

**Minutes of the Council Meeting of Spelthorne Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames Thursday 25 October 2012 at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Ayers F. (Leader)	Francis M.P.	Patterson A.C.
Ayub A.	Frazer C.M.	Pinkerton Mrs J.M. (Deputy Leader)
Bannister Mrs C.A.	Forsbrey G.E.	Rough Mrs M.W.
Beardsmore I.J.	Gething N. St. J.	Sexton Miss J.
Broom Miss P.A.	Gohil D.	Sider R.W. (Mayor)
Budd S.E.W	Grant Mrs D.L.	Smith-Ainsley R.A.
Bushnell Ms M.	Harman A.C.	Strong C.V
Davis C.A.	Madams Mrs M.J.	Taylor S.D
Dunn R.D.	Mitchell A.J.	Watts R.L.
Dunn Mrs S.A.	Napper Mrs I. (Deputy Mayor)	Webb Mrs S.
Forbes-Forsyth P.C.	Nichols Mrs C.E.	

R.W. Sider, the Mayor, in the Chair

**Apologies:** Councillors R.B. Colison-Crawford, Mrs J.A. Dale, T.J.M. Evans, A.E. Friday, Mrs V.J. Leighton, Ms D. Patel, Mrs C.L. Spencer and Mr Murray Litvak and Miss Sue Faulkner, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee respectively.

**282/12 Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 July 2012 and those of the Special Council meeting held on 30 August 2012 were approved as a correct record.

**283/12 Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

**284/12 Announcements from the Mayor**

**Spelthorne Young Carers Awards 2012**

The Mayor extended a welcome to his guests and acknowledged six very special young people and the work they had been doing in caring for their families. They had each been nominated for a Young Carers Award and the ward councillor for each of the young people read aloud a citation describing the courageous way in which they had coped in difficult home situations. Each young person received a certificate and had a photograph taken with the Mayor.

The names of the young carers receiving the award and their citations are reproduced below.

Councillor C.A. Bannister read out the citation for young carer Emily Rendes.

"Emily has had to deal with a lot in her young life. Her mother has been fighting cancer for the last few years and her younger sister has been

diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. Emily has cared for both her mother and little sister, helping with the day to day chores and their personal care. Not only that, but she has given her mother the emotional support and strength to carry on through the difficult times. Just to let you have an insight into the kind of girl Emily is; when her mother thought she may have to go abroad to receive medical treatment, Emily took the initiative to hold a cake sale at school with the help and support of her friends and was able to raise over £700 for her mum's treatment.

Emily is a loving, protective and compassionate young woman. She has had to give up many treats and opportunities in her life and never complains or feels sorry for herself. Emily's mother is so very proud of having such a caring young lady for her daughter. This is why Emily is very deserving of the award for Spelthorne Young Carer 2012."

Councillor Frazer read out the citation for young carers Sophie, Katie and Abigail Wawman.

"Sophie, Katie and Abigail are here tonight with their dad, Mark. Sadly their mum can't be with us because she is not too well this evening. The whole family exudes the optimism and love which amply deserves our recognition. Sophie, Katie and Abigail are three young women who look after their mother. She has chronic fatigue syndrome and other medical problems, including lack of mobility. The girls help their mother bathe, get dressed and many other duties around the house. Despite all of this the girls have managed bravely to cope with their school work, preparing for exams including their GCSEs and of course the ups and downs of being teenagers. Their mother is so proud of them; three loving, devoted daughters who have managed tirelessly to keep family life normal; they even argue over who is pushing their mum in her wheelchair. We commend Sophie, Katie and Abigail as Spelthorne Young Carers 2012."

Councillor Pinkerton read out the citation for young carer Jenna Wiles.

"Jenna, with her mother, cares for her brother David who has now been diagnosed with Autism and this has had a huge impact on her family. David needs to have continuous care as he falls easily and is unable to help himself when he needs to be lifted. Sometimes David doesn't know his own strength when he decides to launch himself at Jenna for fun and knocks her over. Jenna has had a lot to cope with over the years but has managed to juggle her home life with achieving top grades at school. Jenna's mother says that Jenna still shines brightly and she wants her to know how much she is loved and valued for everything she does and this is why Jenna has been awarded Spelthorne Young Carer 2012."

