

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th March 2011 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 Denise Grant*
Councillor Gerry Forsbrey*
Councillor John Packman*
Councillor Jack Pinkerton
Councillor Robin Sider*
Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley*
Councillor George Trussler

*** = present**

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

- 11/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 1)**
Apologies for absence were received from Mr Agarwal, Mr Beardsmore, Mrs Saliagopoulos, Councillor Pinkerton and Councillor Trussler.
- 12/11 MINUTES (ITEM 2)**
The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 13/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 3)**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 14/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 4)**
There were no Chairman's announcements.
- 15/11 PETITIONS (ITEM 5)**
One petition signed by 38 residents was received and presented by Mr Mike Clayden which read "We the undersigned, request that the County Council consider the implementation of some sort of controlled or restricted parking and any other traffic management scheme which will solve the congestion and parking issue in respect of residents and users of Broadlands

Avenue, Shepperton. We ask that the council work jointly with residents to produce a plan of proposals for implementation and that appropriate funding will be found.”

Resolved:

- (i) That the petition be received
- (ii) Noted that the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team (Parking Team) would be reviewing Broadlands Avenue, Shepperton as part of this year’s Spelthorne Parking Review.
- (iii) That the results of the Spelthorne Parking Review would be presented to the Committee on 11th July 2011.

16/11 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)

One Member question was received and the answer is as set out in Annex 1 to these minutes.

17/11 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 7)

Two public questions were received and the answers are as set out in Annex 1 to these minutes.

18/11 SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY DRAFT PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2011/20 (ITEM 8)

The Chairman welcomed Paul Oughton and Gavin Watts officers from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service who gave a presentation about the proposals.

During the discussion the Leader of the Borough Council asked that the County Council reconsider the position of Borough Councillors not being able to vote on items other than highways and transportation. The Area Director advised that he would raise this as part of the County Council’s review of the terms of reference of Local Committees.

Resolved:

To delegate authority to the Area Director in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to submit comments as set out below to the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service on the draft Public Safety Plan 2011/20.

- (i) The Local Committee strongly oppose the proposal to remove the Staines pump from 1900 to 0700 hours.
- (ii) Whilst understanding the need to review the service and make financial savings, the removal of the Staines pump during those hours could result in a loss of human safety overnight if a fire were to occur and pumps from other areas could not reach the site swiftly enough especially if bridges across to Spelthorne were blocked for any reason.
- (iii) Members are concerned about the closure of the Young Firefighters Scheme which had in the past received funding from some Member’s allocations.

- (iv) It was hoped that more work would be undertaken to reduce the number of false and malicious alarms.
- (v) In regard to proposal 9 to ensure that people with dementia or disabled people are not charged.

- 19/11 LIBRARY PUBLIC VALUE REVIEW (ITEM 9)**
The Chairman welcomed Peter Milton, Head of Cultural Services.
Resolved:
To note that the service would maintain published opening hours and avoid closures by recruiting up to the level of budget allocated.
- 20/11 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICE LOCAL DELIVERY PLAN 2011/12 (ITEM 10)**
The Chairman welcomed Peter Hare, Service Manager Youth Development East and Leigh Middleton, Youth Development Officer Spelthorne to the meeting.
Resolved:
 - (i) That the 2011/12 Youth Development Service Delivery Plan for Spelthorne as detailed in Appendix 1 be approved.
 - (ii) That research be undertaken into the use of schools and in particular the Ashford campus for evening activities for young people.
- 21/11 AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT (ITEM 11)**
The Chairman welcomed Michael Graham to the meeting.
Resolved:
That the report be noted.
- 22/11 LOCAL HIGHWAYS PROGRAMME 2011/12 (ITEM 12)**
The Chairman welcomed Richard Bolton Local Delivery and Customer Service Group Manager to the meeting. Proposed revisions to the recommendations were tabled.
Resolved:
 - (i) To delegate authority to the Area Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and leader of Spelthorne Borough Council to confirm the allocation of the £100,000 revenue budget following discussion at a Members' workshop.
 - (ii) To consider two possible capital programme scenarios and determine which option the Committee would prefer to follow in 2011/12 at the Workshop on 29th March 2011.
 - (iii) Further to (ii) above delegate authority to the Area Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman and leader of Spelthorne Borough Council to confirm the 2011/12 programme following the submission of a key local highway issue to the Area Manager and

- discussion at the Workshop. A report for information confirming schemes would be presented at the next formal Local Committee.
- (iv) Subject to (iii) above delegate authority to the Area Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and leader of Spelthorne Borough Council to amend budgets throughout the year in order to ensure the budget is managed in an efficient and timely way.
 - (v) To note the commencement of the new highways contract on 28th April 2011.
 - (vi) A regular highways report update to include financial information be considered at each Local Committee.

