



**Spelthorne
Borough Council**

Council Meeting
Thursday, 10 December 2020



2 December 2020

Please reply to:

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To the Councillors of Spelthorne Borough Council

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the Council to be held remotely via Skype for Business video conferencing on **Thursday, 10 December 2020** commencing at **6.00 pm** for the transaction of the following business.

Daniel Mouawad
Chief Executive

Councillors are encouraged to wear their badge of past office at the Council meeting.

Councillors are reminded to notify Committee Services of any Gifts and Hospitality offered to you since the last Council meeting so that these may be entered in the Gifts and Hospitality Declaration book.

AGENDA

Description	Page nos.
1. Apologies for absence To receive any apologies for non-attendance.	
2. Minutes To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 October 2020 and re-convened on 29 October 2020.	11 - 64
3. Disclosures of Interest To receive any disclosures of interest from Councillors in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.	
4. Announcements from the Mayor To receive any announcements from the Mayor.	
5. Announcements from the Leader To receive any announcements from the Leader.	
6. Announcements from the Chief Executive To receive any announcements from the Chief Executive.	
7. Questions from members of the public The Leader, or his nominee, to answer any questions raised by members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 14. <i>Note: the deadline for questions to be considered at this meeting is 12 noon on Thursday 3 December 2020.</i>	
8. Petitions To receive any petitions from members of the public.	
9. Update on financial impact of COVID-19 To receive a verbal update on the financial impact of Spelthorne Borough Council's emergency response to COVID-19.	
10. Changing to a Committee system of governance - update To receive an update report from the Constitution Review Task Group on progress with arrangements for changing to a Committee system of governance.	To Follow

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| 11. Appointment of Co-opted members | To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer on the appointment of co-opted members to the Council. | To Follow |
| 12. Recommendations of the Cabinet | To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet in relation to the following items, from its meetings held on 4 November 2020 (attached) and 3 December 2020 (to follow). | 65 - 66 |
| a) | Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy | 67 - 72 |
| b) | Dog Control Order | 73 - 86 |
| c) | Capital Monitoring Quarter 2 | To Follow |
| 13. Recommendation of the Audit Committee - Confidential Reporting Code | To consider the recommendation of the Audit Committee in relation to amendments to the Confidential Reporting Code (Whistle Blowing Policy) in the Constitution. | 87 - 94 |
| 14. Report from the Leader of the Council | To receive the reports from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet at its meetings held on 4 November 2020 (attached) and 3 December 2020 (to follow). | 95 - 96 |
| 15. Report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee | To receive the report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee on the work of his Committee. | 97 - 98 |
| 16. Report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee | To receive the report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of her Committee. | 99 - 100 |
| 17. Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee | To receive the report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee on the work of his Committee. | 101 - 102 |
| 18. Motions | To receive any motions from Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 19. | |

Note: The deadline for motions to be considered at this meeting was Monday 30 November 2020 and four were received.

Motion 1

Fireworks

1. To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
2. To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
3. To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
4. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for Public use.

Proposed by Councillor D. Saliagopoulos
Seconded by Councillor T. Lagden

Motion 2

We would like to propose a vote of thanks to our Officers, as well as our Key Workers and Volunteers, for all their hard work during 2020 with the challenges that have arisen due to the pandemic. We hope that in the New Year of 2021 we can look forward to a return to normality and working together as a strong team to best serve the needs of our residents.

Proposed by Councillor S. Dunn
Seconded by Councillor R.W. Sider BEM

Motion 3

Spelthorne Borough Council notes with grave concern the budget cuts being forced upon Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) by Surrey County Council's (SCC) Fire Authority which will result in the risk to the public and firefighters soaring to an alarming and unacceptable level.

The budget cuts imposed on SFRS by SCC have resulted in a litany of hazardous consequences for firefighters, the constituents of Spelthorne and Surrey, which include the following:

- Implemented in April 2020, Phase 1 of SCC cuts removed four fire engines from night cover which includes one from Spelthorne's night time cover. As 75% dwelling fire deaths occur at night, Spelthorne Borough Council believes this is an extremely dangerous and reckless cut. Phase 2 will cut a further three night cover fire engines effecting Egham, Banstead and Painshill, which will also have a detrimental effect on Spelthorne as Spelthorne relies on these

neighbouring areas for additional cover.