Councillor Harman read out the citation for young carer Adam Lyall.

"Adam lives with his mother and brother Daniel who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, which is a muscular wasting condition. Unfortunately Daniel can no longer walk and in the evenings Adam helps Daniel with his exercises and

putting on his splints, and brings him drinks and anything else Daniel needs before he helps him to bed. They are always laughing and chatting and have a very special bond.

Adam has a wonderful sense of humour and is always ready to make his brother and his mum laugh. It is the little things he does that make him such a special son and brother. For instance, when his mother oiled the wooden worktops in the kitchen and left everything off them so that they could dry overnight, she came down in the morning to find that everything had been put back in its place. Adam's mum really appreciates everything that he does for her and his brother and wants him to receive the recognition he deserves for being such a devoted and caring son and brother. This is why Adam has been awarded Spelthorne Young Carer 2012."

### **Mayoral Events**

The Mayor invited members to join him at the following upcoming events in support of his Mayoral charities:

24 November 2012 – Mayor's Dining Club at Stanwell Hall Hotel

19 January 2013 – Race Night at St Peter's Church Hall, Staines-upon-Thames

22 February 2013 – Spelthorne Young Voices Concert at Halliford School

9 March 2013 – Mayor's Charity Ball at Runnymede Hotel, Egham

16 March 2013 – Weybridge Male Voice Choir at St Peter's Church Hall, Staines-upon-Thames

23 April 2013 – Mayoress' Ladies Charity Lunch at Ashford Manor Golf Club

Tickets for all these events are available from the Mayor's secretary.

### **285/12          Announcements from the Leader**

#### **Clean Britain Award 2012**

The Leader, Councillor F. Ayers, was pleased to announce that Spelthorne was awarded 5 stars and the Bronze award winner in the Small Local Authority category of this year's Clean Britain Awards run by The Chartered Institute of Waste Management.

This was the first time the Borough had been entered for such an award with judging based on a number of categories including: cleanliness, lack of litter, graffiti, fly posting, waste and overall appearance. The judges commented on regeneration works, litter free environments, clear and visible workers and public support. He noted that this award was as a result of existing high standards across the borough as there was no prior notification of the judging day or the areas to be visited.

He thanked two Streetscene officers who, day in and day out, swept and removed litter from the streets of Spelthorne: Jimmy Sampson and Gaby Caso who had worked for Spelthorne for 21 and 23 years respectively together with the Streetscene team for their contribution towards achieving these high standards across Spelthorne.

The Mayor presented Jimmy Sampson with the award for Clean Britain 2012 which he accepted on behalf of the Streetscene Team.

**South and South East in Bloom competition.**

South and South East in Bloom is an independent charity that runs an annual competition which is sponsored and supported by Southern Water. The Leader was pleased to report that this year the Council entered, and was successful in, 3 different categories:

In the Town Centre category – Shepperton High Street

In the Small Park of the Year category – Sunbury Walled Garden

In the Cemetery category – Staines Cemetery which achieved the outright accolade of Cemetery of the Year 2012.

Judges had commented on the faultless maintenance of the Walled Garden, the high horticultural standards in Staines cemetery and the community environment of Shepperton, for which the residents and volunteers of Shepperton in Bloom 2012 were to be congratulated for their tremendous efforts in achieving a Silver Gilt award. He invited Bernard Troop, member of the Shepperton Town Spelthorne in Bloom Steering Group to receive the award from the Mayor on their behalf.

The Leader informed the Council that its parks, cemeteries and open spaces were managed by Lotus Landscapes. He introduced Richard Jones, Director and Dennis Codd, Contracts Manager and some of their workforce who were present at the meeting: Roy Caller and Simon Codd who helped to look after the Walled Garden and Steven Jones and Ian Newbury who looked after Staines Cemetery. They had all contributed to these prestigious awards and he thanked them on behalf of the Council for their continued contribution and hard work. They received the awards from the Mayor.

**286/12 Announcements from the Chief Executive**

There were none.

**287/12 Questions from Members of the Public**

The Mayor reported that under Standing Order 13, two questions had been received from Mr A. McLuskey.

**Questions from Mr A. McLuskey:**

“Will the Leader of the Council publicly distance himself from the local MP’s call for a fourth Heathrow runway to be built in Stanwell? Will he also distance himself from Dr. Kwarteng’s description of British workers as ‘the worst idlers in the world’?”