23/11

MEMBERS' FUNDS (ITEM 13)**Resolved:**

- (i) To note that Mrs Coleman's contributions to Spelthorne Borough Council for gum and butt bins was £3700 (para 2.1).
- (ii) To note that capital funding of £300 was refunded to Mrs Coleman from Surrey Highways (para 2.2).
- (iii) To note funding bids approved under delegated authority since the last Local Committee meeting (para 2.3 – 2.4).
- (iv) To approve funding of £315 for Spelthorne Borough Council for grass cutting at Leacroft, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' revenue allocation (para 2.5).
- (v) To approve funding of £386 for Surrey Highways for tree pruning works at Grosvenor Road, Staines, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' revenue allocation (para 2.6).
- (vi) To approve funding of £762 for Surrey Highways for tree pruning works at Laleham Road Staines, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' revenue allocation (para 2.7).
- (vii) To approve funding of £500 for Spelthorne Atoms Basketball Club for the purchase of equipment, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' revenue allocation (para 2.8).
- (viii) To approve funding of £2000 for Staines Street Angels for the purchase of equipment, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' revenue allocation (para 2.9).
- (ix) To approve funding of £1648 for Spelthorne Borough Council for summer hanging baskets within Staines, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' revenue allocation (para 2.10)
- (x) To approve funding of £7135 for Surrey Highways for capital improvements to the street scene in

- Staines Division, in consultation with the Divisional Member, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' capital allocation (para 2.11)
- (xi) To approve funding of £2566 for Spelthorne Borough Council for the purchase and installation of a notice board in Shepperton High Street, to be funded from Mr Walsh's revenue allocation (£936) and capital allocation (£1630)(para 2.12).
 - (xii) To approve funding of £3600 for Spelthorne Homestart for the project 'Improving the lives of twelve Spelthorne children and their families', to be funded from Mrs Nichols' revenue allocation (para 2.13).
 - (xiii) To approve funding of £1100 for Spelthorne Borough Council for summer hanging baskets within Halliford Village and Thames Street Sunbury, to be funded from Mrs Nichols' revenue allocation (para 2.14).
 - (xiv) To approve funding of £1900 for Benwell Day Centre for tables and snooker table, to be funded from Mrs Nichols' revenue allocation (para 2.15).
 - (xv) To approve funding of £1200 for Surrey Young Carers for a day trip for carers resident within Spelthorne, to be funded from Mrs Nichols' revenue allocation (para 2.16).
 - (xvi) To approve funding of £1500 for A2 Housing towards the provision of hardstanding for a play area at Annette Close. This will be funded from Mrs Nichols' revenue allocation (para 2.17).
 - (xvii) To approve funding of £2600 for Sunbury Sports Association for the installation of a borehole, to be funded from Mrs Nichols' revenue (£568) and capital (£2032) allocation (para 2.18).
 - (xviii) To approve funding of £2254 for Surrey Highways towards capital works at Oakington Drive and Sutherland Avenue, to be funded from Mrs Nichols' capital allocation (para 2.19)
 - (xix) To approve funding of £1000 for Spelthorne Borough Council towards summer hanging baskets within Ashford, to be funded from Mrs Coleman's revenue allocation (para 2.20).
 - (xx) To approve funding of £1500 for Spelthorne Tree Wardens towards the purchase of 50 trees within Ashford Division, to be funded from Mrs Coleman's revenue allocation (£117) and capital allocation (£1383) (para 2.21).
 - (xxi) To approve funding of £1454 for Ashford Library for the purchase of a whiteboard, to be funded from Mrs Coleman's capital allocation.

- (xxii) To approve funding of £1000 for Spelthorne Borough Council for the purchase and installation of a bench, to be funded from Mrs Turner-Stewart's revenue allocation (para 2.23).

24/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (ITEM 14)

To be held on Monday 11th July 2011 in the Council Chamber, Spelthorne Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines at 7pm.

The meeting, which commenced at 7.00pm, ended at 10.14pm pm the 10pm guillotine having been lifted with the Local Committee's agreement.

Chairman.....

ANNEX 1

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE
14th March 2011**

AGENDA ITEM 6

MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

Mrs Coleman asked the following question:

"It has been made very clear to me by business and residents of Ashford that they do not want On Street Car Parking charges (Pay and Display Parking Meters) in any form.

I understand that it is a legal requirement for pre consultation with the boroughs, and that this did not take place. Is this correct, and if not, when and with whom did the pre consultation take place with and in what form? The proposals are to address a half million pound deficit in the budget, were any other options researched, if so what were they and why were they not proposed?

Were any options to reduce expenditure researched?

Were any options to improve efficiency and current enforcement researched? Some comments are that this is a "done deal" as the county will agree contracts for the equipment prior to the start of the consultations, is this correct?

Who requested the review of parking in the county that produced this proposal, and when did they request it?"

David Curl gave the following answer:

"The statutory consultation for the proposed parking charges in Spelthorne is planned for May/June this year. However as all the proposals are available on our website and in the public arena, Surrey Highways are effectively consulting for several months before any decisions are made. We will write to Spelthorne Borough to seek their views and comments as part of this process.

