

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Spelthorne JOINT COMMITTEE
held at 6.30 pm on 17 July 2017
at Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames. TW18 1XB.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mr Richard Walsh (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mr Robert Evans
- * Mr Tim Evans
- Miss Alison Griffiths
- * Mr Naz Islam
- * Mrs Sinead Mooney
- * Ms Denise Turner-Stewart

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Ian Harvey (Chairman)
- * Cllr Maureen Attewell
- * Cllr Mark Francis
- Cllr Alfred Friday
- * Cllr Joanne Sexton
- * Cllr Richard Smith-Ainsley
- * Cllr Howard Williams

* In attendance

34/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Miss Alison Griffiths and Cllr Alfred Friday.

35/16 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

Minutes of the Joint Committee on 20 March 2017 were agreed and approved as an accurate record, with the addition of the words 'to install a traffic island' in the decision paragraph in Item 6, on page 3:
'Proceed with a full speed and traffic management assessment in the context of a feasibility study **to install a traffic island**, noting that funding of approximately £5,000 would need to be allocated for this purpose.'

36/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

37/16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]

The Chairman Cllr Ian Harvey announced the following:

- "On 12 June Spelthorne Borough Council launched its new rubbish and 3 in 1 recycling service with food waste, textiles and small

electrical items being collected weekly. These items are being collected by a dedicated vehicle on the same day as recycling or rubbish but at a different time. A portion of the money from the textiles collected will be donated to a local charity. Investment has also been made in new vehicles, clearly liveried with recycling messages.

- The street lights are back on! On Friday 23 June street lights in Spelthorne were switched back on as a result of an agreement between the Leaders of Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey County Council to reinstate night time lights in our Borough for an initial period of five years, on the understanding that the Borough Council would find the necessary funding. This was approved by Surrey County Council's Cabinet on 30 May. Lots of concerns were raised by residents about the switch off, many of whom are shift workers, so I am very pleased that through our hard work to improve our financial sustainability we in Spelthorne have been able to respond to those concerns and resolve this issue with the County Council.
- We have also agreed to continue to cut the grass verges in Spelthorne on behalf of Surrey despite the County Council cutting budgets by £40,000 on verge maintenance for the next 4 financial years. The Borough Council has been carrying out this work since 2008 and we strongly believe that it's important that we continue to do this, despite Surrey's funding cuts, to ensure that Spelthorne remains an attractive place to live and work.
- Finally I would ask Councillors and residents to respond to Surrey County Council's consultation on the revised opening hours and charging for non-domestic waste. In particular I would urge you to express the importance of keeping Charlton Lane open 7 days a week. Charlton Lane receives nearly 500,000 visits per year and is Surrey's largest and busiest recycling centre with the amount of recycling passing through the site being half as much again as the next busiest site in the County. This consultation finishes on 7 August 2017."

38/16 VICE CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 5]

There were no Vice Chairman's announcements on this occasion.

39/16 PETITIONS & PETITION RESPONSES [Item 6]

The Joint Committee received a petition from Tonia Parsons which contains 118 signatures and reads:

"Petition to reduce speed limit to 30 mph on Staines Road East (A308) and repair the damaged drains, cracks or resurface with sound dampers. We the undersigned would like something done about the speed i.e. the danger to pedestrians, cyclists, school children, disabled, wheelchair users, noise and consequently vibrations and sleeplessness causing health problems adding to pollution in this area of Kempton Park."

The petitioner, Tonia Parsons, spoke for the allowed 3 minutes and passed some correspondence and a photo to members, in support of her petition.

The Chairman expressed sympathy for the issue as he is a resident of that area. Members discussed the possibility of the speed limit being reduced on part of the road. The Area Highway Manager responded from an officer point of view.

The Spelthorne Joint Committee resolved to AGREE to:

Note the petition response report which recommended that the speed limit should not be reviewed at the present time. The Highway Manager (NE) was asked by the Committee to investigate the issue further. This should include consulting with Surrey Police and then reporting back to the next Joint Committee on 2 October.

40/16 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 7]

Two member written questions were received from Mr Robert Evans, one regarding the Grenfell disaster and one regarding SCC changes to community recycling centres.

The written questions and answers are set out in Annex 1 to these minutes.

41/16 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 8]

One Written Public Question was received from Mr Andrew McLuskey. The answer to Mr McLuskey's written question regarding footpaths on either side of St Anne's Avenue in Stanwell is in Annex 1 to these minutes (see attached).