**Response by the Leader, Councillor F. Ayers:**

“Thank you for your question Mr McLuskey.

Spelthorne Council’s support for a possible third runway is unchanged.

On the subject of a fourth runway, the Council will not support the idea of a fourth runway. However we will await the findings of the recently appointed Commission on the UK's airport capacity before making any further comments.

Kwasi Kwarteng is a prolific writer on economic and historical issues, sometimes writing alone, whilst at other times in conjunction with other parliamentary colleagues. I have raised this very comment about British workers with him and am satisfied that the turn of phrase used was not intended to cause offence.

It is well known that he admires the work ethic of North Surrey and Thames Valley businesses, and actually commented that if only all parts of the country were as industrious as Spelthorne, things would be a lot better.”

**288/12 Report from the Leader**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Ayers, presented the reports of the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting held on 7 August 2012 and the meeting held on 25 September 2012, which outlined the various matters the Cabinet had decided since the last Council meeting.

**289/12 Report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee**

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor D. Gohil, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

**290/12 Report from the Chairman of the Licensing Committee**

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Mrs M.W. Rough, presented her report, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting. She expressed her thanks to two Licensing Enforcement officers who had since left the Council, Gemma Dean and David Packham. Their efforts, together with others in the Licensing Team had enabled the committee members to reach well founded decisions which when challenged further at appeal had been upheld.

**291/12 Report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Ms. P. A. Broom, presented her report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

**292/12 Report from the Chairman of the Crime and Disorder Committee**

The Chairman of the Crime and Disorder Committee, Councillor Ms. P. A. Broom, presented her report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

**293/12 Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor R. A. Smith-Ainsley, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

**294/12 Report from the Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee**

Councillor R.D. Dunn, a member of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee, presented the report on behalf of the Chairman which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

**295/12 Motions**

The Mayor reported that under Standing Order 16.3, the Council had received Notice of a Motion from Councillor M.W. Rough. In accordance with Standing Order 19.13 Councillor Rough gave notice that she wished to alter the motion by the addition of words and the Council gave its consent to consider the altered motion.

Councillor M.W. Rough proposed and Councillor S.D. Taylor seconded the following motion as altered:

“Would fellow Councillors agree with me that the repeal of the anti-spitting law in 1990 is now to be regretted? The current fashion of spitting and spitting of gum in public places is to be condemned as offensive, repellent to the majority and with the reappearance and rise of TB poses a potential health risk. It is therefore proposed that officers be requested to consider the cost and legal implications of amending or enacting a byelaw (or equivalent) which would deter and provide a sanction against the perpetrators of spitting.

Additionally, the cost of the recently deep cleaning of, and gum removal from, the pedestrianised area of Staines High Street was in excess of £12,000. In these straitened times it is sad that such anti-social habits of the few lay a burden on the majority of council tax payers.”

The Motion was debated, put to the vote, and it was carried.

**296/12 Questions on Ward Issues**

**Under Standing Order 14, Councillor Mrs C.E. Nichols submitted the following question on a ward issue:**

“An application has been made to recycle asbestos in Sunbury close to several schools. What is the Council's policy on the location of asbestos sites in the Borough and, if the application is approved, how will the Council ensure that the highest safety standards are followed? There are locations in Sunbury East ward that regularly suffer from illegal asbestos dumping. Are there any measures which the Council could adopt, such as the use of CCTV cameras, which might help to reduce this crime?”

**Response by the portfolio holder for Environment, Councillor R.L. Watts:**

“Thank you for your question, Councillor Nichols.

An application has recently been submitted by European Asbestos Services Ltd to Surrey County Council for an asbestos waste transfer station. We are a statutory consultee and have been asked for our views on the proposal. Officers are currently considering the proposal, and review each scheme on its individual merits. One of the main issues will be the possible impact on the residential amenity of nearby properties, although the site is primarily located in an industrial area.

As you know, it will be for the County to make the final decision on the application and to monitor any permission that may be granted.

I can entirely understand your concern about safety standards, and hope that the following information will re-assure you. Any operation of a waste transfer facility is covered by a Standard Rules Environment Permit which has to be issued by the Environment Agency. The operator will need to have a management system approved and a number of conditions would be imposed on any permission. Under the permit conditions the site is likely to be regularly inspected by both the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive.

