

**Minutes of the Council Meeting of Spelthorne Borough Council held in
the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines on
Thursday 26 April 2012 at 7.30pm**

Present:

Ayers F. (Leader)	Forsbrey G.E.	Patterson A.C.
Ayub A.	Francis M.P.	Pinkerton Mrs J.M. (Deputy Leader)
Bannister Mrs C.A.	Frazer C.M.	Rough Mrs M.W.
Beardsmore I.J.	Friday A.E.	Sexton Miss J.
Broom Miss P.A.	Gething N.	Sider R.W. (Deputy Mayor)
Budd S.E.W (The Mayor)	Harman A.C.	Smith-Ainsley R.A.
Colison-Crawford R.B.	Leighton Mrs V.J.	Spencer Mrs C.
Davis C.A.	Mitchell A.J.	Taylor S.D.
Dunn R.D.	Napper Mrs I.	Watts R.L.
Dunn Mrs S.A.	Nichols Mrs C. E.	Webb Mrs S.
Evans T.J.M.	Patel Miss D.	
Forbes-Forsyth P. C.		

Councillor S.E.W. Budd, the Mayor, in the Chair

104/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms. M. Bushnell, Mrs. J.A. Dale, D. Gohil, Mrs. M. Madams and C.V. Strong, and from Mr. Murray Litvak, Chairman of the Standards Committee and Ms Sue Faulkner, the Vice Chairman.

105/12 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2012 were approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mrs. Grant and Councillor Mrs. Nichols as being present at the meeting.

106/12 Disclosures of Interest

No interests were disclosed.

107/12 Announcements from the Mayor

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Civic Reception will be held on 17 May at the Orangery, Shepperton Studios at 7.30pm.

108/12 Announcements from the Leader

The Leader announced that Spelthorne Borough Council had received a silver and bronze in this year's National Improvement and Efficiency Awards. The silver award was presented in the 'Connecting People' category, and the bid also gained bronze in the 'Council of the Year' category.

The Leader congratulated and commended the key partners who helped Spelthorne achieve these awards. For Stanwell North: Ashley House, St. David's Health Practice, Surrey County Council, Surrey Primary Care Trust, Spelthorne Borough Council and for Mitchison Court and the Benwell Centre, Sunbury: Notting Hill Housing, Surrey County Council, Spelthorne Borough Council.

The second announcement was that Spelthorne Borough Council has been shortlisted in the 'Fleet Initiative of the Year' category of the National Recycling Awards, in conjunction with our refuse collection vehicle suppliers, Dennis Eagle and Riverside Truck Rentals."

109/12 Announcements from the Chief Executive

There were none.

110/12 Questions from members of the public

One question was submitted under Standing Order 13 by a member of the public, Mr. Bernie Spoor.

Mr. Bernie Spoor asked the following question to the Council:

"Given that we are now officially facing a drought, which will result in exceedingly dry grasses and vegetation, has a risk assessment for fire been undertaken on the parks which have uncut margins, especially where they come up against residents' fences, adjacent car parking or unfenced roads?"

This is not a light-hearted question as the result of a long period of exceedingly dry weather on long dried-out and highly inflammable vegetation and grasses close to residential and pedestrian areas is dangerous and therefore of great concern."

The response from Councillor R.L. Watts at the meeting is set out below:

"Thank you for your question, Mr. Spoor.

The Council is currently carrying out a review of all its Fire Risk Assessments. This includes the Council's Parks and Open Spaces and particular attention will be given to uncut grass and vegetation which is close to other properties."

111/12 Recommendations of the Cabinet

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on the suggested amendments and improvements to the Constitution following its annual review.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Constitution as identified in Section 2 of the report of the Monitoring Officer, be approved.

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on delegating authority to establish a joint appointments panel for the appointment of an Independent Person in line with the changes to the Standards regime.

RESOLVED that Council delegates authority to the Head of Corporate Governance in consultation with the Leader to:

- (a) Establish a joint appointments panel with such other Surrey councils as are appropriate for the appointment of an Independent Person and a reserve (or deputy), and
- (b) Such panel to have representation from each council as is appropriate with numbers and representatives to be determined by the Head of Corporate Governance in consultation with the Leader, but to be broadly representative of the political make-up of the councils involved.

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on the proposal to set up a joint committee with the other Surrey authorities as the Police and Crime Panel covering the area of the Surrey Police Force.

RESOLVED that Council:

- a) agrees to the establishment of the joint committee, with the other Surrey local authorities, to act as the Police & Crime Panel in Surrey (in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011) and
- b) nominates Councillor P. C. Forbes-Forsyth as the Council's representative on the Panel.

112/12 Report from the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Ayers, presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 April 2012 which outlined the various matters the Cabinet had decided since the last Council meeting.

113/12 Report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee

In the absence of Councillor Mrs M. Madams, the Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor Mrs. D. L. Grant, presented her report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

114/12 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 Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

As this was Councillor Sider's last Council meeting as Chairman of the Licensing Committee he made the following comments:

"This is my last report to Council as Chairman of the Licensing Committee. It has given me great pleasure, and been a wonderful experience to have been a member of the Licensing Committee since 1999, and Chairman for the past 9 years. During this time I have overseen well over 200 hearings, one of which went on for 7 nights and whilst the public left at 10.30pm, the Committee were still here at 1.am in the morning.

As I relinquish this appointment, I would like to pay special tribute to the Officers with whom I have worked closely over the years: for their wise counsel and guidance during our many hearings and for their expertise in disseminating the major changes of legislation in both the respective Licensing and Gambling Acts.

I would also like to pay tribute to members, both past and present, for the unstinting support they have given me. We have all worked hard as a team, rather like a small military unit, and in doing so we can hold our heads up high, in the belief that without exception, everyone who has appeared before us has had a very fair hearing, and whatever decision we have come to, it has always been just and fair.”

115/12 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. Councillor Broom also thanked those staff who had helped her on Overview & Scrutiny in the last year, in particular Terry Collier and Liz Phillis.

116/12 Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Acting 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. Councillor Smith-Ainsley thanked those officers who had supported him since he became Acting Chairman of Planning including Heather Morgan, Paul Underwood, Chris Hunt and all the planning officers.

117/12 Motions

It was moved by Councillor R. W. Sider and seconded by Councillor G. E. Forsbrey, under Standing Order 16 in a written Notice of Motion, and

RESOLVED that John Denyer Packman, a former leader and past member of this Council, be appointed the honorary title of Alderman at a Special meeting of the Council set for a future date in recognition of his services to Spelthorne Borough Council.

118/12 Appointment of a replacement Trustee to the Staines Parochial Charity

It was moved by Councillor F. Ayers and seconded by Councillor Mrs. J. M. Pinkerton and

RESOLVED that Mr. E. O’Hara be re-appointed to serve as Council representative Trustee on the Staines Parochial Charity for a further term of four years.

119/12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

This is my last report to Council as Chairman of the Licensing Committee. It has given me great pleasure, and been a wonderful experience to have been a member of the Licensing Committee since 1999, and Chairman for the past 9 years. During this time I have overseen well over 200 hearings, one of which went on for 7 nights and whilst the public left at 10.30 pm, the Committee were still here at 1.am in the morning.

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