

**Minutes of the Council
9 December 2021**

Present:

Councillors:

I.T.E. Harvey	R.D. Dunn	S.C. Mooney
S.M. Doran	S.A. Dunn	L. E. Nichols
M.M. Attewell	T. Fidler	R.J. Noble
C.L. Barratt	N.J. Gething	O. Rybinski
R.O. Barratt	M. Gibson	D. Saliagopoulos
C. Bateson	K.M. Grant	J.R. Sexton
I.J. Beardsmore	A.C. Harman	R.W. Sider BEM
M. Beecher	H. Harvey	V. Siva
J.R. Boughtflower	N. Islam	R.A. Smith-Ainsley
A. Brar	T. Lagden	B.B. Spoor
S. Buttar	V.J. Leighton	J. Vinson
R. Chandler	J. McIlroy	
J.T.F. Doran	A.J. Mitchell	

Apologies: Councillors C.F. Barnard and M.J. Madams

643/21 Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

644/21 Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

645/21 Announcements from the Mayor

The Mayor made the following announcements:

“Since the last Full Council on 14th October the Mayoress and I have attended numerous events, both in and outside of Spelthorne and whilst it would be unfair to mention favourites, a particular highlight was the Youth Speaks competitions organised by Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club last month, where the standard of public speaking by those young people was outstanding. The Spelthorne Business Awards dinner was an outstanding event and the attendees were clearly keen to let their hair down, many I believe for the first time in 18 months.

What has been especially rewarding for me has been the recent opening of three significant brand new Spelthorne properties. These were in each case the culmination of projects started under my Council leadership, and really demonstrate what we are about, caring for and meeting the needs of our residents.

Since the last Council meeting and following on from the opening of the White House Single Homeless Hostel at the end of September, we have opened the Harper House emergency Family accommodation, which now provides emergency accommodation for up to 20 families. We no longer have to send homeless families to locations outside the Borough, as far away as Croydon and Wembley, as we used to.

Furthermore, just last Friday we opened the newly completed converted West Wing, just behind us here at Knowle Green. This will provide 25 families with long term high quality accommodation at affordable rents. In each case these developments have been completed to a very high standard and we can all be very proud of them. I would like to thank all Spelthorne officers involved in delivering these projects, including Assets, Housing, Planning and Legal.

Looking forwards we have the charity film night next Wednesday, at the Koda Theatre, Shepperton, showing “Love Actually”, kindly hosted by Shepperton Studios, and if you would like to come along, please book soon. You should all have received an invitation.

Also next week the Mayoress and I will be visiting both Fordbridge and Greeno Day Centres to enjoy lunch with their day guests, as well as other Mayoral events throughout the Christmas period. I will be delivering my Mayors Christmas message at the end of the meeting.”

646/21 Announcements from the Leader

The Leader made the following announcements:

“An online awards ceremony was held on 7 December to celebrate the achievements of 30 very special young people, aged between 5 and 19. Organised by the Council, the Spelthorne Youth Awards recognise the outstanding talents and successes of local young people and the contributions they make to their communities. Many congratulations to all the nominees and winners.

Planning permission has been granted for the Council’s development of key-worker and affordable homes on Victory Close in Ashford. The approved design was modified to achieve double the energy savings proposed under the initial design, demonstrating the Council’s commitment to sustainable homes. The development will comprise 127 dwellings, including 5 family homes, 8 three-bedroom family flats, 78 two-bedroom flats and 36 one-bedroom flats, all with car parking and amenity space.

We recently issued an urgent appeal to landlords to help fulfil our pledge to house Afghans who supported the UK in Afghanistan. Following approval by the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee, we have pledged to resettle up to five families under the Government’s Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme. The Council is looking for homes with a minimum of 3-bedrooms, close to local amenities and good transport links. These homes will be funded by the government scheme and will not impact on those already on the Council’s housing list.

A campaign is underway to let residents know about the Household Support Fund scheme. Under the programme, we will provide financial grants of between £50 and £80 for households in need of help with food, energy and water costs. To qualify, households must receive certain benefits, such as Universal Credit or Pension Credit.

The hard work and achievements of local businesses was celebrated at the Spelthorne Business Awards at the Holiday Inn in Shepperton on 11 November. Congratulations to all the finalists and winners, and in particular Taste Creative which was named ‘Best Business in Spelthorne’.