Obviously as a Council we are keen to ensure that illegal dumping of asbestos is minimised, whether this be in Sunbury East or elsewhere in the borough. Of course, it is feasible for CCTV to be installed in 'hot spot' areas but funding would need to be found. This would need to be considered alongside other areas of work. The Council is, however, looking into whether a portable CCTV camera might be a possible solution for this and other issues."

**Under Standing Order 14.2, Councillor Mrs C.E. Nichols asked the following supplementary question:**

"I appreciate that Surrey is the planning authority but could you also confirm in the minutes who Spelthorne Council has consulted with before submitting its reply to Surrey?"

**Councillor R.L. Watts provided a subsequent written response as follows:**

"Spelthorne Planning Department consulted the Pollution Control Officer in the Environmental Health team on the application. Environmental Health do not, as a matter of course, consult with external bodies or organisations prior to submitting their comments to the planning service, who then forward their response to the County Council. Surrey County Council, as the planning authority, will carry out neighbour notification in accordance with the legal requirements and they will have undertaken their own consultation with a series of technical bodies."

**297/12      General Questions**

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

“Why has the Council reduced the air quality monitoring at Sunbury Cross when past readings show that this is one of the most polluted parts of the Borough, regularly failing national standards for air quality? Now that the ‘Eco park’ waste processing plant is set to go ahead should not the Council be increasing the monitoring in the immediate area i.e. Halliford and Sunbury Common which are in the direction of the prevailing winds from Charlton site?”

**Response by the portfolio holder for Environment, Councillor R.L. Watts:**

Thank you for your question, Councillor Nichols.

At the end of March 2012, the monitoring station at The Haven, off Vicarage Road, near Sunbury Cross was closed. The station was continuously monitoring nitrogen dioxide levels. The cost to the Council of operating this monitoring station was in excess of £7,500 per year. A continuous analyser provides useful information on hourly mean concentrations. However, the short-term hourly, mean, air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide has not been exceeded in the borough in the past ten years, and the Air Quality Management Area declared for this in 2000 was revoked in 2003.

The closure of the monitoring station at Sunbury Cross was taken in the knowledge that it is by no means the only air quality monitoring undertaken in the Sunbury Cross and Sunbury Common area. There are ten diffusion tube nitrogen dioxide monitors located in the Sunbury Common area, including some at the former monitoring station site. Diffusion tube monitoring is a cheaper technique and maintaining the ten locations around Sunbury Common can be achieved at a cost to the Council in the order of £1,000 per year. The Council’s diffusion tube monitors are verified against the continuous monitoring station at Oaks Road, Stanwell, which the Council has access to.

Overall, the Council currently has a network of 48 diffusion tubes. This is the most we have ever had in our permanent network. In addition, in January 2012 officers reviewed our diffusion tube network and relocated six tubes (and added an extra two) to provide better coverage of busy roads in the Charlton, Shepperton and Sunbury area. This includes locations on Charlton Road, Green Lane, Russell Road and Chertsey Bridge Road, so that we already have locations which are collecting air quality data along the haul routes into the Charlton Road site.

With the granting of planning permission for the Eco Park by Surrey County Council on 9 March 2012 and the Environmental Permit approved by the Environment Agency on 8 October 2012, officers in Environmental Health will again now consider existing coverage in relevant prevailing downwind locations from the site and any need to make adjustments to the diffusion tube network.



**Under Standing Order 14.2, Councillor Mrs C.E. Nichols asked the following supplementary question:**

“Your reply makes no reference to Halliford; will Environmental Health also consider whether particulate matter monitoring should be introduced in Halliford before the EcoPark is built?”

**Councillor R.L. Watts provided a subsequent written response as follows:**

“Your reply makes no reference to Halliford; will Environmental Health also consider whether particulate matter monitoring should be introduced in Halliford before the EcoPark is built?”

A: “From the original answer “following SCC’s decision to grant planning permission, officers in Environmental Health will again consider the existing coverage of the nitrogen dioxide monitoring tube in relevant prevailing downwind locations from the site and will make adjustments to the diffusion tube network as necessary”. The ‘prevailing downwind locations’ includes Charlton Village, Upper Halliford and Sunbury West.