Mr McLuskey asked a supplementary question: "Will the Joint Committee look at A2Dominion in relation to their sub-contracting?" Mr McLuskey believed that the developer problems are wider than closing public footpaths and include not providing toilet facilities for the workers so that residents suffer.

The Chairman said that the SCC Countryside Access team should pursue the footpath closures as it is a legal matter. This action should be noted in the Decision Tracker and progress reported at the next Joint Committee.

The Chairman said that Spelthorne Borough Council planners would follow up regarding the planning permission given to A2Dominion and he requested that Lee O'Neil, Assistant Chief Executive, follows this up and records the outcome in the Decision Tracker at the next Joint Committee.

42/16 CAMPAIGN TO BRING SPELTHORNE'S TRAIN STATIONS INTO TFL ZONE 6 [Item 9]

Agenda item only

Patti Taylor, representing the campaign team, spoke for the allowed 3 minutes and asked:

"Is the Spelthorne Joint Committee willing to endorse the campaign for bringing Staines, Ashford, Sunbury and Shepperton stations into TfL's Zone 6, in order that Oyster card payments can be used into and out of London?"

We believe that this would benefit not only our residents but Spelthorne's businesses, schools and workers, meaning less expensive rail fares and

facilitating easier travel. Anyone travelling out of or into London from our stations can use Oyster up to Feltham but need to exit the train to purchase an onward ticket. This is inconvenient to say the least, and an expensive extra cost that deters visitors and workers in and out of our towns."

The Chairman stated that Spelthorne Borough Council had unanimously carried a motion to support the campaign in 2016.

Members asked what needs to be done to make the change. It is believed that TfL is happy to include Spelthorne in the zones, but it will be up to the new train operator as the franchise is changing in August 2017 to First Group. The issue is likely to be the perceived loss of revenue.

The Committee thanked Patti Taylor for her presentation and commended her and the campaign team for all their work.

The Spelthorne Joint Committee resolved to AGREE to:

Fully support the campaign for bringing Staines, Ashford, Sunbury and Shepperton stations into TfL's Zone 6. The Joint Committee Chairman will write letters of support for the campaign to the Secretary of State for Transport and the new train operator.

43/16 DECISION TRACKER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 10]

Mr Ken Snaith asked a question during the Informal Public Questions at the start of the meeting. The Chairman said this would be discussed under Item 10, as it had previously been recorded in the Tracker.

At the start of Item 10, the Chairman invited Mr Snaith to address the Committee regarding his concerns in Sheep Walk, Shepperton:

1. Illegal occupancy of land by caravans etc.
2. Regular fly tipping.
3. The issue of SCC Highways digging up large items of rubbish and not yet able to clear it.

The Chairman asked Lee O'Neil, Assistant Chief Executive, Spelthorne Borough Council, to follow up on the issue of illegal occupation and report the position in the Tracker at the next Joint Committee.

The Community Safety Report under Item 12 included an update on fly tipping in Spelthorne.

The Area Highway Manager said that he was undertaking an exercise to identify where any underspend could be allocated. Committee members commented that there were other priorities in Spelthorne that needed budget allocation but many members agreed that the Sheep Walk issues needed to be addressed.

The Committee agreed that the Tracker should mark the Sheep Walk rubbish clearance issue as 'red' and the Area Highways Manager should report on progress at the next Joint Committee.

Other items on the Decision Tracker were noted as cleared.

44/16 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 11]

The Area Highway Manager (NE) presented this item.

Members asked for amendments to be made in paragraph 2.4 on page 31:

- Typing error: 2016-17 should read 2017-18.
- The Area Highway Manger was asked to amend the text in italics at the bottom of page 31 to indicate that funding will be sought to clear Sheep Walk.

Regarding the new road closure of Celia Crescent at the junction with Kingston Road (see Table 3), as approved by the Joint Committee in March 2017, the Chairman said he thought that residents in Celia Crescent were funding all associated costs including design, legal costs, the actual gate/barrier and installation of such. Therefore, the allocated £5,000 in Table 3 should be re-allocated to Woodthorpe Road.