Lisa O’Sullivan was named overall winner of the Capture Spelthorne photography competition on 2 December at Shepperton Studios. Congratulations to Lisa and all the category winners and nominees. The standard of photography was outstanding this year and the winning photographs can viewed on the Council’s social media streams.

The Council was presented with the Gold Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme at an event in London last month. The award is the

Ministry of Defence's highest badge of honour in recognition of an organisation's support for the Armed Forces community.

Last week saw the formal opening of 25 affordable apartments built here in the West Wing of the council offices. The redevelopment has made our offices much more efficient and, together, with our digital investments, gained us a national public sector transformational award in 2020. All the apartments will be let through the Council's Housing Options team to ensure those who most need the accommodation are prioritised. The tenants will also be offered five-year tenancies to provide more stability than they would receive in the private rented sector.

An event was held on 24 November to mark the completion of our new homeless facility in Ashford. Located on Fordbridge Road in Ashford, Harper House will provide emergency accommodation for 20 families and opens on 3 January 2022. Social housing provider Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing will be managing the facility on the Council's behalf."

647/21 Announcements from the Chief Executive

The Deputy Chief Executive, Terry Collier read out the announcements from the Chief Executive.

"On behalf of the Corporate Management Team, I would like to make a few comments.

2021 has been yet another extremely challenging year, with extraordinary service pressures in the ongoing context of dealing with COVID-19 and its Impact on the Council, our communities and businesses across the Borough. At the same time we have transitioned, within a very tight timescale, from the Cabinet governance system to the Committees system which is generating additional workloads for both councillors and staff. I am sure councillors would like to like to join me in thanking staff for their fantastic service and commitment in these challenging times.

On top of the pressures I have just highlighted, our staff and voluntary partners have stepped up and welcomed Afghan families in their hour of need Into the Borough. Since the initial families arrived in August in the Borough on a holding basis, 15 families have been relocated on a longer term basis

across the country. Once family has been received, from elsewhere in the country, last week and housed within the Borough on a longer term basis. A second family is being housed in the Borough next week. The Home Office are providing the funding to cover the costs we are incurring. So, we are making progress in working towards accommodating up to five families approved by councillors within the Borough on a longer term basis.

To conclude, despite the latest challenges with the new variant and the tighter COVID-19 regulations, I would like to wish all councillors, staff and our partners seasonal greetings and hope that we can look forward to a healthier and prosperous year in 2022.”

648/21 Questions from members of the public

The Mayor reported that, under Standing Order 14, three questions had been received from a member of the public.

1. Question from Kath Sanders

“Regarding the Local Green Space assessment being carried out as part of the Local Plan process, I understand that the current 71 Protected Urban Open Space (PUOS) sites will go forward for assessment (together with any others suggested in response to Q5 of the Issues & Options consultation in June 2018).

As part of the Call for Green Spaces and given the importance of Open Space identified in the Council's own Open Space Assessment (Nov 2019), will the Council themselves be proposing some or all of the sites with the outgoing Protected Urban Open Space designation for the new Local Green Space designation OR perhaps certain 'functional' categories (such as allotments, cemeteries and churchyards, school playing fields and public parks and recreation grounds), regardless of ownership status? This would hopefully ensure that current levels of provision are at least maintained.

Failing that, and to give many valuable sites the best chance of success, please could the Council make the 'long list' of potential LGS sites public once the Stage 1 "Desktop review and first sieve" has been completed with the opportunity for the community to provide any further evidence required to successfully complete the Stage 2 "Detailed Analysis"? This would again help to ensure that communities don't inadvertently lose out.”

Response from Councillor Ian Beardsmore, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

“This matter will be discussed further when we get to the motions to Council, but I can advise that all Protected Urban Open Spaces (PUOS) will be considered

for the designation of Local Green Space (LGS). Each space will be reviewed against the guiding principles within the Local Green Space Assessment methodology. This is regardless of whether each PUOS was submitted by members of the public.

