 original budget provision.

However, £226k of this is for the short term, “one off” issues, such as marketing and the temporary contact centre. Of the remaining £158k increase, roughly £50k would have arisen from normal inflationary pressures (salaries, fuel etc) so the underlying increase in revenue provision is roughly £100k.

In relation to Capital provision for 2007-08, this totals £1.375m, made up of the buying the wheelie bins (£1.1m), the depot expansion (£250k) and new vehicle logos (£25k).

With regard to the implementation of the new Alternative Weekly Collection scheme (ignoring costs relating to existing collection scheme) total actual expenditure as at end of June 2007 was £45,506. However, a further £1,177,621 is already "committed". Most of this relates to the purchase of the majority of the wheelie bins.

I trust this clarifies the current position, but also highlights the fact that Alternate Weekly Collection is not a savings exercise for the Council, but an increase due to the environmental need to stop putting so much of our waste into the ground because we are running out of space to take it.”

Councillor Beardsmore then exercised his right under Standing Order 14.2 to ask a supplementary question which sought to establish whether there was a contingency fund for an overspend.

Councillor Bouquet responded that he would investigate this matter and would advise Councillor Beardsmore in due course. Additionally a copy of this response would be provided to him.