- Phase 2 of the Making Surrey Safer Plan calls for only 350 operational firefighters, which constitutes a 30% reduction in personnel since 2010.
- On top of that, many firefighters have left the service to transfer to other FRSs as they are no longer willing to work in an environment where their health and safety is endangered or accept a 12 hour shift system imposed without negotiation which has had severe impacts on their work life balance. Others have suffered imposed pay cuts which range from 6% to 26%.
- Whole-time fire engines crew have been reduced from 5 to 4 despite the fact that according to the Fire Brigade Union, the safety of people and firefighters will be severely comprised by a fire engine crewed by less than 5 Firefighters.
- SFRS has failed to comply with its own Emergency Response Standard (which has been downgraded 3 times since 2005) for the last 5 years. With a further cut of 70 firefighters and the removal of 7 fire engines from night cover this year, the possibility of compliance with its Emergency Response Standard in 2020 and beyond is becoming even more remote.
- A decrease of fire engine availability at Fordbridge Fire Station in Spelthorne from 75.8% in Jan 2020 to 38.7% in October 2020 after the Phase 1 cuts had been implemented.
- From 1-26 November, 2 engines during the day (the minimum requirement for an adequate level of safety provided by FBU) were available for just 4 days at Fordbridge. There were 0 pumps available for 2 days.
- No improvement on approximately 40% understaffing of On Call Firefighters.
- A 66% decrease in the number of Fire Protection audits carried out
- An eye-watering 388% increase from 2019 to 2020 in the number of emergency calls the London Fire Brigade have attended in Surrey revealing how under-resourced SFRS is.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) which independently assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of the fire & rescue services in the public interest, has stated that they "have concerns about the performance of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service in keeping people safe and secure and in particular, serious concerns about the service's effectiveness and efficiency" in their report Effectiveness, Efficiency and People 2018/19 – an inspection of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

Spelthorne Council is extremely concerned that the cuts imposed by SCC to the SFRS will result in increasing the risk of serious injury and death to residents. SCC owes a duty of care to Spelthorne residents to ensure that their fire service is discharged with optimum safety management, and hence calls on SCC, by writing to the Leader of Surrey County Council, Tim Oliver and the Cabinet Member for Communities, Denise Turner-Stewart to:

1. Reverse the Phase 1 cuts
2. Halt the Phase 2 cuts
3. Reinstate a fit for purpose budget, in agreement with the Fire Brigade Union, which will restore an optimum level of safety for the public and firefighters in Surrey.

Proposed by Councillor V. Siva
Seconded by Councillor J. Doerfel

Motion 4

The Staines Masterplan has evolved in administrative changes, but the document remains important as the framework to establish sustainable development of Staines Town Centre.

In recognition of this importance, this motion states that the council shall henceforth order that:

1. Any proposed development of Staines Town Centre by Spelthorne Borough Council and Knowle Green Estates shall be kept on hold until the Staines Masterplan has been approved.
2. Developers of Major applications proposed in the Staines Town Centre shall be invited to defer their applications until such time that the Council has established policy direction from the Staines Masterplan.
3. The Staines Masterplan needs significant consultation with the community of Spelthorne from the outset.

Not considering this motion now would mean development with no clear strategy that we will be having to attempt to remedy too late. Residents expect clarity for what Staines will look like in the future to ensure they can buy into a positive and ambitious future for Staines Town that respects its heritage but developed for a sustainable future.

Proposed by Councillor C. Bateson
Seconded by Councillor T. Lagden

19. Questions on Ward Issues

The Leader, or his nominee, to answer questions from Councillors on issues in their Wards, in accordance with Standing Order 15.

Note: the deadline for questions to be considered at this meeting is 12 noon on Thursday 3 December 2020.

20. General questions

The Leader, or his nominee, to answer questions from Councillors on matters affecting the Borough, in accordance with Standing Order 15.

Note: the deadline for questions to be considered at this meeting is 12 noon on Thursday 3 December 2020.

At the time of the publication of this agenda, two questions were received.

Question from Councillor Ian Harvey

“Can the Leader please confirm that all matters are on track for the transition to the Committee System, as per Council Resolution of 30th July, and that this will indeed come into effect from the Annual Council Meeting in May 2021? If not can he please explain why not?”

Question from Councillor Richard Barratt

“Evidence has been provided to me that a Councillor and others have potentially breached environmental rules in that they used land at Napper's Paddock Wheatsheaf Lane for which they are responsible to store trade waste and rubbish to the detriment of the local environment. When directed to remove it by council officers they chose to burn it on two occasions (10th and 13th November 2020) causing pollution, explosions, risk to the wildlife and environment leading to the unnecessary call out of the Surrey Fire brigade.

Local residents are deeply concerned at this alleged action by a local councillor and have complained. Apparently, the action was aggravated by alleged claims told to the fire brigade claiming they had an environmental licence to burn the waste.

1. Does the leader consider that this action is in breach of the policy recently issued by Spelthorne Borough Council declaring a climate emergency?
2. Does the leader consider this has brought the council into disrepute?
3. Does the council condone such behaviour by a serving borough councillor?
4. What action does the council intend to take, bearing in mind the unnecessary additional cost to the fire brigade and the environmental catastrophe that occurred, due to the actions of this councillor?”

21. Appointment of representative Trustees

To consider the appointment of Council representative Trustees to the following charities:

1. Staines Parochial Charity

The appointment of Mrs J. Stillwell for a four year term of office to December 2024.

2. Laleham Charities – Mary Hodgson and Mary Reeve

The re-appointment of Mr B. Morgan for a further four year period ending in December 2024 and the appointment of Ms J. Smith for a four year term of office to December 2024.