Through the Call for Green Spaces, we provided the opportunity for those wishing to nominate particular spaces to submit evidence and information which could support this nomination. If any further information is required to help inform the decision-making process in respect of specific spaces, then the Council will contact the nominators to ask if they can supply any additional evidence that may be of use. The proposed list of designations will then be considered by the Local Plan Task Group, which comprises a councillor from every ward in the Borough. Once agreement has been reached as to which spaces will be designated, we will publish the full list of spaces that were assessed, including those put forward by the public, and give reasons why they are proposed for designation or discounted. There are likely to be varied reasons why a space has not been considered suitable and did not meet the assessment criteria, but we will explain those reasons and what other protections are in place, such as playing pitch legislation, Green Belt designation or the operational requirements of a statutory undertaker. It is important to note that Government policy affords protection to all open spaces without the need for formal designation through Local Plans.”

2.Question from Kath Sanders

“It was really encouraging to see the Spelthorne response to the Climate Emergency and consideration of projects for the Green Initiatives Fund presented at the Environment & Sustainability Committee meeting on 30th June 2021. Please could residents get an update specifically about the 2021/22 Green Initiatives Fund of £747k, how much of the £39k Green Better Neighbourhood Grant element has been allocated as of 30th September and what progress has been made since the June paper in terms of a plan for utilising the remaining funds?”

Response from Councillor Ian Beardsmore, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

“Thank you for your question. With the move to the Committee system and subsequent but delayed formation of the Climate Change Working Group, projects are being developed as quickly as possible. However, to date the following proposed allocations of spend from the Green Initiatives Fund have been made:

As you have outlined, £39,000 has been set aside for Councillor green initiatives within their wards. As of 30 September, for the Green Better Neighbourhood Grant element several projects had been allocated by Councillors, but it is expected more projects will come through in the next few months, especially where, to maximise benefits from projects, Councillors combine funds. For example, funds have been allocated to Talking Tree for a biodiversity project, green enterprise hub and growing education programme. Other projects have

involved the purchase of litter collecting equipment and tree planting. These projects have resulted in a spend of £5,150 by 30 September 2021:

£8,000 was allocated for an energy audit of Council buildings and a report will be produced before Christmas identifying key areas for us to focus on in terms of carbon reduction in the Council's estate, so we can initiate detailed projects to move us to net zero as quickly as possible.

£5,000 has been allocated for the Colne Valley Partnership membership which will bring biodiversity and well-being benefits, as it will open up opportunities to bid for funding to improve the biodiversity of Staines Moor and other areas along the River Colne. Working within the Partnership provides greater access to funding opportunities and projects.

£24,000 has been allocated towards Phase 1 of the development of a Spelthorne Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, which will identify opportunities for schemes to be put in place that will enhance cycling and walking routes in the Borough."

3. Question from Kath Sanders

"As you are no doubt aware Michael Gove gave evidence to the House of Commons Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee on Monday 8th November 2021 (Qs 78-87). His answers included the following statements:

- Q80: "We absolutely want to hit that target [of 300,000], but we also want to take account of beauty, the environment, quality, decency, local democratic control and infrastructure"
- Q84: "There is a legitimate concern on the part of local government that the resources have not always been there to help. That is why some of the changes that we can make, not just to provide the resource but to simplify the process, are important"
- Q85: "Yes. My colleague Chris Pincher has made it clear that in developing a plan a local authority can say, "Right, this is the number to which we have been working. However, in this community, in this area, you have to take account of the fact that we have AONBs here, SSSIs here, green belt there and so on. It would be unrealistic to expect us, consistently with all those factors, to meet the figure that has been produced."

He also answered questions from MPs on planning rules on 25th October 2021 where he said that he was still considering all the responses to the consultation on the "Planning for the future" White Paper and would make an announcement on next steps in due course. I understand this will be before Christmas.

Michael Gove also stated, "As we take forward our proposals for planning reform, we will be balancing the need for new housing with environmental concerns and also the vital importance of listening to local people."

Given Michael Gove's answers, what further work is now being done internally to either take stock or to build a case for a reduction in the housing target in Local Plan proposals to reduce the imperative to build on Green Belt and to build blocks of tiny flats in Staines?”