Particulate matter is not generally monitored as a matter of course. However, as part of the Council’s air quality management duties, for the 12 months between 2010 and 2011 monitoring was carried out at Sunbury Cross to determine if particulate matter (PM10) was exceeding, or close to exceeding, the UK air quality limit thresholds. This monitoring determined that particulates were not close to exceeding the limits, therefore at this time further monitoring of particulate matter within the Borough is not planned.

As part of the Environment Agency’s responsibilities for monitoring the operators of the EcoPark to ensuring their compliance with their permit conditions, the Environment Agency will receive emissions monitoring data. Environmental Health will have sight of this data as part of the Council’s air quality management duties, for inclusion within its reports to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).”

**Under Standing Order 14, Councillor Mrs S.A. Dunn submitted the following general question:**

“The current mix of housing in HO4 is clearly not meeting the needs of the Borough and has not done so for some time. Can the Portfolio Holder explain why this policy appears in this form?”

**Response by the portfolio holder for Planning and Housing, Councillor G.E. Forsbrey:**

“Thank you for your question, Councillor Dunn.

Policy HO4, in the Council's adopted Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document, seeks to ensure that new homes built in the Borough help meet the need for a variety of dwelling sizes and type. The Policy is based on detailed research including a housing needs survey of some 5,000 residents.

As Councillor Dunn will know, the Council also adopted a Supplementary Planning Document in July this year. It explains in more detail how the policy should be applied. In particular this additional guidance explains where some flexibility in applying the policy is appropriate, what sizes of affordable housing are needed and the regard required to the character of the area and Policy EN1. In preparing this additional guidance, the latest evidence on need was looked at and set out in a background document which is published on the Council's web site for all to see. This latest evidence confirms Policy HO4 is sound.

Providing the right size and type of new housing is important so that, with the substantial existing housing stock, needs can best be met. If Councillor Dunn feels she has further robust empirical evidence I shall, of course, be delighted to see it."

**Under Standing Order 14, Councillor R.D. Dunn submitted the following general question:**

"In the last 12 years Spelthorne has never talked to residents about residential car parking despite being told in 2007 that they should. Are they ever going to consult with residents on this key issue?"

**Response by the portfolio holder for Finance and Resources, Councillor T.J.M. Evans:**

"Thank you for your question, Councillor Dunn.

Firstly may I clarify that the responsibility for on street parking resides with Surrey County Council. However, I can say that in 2008 residents did show some interest in Staines in residential parking. As a result Surrey CC and Spelthorne BC undertook a consultation on controlled parking zones in the Staines area. The consultation was held at both SBC offices and in Staines town centre and residents were informed by letter. Despite initial interest from residents the consultation vote on having controlled parking zones implemented was overwhelmingly no.

However since then, in the last two years, certain streets in Staines where parking is a problem have approached Surrey CC for residents' permit schemes and these have been implemented. More recently on a larger scale, residents in the Moormede Estate have once again shown interest in a resident's permit scheme and it is expected that a resident's parking scheme will be implemented by Surrey CC shortly. I have not heard of such interest as yet elsewhere in the Borough.

However, it would be worth speaking directly to Surrey CC's parking team if residents are interested in residents' parking schemes as they will be able to help on the implementation process and in producing reports to go to the Local Committee for resolution."

**298/12 Appointment of representative Trustees**

The Council considered the appointment of Council representative trustees to serve on two outside bodies which were the Laleham Charities and the Ashford (Middlesex) Sick or Needy Charity.

**Laleham Charities**

**RESOLVED** that Alex Jones, Ian Allen and Ian Stewart-Darling be re-appointed to serve as Council representative trustees on the Laleham Charities for a term of four years from 13 December 2011 to 13 December 2015 and that Colin Squire be re-appointed to serve as a Council representative trustee on the Laleham Charities for a term of four years from 24 July 2012 to 24 July 2016.

**Ashford (Middlesex) Sick or Needy Charity.**

**RESOLVED** that Mr A.S. Hatchman, Mr M.J. Mulford and Mr D. Shenton be re-appointed to serve as Council representative trustees on the Ashford (Middlesex) Sick or Needy Charity for a term of four years until 25 October 2016.

**299/12 Urgent Business**

There was none.