

Supplementary agenda for Council – 22 October 2020

Item 19. General Questions

Question 7 – Councillor Ian Harvey

“Can the “leader” please unequivocally condemn the recent leak of the KPMG “Counsels Opinion” extract outside the four Councillors it was sent to, including to an investigative journalist, and also condemn previous leaks of confidential documents, discussions or information, including for example from Cabinet and Cabinet Briefing meetings? Will the “leader” please ask the Chief Executive to immediately commission an in depth investigation to find those responsible, and support the strongest possible disciplinary action against those identified as responsible? Does he agree that any Councillor found responsible should be required to resign immediately?”

Question 8 – Councillor Ian Harvey

“Following the oil slick that devastated the coast of our twinned District of Grant Port Mauritius at the end of July can the “leader” outline the messages of support that he has sent to his peer, Grand Port Council Chairperson Vinay Harcharan, and responses received?”

Question 9 – Councillor Ian Harvey

“Can the “leader” please confirm that he now understands that the “Leader of the Council” does not, as he has stated, have a sole and unfettered mandate to spend multi hundred millions of pounds of Spelthorne Council money? Will he please state this publicly, and withdraw his previous misleading comments accordingly?”

Question 10 – Councillor Helen Harvey

“During the Cabinet meeting of 23rd September; which I attended, you considered the exempt report Ceaser Court 2 construction costs Key Decision. No discussion at all took place between Cabinet members and the motion carried was to pass the decision to the next Full Council for all members to vote on. Yet the unapproved minutes state the following:

‘Subject to officers providing some additional information and clarification within the report, with such information and technical clarification being provided to the Leader and Deputy Leader prior to publication on 22nd October.’

This was not actually said in the meeting and did not form part of the Cabinet paper.

Mysteriously this urgent matter is missing from the Full Council Agenda published 14th October!

The Cabinet papers advised that the planning application was expected to be determined in Oct/Nov. Indeed the current status of the planning application is that the application is under review, awaiting further information from the applicant to address the unresolved planning issues which are - the required pedestrian crossing, proposed use of the ground floor space and quantum of Affordable Housing which I understand are very close to soon being resolved.

1. Why is this Key Decision missing from this Full Council Agenda?
2. What is this 'additional information' ?
3. This Key Decision was abdicated by Cabinet and the responsibility passed to all members therefore we should be consulted and our agreement reached if this Key decision is not to be heard in the 22nd October Full Council. Can the leader justify his actions in omitting this agenda item?
4. Please can officers clarify what are the financial and other risks to the project of not making this decision on 22nd October Full Council?"

Question 11 – Councillor Jan Doerfel

“How does the council leadership consider that releasing green belt in the local plan is consistent with having declared a climate emergency?”