Response from Councillor Ian Beardsmore, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

“Ministers can make statements and promises, but unless they are supported by a tangible change in policy guidance it is unwise to base a Local Plan on them. Indeed over the years there have been so many such announcements, you could paper the walls with them. Unfortunately none has ever come close to being given enough status to stand up to a public inquiry. That is why our aim has been to have the standard method for calculating housing need amended by the Government rather than taking forward a Plan that does not meet our need, as every authority that has attempted to do so since the methodology was introduced has failed. We have written to the Ministry ourselves, met with its officers and sought the help of our MP in order to try and get the standard method changed to reflect more recent lower projections of household growth, but these efforts have not yet been fruitful. We know that there will be a new white paper on planning reform, which will follow a Levelling Up paper, but the latter has now been pushed into next year, April we believe, so the planning reform paper will be delayed even further. Delay has been the enemy of our Local Plan as we have seen developments allowed on Green Belt in our borough using the fact that we are not meeting our housing as a reason. Indeed even now we are facing another predatory attack on our Green Belt using this same reason. We are trying to resist inappropriate high-rise buildings near the river in Staines, without having the Staines Development Framework in place that could have provided a policy basis to say no. Our best defence against predatory development is to have a Local Plan and framework for Staines in place that meets our need and therefore allows us to make the decisions on what is built where. That means a very small loss of Green Belt, which we know is a difficult concept, but we have selected small sites that do not meet the purposes of Green Belt and can deliver wider community benefits, whilst some have already been built on. We are working incredibly hard with officers to accelerate progress and get our plans in place as soon as we can, as evidenced by having had over 40 task group meetings since last summer. We believe this work will result in a sound Local Plan when we get to examination that the inspector will recommend be adopted. If there is a tangible change on Government policy and guidance before adoption, which is not expected before Summer 2023, we will have time to adjust our plans accordingly.”

649/21 Petitions

No petitions were received from members of the public.

650/21 Replacement of Spelthorne Leisure Centre

The Chamber agreed that the agenda order be changed in accordance with Standing Order 17.(c) to enable Councillor H. Harvey to ask her question submitted in accordance with Standing Order 15.

“In view of the opposition to bringing forward the Council’s planned developments and the consequential impact on revenue streams, can the Leader advise this chamber where exactly the revenue stream to cover the £17 million unfunded element of the capital costs of the new Spelthorne Leisure Centre will come from.”

Response from the Leader, Councillor L Nichols:

“When, in October 2020, the Council approved the decision to include the new Leisure Centre on the Council’s Capital Programme, it was made clear to councillors at that time that the additional income generated by the new centre with its mix of facilities would not fully cover the cost of financing the scheme. The precise proportion of the funding cost which will not be fully covered will depend on two factors: a) the income generating potential of leisure centres post the COVID-19 pandemic, and b) the prevailing interest rates at time the finance is fixed. It is still relatively early to fully understand the longer-term impacts the pandemic will have on people’s behaviour and what impact this will have on leisure centres’ income in Spelthorne and across the UK. With regards to interest rate costs of financing the scheme, whilst the base rate is expected to rise between now and the scheme completing, the long-term gilt rates which drive the Public Works Loans Board interest rates which the Council access have in recent months fallen to new historic lows (the 50 year certainty rate is currently 1.29%). It is therefore clear, that although it is not possible to precisely calculate the Revenue Budget impact of the funding shortfall, pressing ahead with construction of the centre as soon as possible could help reduce the financing shortfall. Similarly, as outlined in the report presented to Council this evening, it is in Spelthorne’s interest to fix the build price as soon as possible if we are to minimise the anticipated increase in material and construction costs, otherwise that shortfall may rise to the point where it would be more difficult to address.

In the Outline Budget Report approved by November Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, officers have estimated that the funding shortfall could equate to a £750,000 per annum pressure on the Revenue Budget, commencing from 2024-25 following the completion of the scheme.