Discussions have been taking place between the The District and Borough Councils and Surrey County Council to look at ways of improving the efficiency of the on street Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) operation in Surrey from April 2012. A decision has not yet been reached as to how this will work, however it is anticipated that there will be efficiencies by sharing back office costs etc by the District and Borough Councils in the administration of on street parking enforcement. 2011/12 is a transitional year, however Surrey County Council is expecting that the current annual cost in operating CPE of about £500,000 will be significantly reduced as our enforcement agents start to bring in some more efficient ways of working.

A more efficient enforcement operation will go some way to reducing the current £0.5M deficit however there is no guarantee that income from Penalty Charge Notices will cover the cost of enforcement. The long term trend in Surrey and the UK is that fewer Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) are being issued each year and it would be wrong for Surrey County Council and Spelthorne Borough Council, as authorities that enforce fairly, to set income targets for parking fines to boost income.

Consequently the introduction of on street parking charges is a way of ensuring that parking enforcement does not need to be subsidised by another budget that could be used to repair and improve the roads.

It is planned that the Cabinet Member for Transport will approve a supplier for pay and display machines on the 18th May following a tender process. The Cabinet will then make a decision about whether to proceed in different areas of Surrey as the consultation process continues. If a decision is made to go ahead in one area then machines will be ordered when that decision is made using a 'call off' contract. In this way machines and other equipment does not need to be ordered in advance of consultation and Cabinet decisions."

AGENDA ITEM 7

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr John Carruthers asked the following question:

"May I please put the following question to the next Local Committee?"

It appears that a decision has been made to install parking meters at all currently free parking spaces in Ashford, Sunbury and Shepperton and then charge up to £1.40 per hour or 70p per half hour.

Has this been seriously thought through? It might help the Council to balance its books, but would be disastrous for the small shops and business enterprises that are affected. The viability of these small businesses with resulting reduced footfall will suffer seriously, and likely many will close down. Have we not enough Charity shops taking over empty premises with their unfair advantages of no rates and waste charges? We lose more shops and the viability of the street is endangered. Tesco and the other supermarkets must be rubbing their hands with glee at this unexpected windfall, due to the completely free parking availability. Who is going to pay £1.40, or even 70p penalty, just to be able to buy a couple of lemons, a cabbage or even just to browse the shops? Look what happened when the borough put meters into previously free car parks; they are now virtually empty; even with a free first period of time, but with the surrounding roads packed.

A compromise approach certainly could have the first hour free, with charging then starting, as in place in Walton, and this would at least encourage short term shopping with a quick turnover of parkers. However what seems acceptable in main shopping areas in Walton and Staines does not work in

the lesser shopping centres where the most important need and attraction is easy and unqualified access. A consultation is being organised, but is apparently being delayed until June.

Who is going to stand up for the life blood of the local shopkeepers please?"

David Curl gave the following answer:

"We understand the concerns of local residents and businesses about the proposed on street parking charges, however Surrey County Council is committed to supporting the local economy.

A real benefit for businesses is that parking spaces near shops are turned over more quickly sometime called "churn". Customers will be more likely to find a space due to the increased turnover which is particularly important on routes with passing traffic (or trade).

The key factor is getting the tariff levels right for a given locality. The Council is therefore consulting on a range of proposals, with varying charges in different areas. As the consultation process continues a number of suggestions are being made to improve the proposals for example the idea of having a free 15 or 30 minute period in some locations.

It is not straightforward as we are trying to move away from a position where we subsidise parking enforcement in Surrey by approximately £500,000 a year from the highways budget. A free parking period that is too long or widely available could mean the income from parking tickets would not cover the cost of maintaining the machines and enforcement. In other words it would continue to need a subsidy that could otherwise be used to maintain the roads.

Consequently all the options are being considered to find the best way of making this initiative work, as there are real benefits for local businesses. This includes looking at the effect of a free parking period. It is planned to formally consult on the proposals in Spelthorne during late May/June. The Local Committee will be formally ask for their view on the proposals including any suggestions for a free parking period."

Kelvin Gardiner asked the following question:

"Appendix 5 of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority Draft Public Safety Plan 2011 – 2020 shows that 8 of the 14 fatalities shown have occurred between 7pm and 7am when it is proposed that Staines fire station is to be closed. Why is it proposed that Staines fire station is closed when the majority of fatalities have occurred?"

Gavin Watts Area Manager Public Safety Plan Project Team Surrey Fire and Rescue Service gave the following answer:

"Due to the fact that the numbers of incidents that are involved are small, the identification of any form of pattern, either geographic or time of day is not possible. The reasons for fatalities occurring in dwelling fires are complex and

involve a number of factors. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service are committed to targeting those most vulnerable to ensure that they have working smoke detection and understand how to react should a fire occur. The emergency response that we provide must also consider the higher number of road traffic collisions that we attend, which are also distributed throughout the county.

The proposals for Staines are part of a county wide plan that is focussed on achieving a balanced level of service for the whole county. This means that there are areas where resources are being moved from, such as Staines. The change in how we crew our fire engines is also designed to release capacity to provide more training for firefighters and increased safety education for our residents.

The assessment that has enabled this proposal is based on the availability of fire engines in the surrounding area, including those from neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services, with whom we have been discussing our proposals throughout the consultation. This means that the expected response times are well within the standard being set.”