

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 at Spelthorne Borough Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines.**

**County Council Members:**

**Mrs Denise Turner-Stewart (Chairman)\*  
Mr Victor Agarwal\*  
Mr Ian Beardsmore\*  
Mrs Carol Coleman\*  
Mrs Caroline Nichols\*  
Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos\*  
Mr Richard Walsh**

**Borough Council Members:**

**Councillor Gerry Forsbrey\*  
Councillor Denise Grant  
Councillor John Packman  
Councillor Malcolm Royer\*  
Councillor Robin Sider\*  
Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley\*  
Councillor George Trussler\***

**\* = present**

(All references to items refer to the Agenda for the meeting)

**33/10**

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN  
(Item 1)**

It was noted that Denise Turner-Stewart and Richard Walsh had been appointed as Chairman and Vice Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

**34/10**

**APPOINTMENT OF SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEMBERS AND SUBSTITUTES (ITEM 2)**

It was noted that Councillors Forsbrey, Grant, Packman, Pinkerton, Sider, Smith-Ainsley and Trussler had been appointed as members of the Borough Council and that Councillors Ayers, Bouquet, Davis, Jaffer, Leighton, Napper and Royer had been appointed as substitute members.

Councillor Royer was substitute for Councillor Pinkerton for this meeting.

**35/10**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 3)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Walsh and Councillor Grant.

**36/10**

**MINUTES (ITEM 4)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**37/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 5)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**38/10 PETITIONS (ITEM 6)**

The Local Highway Manager reported a petition received with 278 signatures requesting a pedestrian crossing on Feltham Hill Road near Poplar Road or Chessholme Road,

**39/10 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (ITEM 7)**

One question was received and the answer is as set out in the Annex to these minutes.

**40/10 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 8)**

One question was received and the answer is as set out in the Annex to these minutes.

**41/10 LOCAL COMMITTEE PROTOCOL (ITEM 9)**

**Resolved:**

That the Protocol set out in Annex A be approved.

**42/10 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND RECONSTITUTION OF ON STREET PARKING PARTNERSHIP (Item 10)**

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the Chairman be appointed to attend the Spelthorne Together (Local Strategic Partnership) and the Vice Chairman be appointed as Deputy in her absence.
- (ii) That the Chairman be appointed to attend the Safer, Stronger Spelthorne Partnership and the Vice Chairman be appointed as Deputy in her absence.
- (iii) Mrs Coleman be appointed to the Housing Infrastructure and Environment Spelthorne Together Thematic Sub Group.
- (iv) That Mr Beardsmore be appointed to the Economic Development Spelthorne Together Thematic Sub Group.
- (v) Mrs Nichols be appointed to the Health and Social Well Being Partnership.
- (vi) Mr Walsh be appointed to the Spelthorne Children and Young People Partnership.
- (vii) No Member be appointed to the Community Learning partnership.
- (viii) The On Street Parking Partnership be reconstituted with the terms of reference "To enable the County and Borough (i) to make representation on any issues with regard to waiting and loading restrictions to the Local Committee (ii) to make recommendations to the Local Committee on the way forward on Controlled Parking

Zones and (iii) to keep under review the agreement with the Borough Council as required.

- (ix) Mrs Saliagopoulos and Mrs Coleman be appointed as the County Members and Councillors Forsbrey and Napper be appointed as the Borough Council members on the On Street Parking Partnership.

**43/10****MEMBERS FUNDS (ITEM 11)**

Appendix B was tabled for information.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To agree the criteria and guidance for the use of Members' Funds for this year (Appendix A) and that this criteria remain in place until the first formal meeting of the next municipal year (para 1.2).
- (ii) To agree that the capital allocation of £30000 be divided equally between Members (para 1.3).
- (iii) To approve the use of delegated authority (for both revenue and capital allocations) to the Area Director in consultation with the Chairman (or Vice Chairman if the Chairman's monies were being proposed for spend) (para 1.4).
- (iv) To note the distribution of funds in the financial year 09/10 (Appendix B).
- (v) To approve the change of use of funds requested by the Catholic Children's Society and to note the withdrawal of funds by Mrs Coleman.
- (vi) To approve funding to Surrey Police for a Speed Enforcement Gun to be funded £2,500 from Mrs Coleman's allocation and £675 from Mr Beardsmore's allocation.
- (vii) To approve funding of £2,000 for the Laleham Residents Association for the restoration of flower beds to be funded from Mr Walsh's allocation.
- (viii) To approve funding for the Spelthorne MS Society for the costs of venue rental for the Friday Club £500 to be funded from Mrs Nichols allocation and £258 from Mrs Coleman's allocation.
- (ix) To approve funding of £500 for Surrey Probation for graffiti removal materials to be funded from Mrs Coleman's allocation.
- (x) To approve funding of £546 for Spelthorne Borough Council for hanging baskets within Laleham and Shepperton to be funded from Mr Walsh's allocation.
- (xi) To approve funding of up to £5244 for Spelthorne Borough Council for Spelthorne Borough Council for hanging baskets within Staines South and Ashford West division to be funded from Mrs Turner-Stewart's allocation.