The Outline Budget report which went to Corporate Policy and Resources indicated that there are potential Revenue Budget gaps in each of the next four financial years which the Council will need to work to close through its medium-term financial strategy. For the years 2024-25 and 2025-26, these gaps projected include the anticipated impact of the Leisure Centre financing gap. As the Outline Budget report highlighted, a mix of strategies can be pursued to close the funding gap which include:

- o Maximising income streams from across our property portfolio and their net contribution to the Revenue Budget
- o Partnering with other councils/bodies to reduce costs
- o Knowle Green Estates (KGE) generating a net revenue contribution towards the Council's Revenue Budget
- o Increasing fees and charges income
- o 'Invest to save' initiatives led by the Continuous Improvement Team
- o Digital Transformation including the potential to reduce the number of applications the Council is paying for
- o Looking at options to reduce the cost of the Council's office accommodation footprint, particularly in the context of more hybrid work post the pandemic
- o Procurement savings
- o Green initiatives. Whilst some may require additional investment, some will potentially generate revenue savings

The current Revenue Budget gaps in years 3 and 4 of the Outline Budget period at £2.6m for 2024-25 and £3.4m for 2025-26 are of a similar scale as projected in the past for years 3 and 4 in the Outline Budget cycle. As such, we believe there is sufficient time to close these gaps and thereby address the Leisure Centre funding shortfall. The detailed Budget report coming to February Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and Council will be presenting a balanced Budget for 2022-23 which would in turn help reduce the scale of projected gaps for the years two to four of the Outline Budget period.

Councillor H. Harvey asked a supplementary question as follows:

'Does the Leader feel confident that this Chamber should proceed with this state of the art Leisure Centre when it appears to me that this answer does not project far enough into the future as to how the gap will be closed ongoing'.

The Leader advised that he would provide Councillor H. Harvey with a more detailed written answer to this question but stated the following:

"Council agreed to build this Leisure Centre and we were aware of the costs; this is something that we should be doing for our residents. There is a concept in economics known as 'public good' which relates to things that no individual can purchase but which individuals would like eg parks. I put Spelthorne Leisure Centre in this category, something we want to have and should provide to our residents.

I am strongly in favour of this and am confident that we will find the revenue so that we can bridge this gap but it won't be simple",

Council considered a report on the proposed replacement of Spelthorne Leisure Centre and **resolved** to:

1. note progress to date with the Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA) with the preferred bidder as the main contractor for the construction of the proposed new Spelthorne Leisure Centre and,
2. delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive in conjunction with the Chairs of the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee and Community Wellbeing & Housing Committee to agree the fixed contract sum and award the contract to build the new leisure centre to the preferred bidder as the main contractor, provided that the final price for construction is within the Capital Programme provision agreed by Council on 29 October 2020 and reflected in the 2021-22 Capital Programme.

Council agreed that the order of the Agenda be amended in accordance with Standing Order 17. (c) to consider both Notices of Motions at this point in the meeting.

In accordance with Standing Order 16 the Council received two written Notices of Motions.

1. Councillor R. Smith-Ainsley moved and Councillor M. Beecher seconded the following motion:

There has been real concern amongst residents and councillors about the lack of a Vision for Spelthorne. In order to create one, three important Visioning sessions were held and the councillors attending worked hard to produce a Vision. An opportunity has been given to all councillors to review it and it has also been checked by officers to ensure it is sound.

I therefore move that:

Council incorporate the Vision into the new Local Plan and from the next meeting of the Local Plan Task Group use it to review existing policies and inform future ones.

Councillor J. Boughtflower requested a recorded vote.

For: Councillors S. Doran, C. Bateson, M. Beecher, J. Doran, R. Dunn, S. Dunn, T. Fidler, K. Grant, T. Lagden, L. Nichols, D. Saliagopoulos, J. Sexton, V. Siva, R. Smith-Ainsley, B. Spoor and J. Vinson (16)

Against: I. Harvey, M. Attewell, C. Barratt, R. Barratt, I. Beardsmore, J. Boughtflower, A. Brar, S. Buttar, R. Chandler, N. Gething, A. Harman, H. Harvey, N. Islam, V. Leighton, J. McIlroy, A. Mitchell, S. Mooney, R. Noble, O. Rybinski and R. Sider BEM (20)

Abstain: Councillor M. Gibson (1)

The Motion **FELL**

2. Councillor S. Dunn moved and Councillor M. Beecher seconded the following motion:

This Council seeks to clarify its position in respect of the Local Green Spaces' consultation. This consultation is designed to give extra protection to the Local Green Spaces where possible.

Our current scheme for this - Protected Urban Open Space (PUOS) has failed completely to offer any extra protection. After we introduced PUOS the government produced a new standard to add protection to smaller Green Spaces 'Local Green Space'. (LGS). LGS can only be protected as part of the local plan process, such as we are undertaking currently.

This Motion therefore urges all Councillors to support the following:

1. That all existing PUOS sites be submitted for possible inclusion in the list of proposed new Local Green Spaces sites
2. That after consultation held with Spelthorne residents finishes that further individual sites are discussed through the Local Plan Task Group as potential LGS sites

The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:54

The meeting was re-convened at 21:09

651/21 Referral of a decision of the Development Sub-Committee on 15 November 2021

Council considered a decision made by the Development Sub-Committee on 15 November 2021 on the Thameside House Development:-

"The Development Sub-Committee agreed to proceed on the basis of Block A being 11, 9 and 7 storeys in height and Block B being 8, 6 and 5 storeys in height."

Council voted on whether to either:

1. Note the decision of the Development Sub-Committee (Note)
2. Refer the decision back to the Development Sub-Committee (Refer)
3. Withdraw the decision of the Development Sub-Committee (Withdraw)

Proposed by Councillor S. Mooney
Seconded by Cllr V. Leighton

Councillor H. Mooney requested that a recorded vote be taken.

Note: Councillors I. Harvey, A. Brar, H. Harvey, R. Noble, O. Rybinski and B. Spoor (6)

Refer: Councillors S. Doran, M. Attewell, C. Barratt, R. Barratt, C. Bateson, I. Beardsmore, J. Boughtflower, R. Chandler, J. Doran, R. Dunn, S. Dunn, T. Fidler, N. Gething, M. Gibson, K. Grant, A. Harman, N. Islam, T. Lagden, V. Leighton, J. McIlroy, A. Mitchell, S. Mooney, J. Sexton, R. Sider BEM, V. Siva and J. Vinson (26)

Withdraw: Councillors M. Beecher and D. Saliagopoulos (2)

Abstain: Councillors S. Buttar, L. Nichols and R. Smith-Ainsley (3)

Council **resolved** to:

Refer the decision back to the Development Sub-Committee.

The meeting was adjourned 22:23

The meeting reconvened 22:29

652/21 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

Council considered the recommendation from The Corporate Policy and Resources Committee that the Council adopt the proposed Corporate Plan for 2021-23.

Council **resolved** to agree and adopt the Spelthorne's proposed Corporate Plan for 2021-23.

Cllr V Siva left the meeting at 22:55

Cllr A Harman left the meeting at 22:55

Cllr N Islam left the meeting at 22:56

Cllr R Chandler left the meeting at 22:56

Cllr D Saliagopoulos left the meeting at 22:56

653/21 Re-tender of External Audit Contract - opt in of National Public Sector Audit Appointments scheme

Council considered a recommendation from the Audit Committee that Council opt into the national scheme managed by Public Sector Auditor Appointments as the 'Appointing Person'.

Proposed by Councillor J Boughtflower

Seconded by Councillor T. Fidler

Council **resolved** that the Council opt into the national scheme as outlined in the report.

654/21 Appointments

- a) Council considered the appointment of an independent person on the Audit Committee, following the recent interview panels.
- b) Council considered the appointment of a Chair for the Development Sub-Committee.
- c) Council considered the appointment of a Vice-Chair of the Development Sub-Committee.

- a Appointment of Independent Person for the Audit Committee
Council considered the appointment of Mr Sandeep Sehmi as the independent person on the Audit Committee, following the recent interview panels.

Proposed by Councillor J Boughtflower
Seconded by Councillor R. Noble

Council **resolved** to appoint Mr Sandeep Sehmi as the independent person on the Audit Committee.

- b Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Development Sub-Committee for the remainder of the municipal year

Council considered the appointment of Councillor R. Noble as Chair of the Development Sub-Committee.

Proposed by Councillor L. Nichols
Seconded by Councillor R. Sider BEM

Council **resolved** to appoint Councillor R. Noble as Chair of the Development Sub-Committee.

Council considered the appointment of Councillor R. Smith-Ainsley as Vice-Chair of the Development Sub-Committee.

Proposed by Councillor R. Noble
Seconded by Councillor L. Nichols

Councillor J. Boughtflower requested a recorded vote.