- (xii) To approve funding of £1000 for Spelthorne Borough Council for hanging baskets within Ashford, to be funded from Mrs Coleman's allocation (para 2.8).
- (xiii) To approve funding of up to £568 for Spelthorne Borough Council for hanging baskets within Halliford and the maintenance of flower beds within Upper Halliford, to be funded from Mrs Nichols' allocation (para 2.9).
- (xiv) To approve funding of £1104 for Spelthorne Borough Council for hanging baskets within Staines, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocation (para 2.10).
- (xv) To approve funding of £146.96 for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association towards printing costs, to be funded from Mrs Coleman's allocation (para 2.11).
- (xvi) To approve funding of £1000 from Carers Support Spelthorne towards the costs of an Information Day, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocation (para 2.12).
- (xvii) To approve funding of £500 from the Burma Star Veterans Association towards the costs of a day trip, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocation (para 2.13).
- (xviii) To approve funding of £800 from the Shepperton Village Fair Committee towards the costs of marquee and toilet hire, to be funded from Mr Walsh's allocation (para 2.14).
- (xix) To approve funding of £684 from Age Concern Spelthorne towards the costs of older people's groups, to be divided equally (£114) from Mr Agarwal's, Mr Beardsmore's, Mrs Coleman's, Mrs Nichols, Mrs Saliagopoulos and Mrs Turner-Stewart's allocation. (para 2.15).
- (xx) To approve funding of £2000 from Sunbury and Walton Sea Cadets towards the costs of a new boat, to be funded from Mr Walsh's capital allocation (para 3.1).

44/10

#### **4<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT WAITING RESTRICTIONS - AMENDMENTS (ITEM 12)**

Councillor Royer proposed and Mr Beardsmore seconded that the Local Committee should not proceed with the recommendation in paragraph 2.8 but to agree the removal of the yellow lines at those locations. Upon a vote, 8 Members were for the proposal and 2 voted against the proposal which was carried.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) To agree the amendments recommended in paragraphs 2.7, 2.9 and 2.11
- (ii) Not to proceed with the recommendation in paragraph 2.8 and to approve the removal of the yellow lines at those locations
- (iii) To agree that the County Council should advertise amendments to the existing traffic regulation orders as necessary for the amended parking controls to be implemented.

- (iv) The revised parking controls be implemented.

**45/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (ITEM 13)**

The next meeting to be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at The Council Chamber, Spelthorne Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines.

The meeting, which commenced at 9.30am ended at 10.10am.

Chairman.....

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010****AGENDA ITEM 7****MEMBERS QUESTION TIME****Mrs Saliagopoulos asked the following question:**

“Re: Environmental Grounds

Spelthorne Local Committee made an application for a grant to assist with the renovation of the allotments in Staines. Can you tell me what was the outcome of the application? I ask this as I was told a Staines Town Society Newsletter had indicated in their report that there had been some success in the application, which is not true.”

**The Area Director gave the following answer:**

“At the March meeting Spelthorne Local Committee put forward a bid of £10,000 to the Climate Change fund toward a proposal to undertake improvements to the borough’s allotment sites where they have fallen into disrepair, in order that the sites could then be marketed to local residents and utilised for cultivation.

The bid was considered by a panel consisting of Dr Andrew Povey, Leader of the Council, Dr Lynne Hack, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Roger Hargreaves, Head of Environment, alongside seventeen other bids from across the county competing for the £50,000 of available funding.

The outcome for the Spelthorne bid was that it was unsuccessful in attracting funding from the climate change fund. The decision of the panel was to award £0 toward the bid with the feedback provided that, although the panel felt that this was a good bid with clear local benefits it did not directly deliver the outcomes of the Surrey Climate Change Strategy.”

**AGENDA ITEM 8****PUBLIC QUESTION TIME****Mr A McLuskey asked the following question:**

“What is the reaction of the Local Committee to the extremely distressing recent Dispatches programme concerning Surrey social services?”

**The Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families gave the following answer:**

“On Monday 7 June Channel 4's Dispatches programme featured one of our former local offices for children's social care.

Child safety is our top priority. The programme recognised the extremely difficult work carried out by social work teams on a daily basis in ensuring our children are safe. Our initial view is that it was not unfairly critical of Surrey County Council, of the social work profession, or of the national systems we are required to implement. It showed that social work is not a glamorous profession, with our staff dealing with the more marginalised people of Surrey, including disaffected and very vulnerable young people and the difficult and challenging situations this presents.

The programme did not uncover any weaknesses that we were not already aware of or that are not currently being dealt with. At the time of filming, this office was one of 11 locality teams. These teams no longer exist. Following a restructure, completed in April, they have been replaced with new specialist teams and child protection work is now undertaken in four area teams staffed largely with qualified social workers.

The programme clearly raised some management and staff development issues. However, it was filmed last year and at the time we were already addressing many of these issues. We have been taking action where staff have acted inappropriately and will continue to do so.

We have been persistently working to improve our services over the past two years and we will continue to strive for sustainable improvement. Last year, Ofsted carried out an unannounced inspection of this service, and reported positively on the progress made and the quality of the judgements made.

We acknowledge the public interest in this area of work and support robust scrutiny of our services, but are disappointed that the documentary makers chose to film staff and service users without their permission. Channel 4 refused the service's request to see a preview of the programme but reassured the council that one of its most important considerations was protecting the identity of the adults and children who were filmed. Our immediate concern was that individuals who were on the programme could be identified, leaving children, families and staff feeling more vulnerable.

Letters were prepared for any families, parents or carers who might have had concerns as a result of seeing the programme. These are giving our frontline staff support as they have potentially difficult meetings throughout the next couple of weeks. We also need to work to ensure that the programme does not unduly impact on recruitment to children's social care services.

The care and protection of Surrey's children and their families remains paramount and we support the service's efforts in continuing to make improvements in this area.

**The Local Committee Chairman also responded as follows:**

The Local Committee under the direction of the Chairman engaged in positive discussions with children, Schools and families managers at a local and senior level and portfolio holders over the course of the last 18 months in regard to the provision of children's services locally and the changes that have taken place during this time. The Local Committee will continue its engagement on this subject and remains supportive of the work of children, schools and families staff."