For: Councillors I. Harvey, S. Doran, C. Bateson, I. Beardsmore, M. Beecher, A. Brar, J. Doran, R. Dun, S. Dunn, T. Fidler, M. Gibson, K. Grant, H. Harvey, T. Lagden, L. Nichols, O. Rybinski, J. Sexton, R. Smith-Ainsley, B. Spoor and

J. Vinson (20)

Against: Councillors M. Attewell, C. Barratt, R. Barratt, J. Boughtflower, S. Buttar, N. Gething, V. Leighton, J. McIlroy, A. Mitchell, S. Mooney, R. Noble and R. Sider BEM (12)

Abstain (0)

Council **resolved** to appoint Councillor R. Smith-Ainsley as Vice-Chair of the Development Sub-Committee.

Councillor T. Lagden left the meeting at 23:09

Councillor C Barratt left the meeting at 23:10

Councillor R. Barratt left the meeting at 23:10

Councillor J. McIlroy left the meeting at 23:10

- c Appointment of a representative Trustee
There was no appointment considered.

655/21 Report from the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor L. Nichols, presented the report of the Corporate Policy and meetings held on 19 October 2021 and 29 November 2021, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

656/21 Report from the Chair of the Administrative Committee

The Chairman of the Administrative Committee, Councillor T. Mitchell, presented the report of the Administrative Committee meeting held on 07 October 2021 which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

657/21 Report from the Chair of the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee

The Chairman of the Community Housing and Wellbeing Committee, Councillor S. Dunn, presented the report of the Community Housing and Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 23 November 2021 which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

658/21 Report from the Chair of the Economic Development Committee

The Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, Councillor C. Barnard, presented the report of the Economic Development Committee

meeting held on 16 November 2021 which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

659/21 Report from the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

The Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, Councillor I. Beardsmore, presented the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee meetings held on 03 November 2021 and 09 November 2021, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

660/21 Report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Services Committee, Councillor A. Brar, presented the report of the Neighbourhood Services Committee meeting held on 11 November 2021 which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

661/21 Report from the Chair of the Audit Committee

The Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor J. Boughtflower, presented the report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 25 November 2021, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

662/21 Report from the Chair of the Licensing Committee

No meeting of the Licensing Committee had taken place since the last Council meeting on 14 October 2021 so no report was presented.

663/21 Report from the Chair of the Planning Committee

In the absence of the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor R. Smith-Ainsley presented the report of the Planning Committee meetings held on 10 and 17 November 2021, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

664/21 Report from the Chair of the Standards Committee

The Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee, Mr I. Winter, presented the report of the Standards Committee meeting held on 20 October 2021, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

665/21 Motions

The two written Notices of Motions were considered and voted on after the Replacement of Spelthorne Leisure Centre item.

666/21 General questions

General questions were considered as part of Agenda Item 9 – Replacement of Spelthorne Leisure Centre.

667/21 Mayor's Christmas message

Council received the Mayor's Christmas message as follows:

“Obviously 2021 has not been the year that most of us had hoped for. Many of us have suffered, be it loss of loved ones, or significant COVID related illness, jobs, finances or other family or personal impacts. However, we have seen recovery and I would suggest that compared to this time last year, and in spite of the current Omicron spike, we do appear to be heading in the right direction. All of us have now had the opportunity to receive protective vaccines.

Spelthorne Council has been able to continue its outstanding endeavours in supporting those who have suffered, as well as continuing our work in providing the community with the services they need and rightly expect. We have not had to make any cuts to services here. I would like to thank all Council staff for their hard work and commitment to the Borough and its residents.

It is important to reflect on the meaning of Christmas. As it comes at the end of our year it should be a time for reflection, renewal and refreshment. It is a time to spend with family and loved ones, cherishing what we have. I think this is particularly poignant this year, as indeed it was last year.

For Christians it is the time to remember the birth of Jesus Christ and why he came to this Earth. We reflect on this as the precursor to our ultimate redemption and forgiveness.

Let us enter 2022 with a new spirit of peace, gratitude, hope and optimism. Together with the Mayoress, I wish you and your loved ones a very happy and blessed Christmas and a safe, prosperous and healthy New Year 2022.

Happy Christmas.”