Ms Denise Turner-Stewart said that costs have risen and Celia Crescent residents can not afford all the costs. There was a discussion regarding how much the residents had committed to pay and whether or not all Celia Crescent residents had made that commitment. Ms Turner-Stewart queried the design and legal costs and asked what SCC Highways would pay for. The Area Highway Manager said that residents would pay for the implementation of the agreed solution, once it had been designed and agreed and the traffic order had been made. The divisional member Ms Turner-Stewart and the Area Highway Manager agreed to contact residents regarding their expectations and financial commitment.

Mr Naz Islam said that £5,000 can be transferred from his divisional Highways allocation to Woodthorpe Road (Table 3) as it is in his neighbouring division. The Committee asked the Area Highway Manager to reflect this in his next Highways Update report to the Committee.

The Spelthorne Joint Committee resolved to AGREE to:

- (i) Authorise the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and relevant Divisional Member(s) to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the agreed programmes.

Reason: Programmes of work have been agreed in consultation with the Committee.

Committee is asked to provide the necessary authorisation to deliver those programmes of work in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Member without the need to revert to the Committee as a whole.

45/16 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE (SERVICE MONITORING & ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN) [Item 12]

The item was presented by Spelthorne Borough Council's Community Safety Manager.

Cllr Joanne Sexton requested that the information on page 44 at the end of the report be represented in graphs in future. Cllr Sexton also queried figures

after October 2016. The Community Safety Manager explained that it's the way the figures are collected. In future, he will include tables and graphs to show comparisons by years.

Members requested that the date of the public meeting as indicated in paragraph 4.1 be sent to the Joint Committee in advance.

Mr Richard Walsh said that Trading Standards was concerned about the level of scams and he was re-assured by the Community Safety Manager that Spelthorne Borough Council works closely with Trading Standards and TS attends events that the Borough organises.

Cllr Richard Smith-Ainsley thought a graph showed that figures for fly-tipping had increased since SCC started to charge for refuse disposal at its community recycling centres.

Amendment to be noted: In the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership Plan 2017-2020, in the draft key priorities (top of page 52) it should read 'Child Sexual Exploitation and Cyber Crime'.

The Chairman and members thanked the Community Safety Manager for all the provided information.

46/16 JOINT COMMITTEE COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING - SPELTHORNE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 13]

The Spelthorne Joint Committee resolved to AGREE to:

- (i) The committee's delegated community safety budget of £3,000 for 2017/18 be retained by the SCC Community Partnership Team, on behalf of the Committee, and that the Community Safety Partnership and/or other local organisations be invited to submit proposals for funding that meet the criteria and principles set out at paragraph 2.3 of this report.
- (ii) Authority be delegated to the SCC Community Partnership Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint committee, to authorise the expenditure of the community safety budget in accordance with the criteria and principles stated at paragraph 2.3 of this report.
- (iii) The Joint Committee receives updates on the project(s) that was funded, including the outcomes and the impact it has achieved.

Reason: The report sets out a process for allocating the Committee's delegated community safety budget of £3,000 to local organisations.

47/16 REPRESENTATION ON JOINT COMMITTEE PARTNERSHIPS & TASK GROUPS 2017-18 (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 14]

All nominations were agreed.

The Spelthorne Joint Committee resolved to AGREE to:

- (i) Appoint members to the partnerships, task groups and outside bodies as listed in the report, **with the addition of Mr Robert Evans appointed to the Margaret Pope's Charity (paragraph 2.10).**

(ii) Allow Members to bring update reports from those groups, when relevant.

(iii) The terms of reference for the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Strategic Group, Parking Task Group, Transport Task Group, Walton to Halliford Transport Study Steering Group, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group and the Education Action Group, as in Annex A (i), Annex A (ii), Annex A (iii) and Annex A (iv).

Reason: to enable the Spelthorne Joint Committee to be represented on relevant partnerships, task groups and outside bodies and for Committee members to be able to report back to the Joint Committee when appropriate.

48/16 FORWARD PROGRAMME 2017/18 [Item 15]

The forward programme was agreed.

Cllr Jean Pinkerton asked the Committee to note that the next Spelthorne Education Action Group meeting is now on 4 October 2017, not 11 October as detailed in Item 14, page 69 of the committee papers.

49/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 16]

To be held on Monday 2 October 2017 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Spelthorne Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames TW18 1XB.

(6.30pm – 7pm: Informal Public Question Time)

This was the last Spelthorne Joint Committee meeting that the Partnerships Committee Officer Yvette Ortel will attend, as she is moving to be the Partnerships Committee Officer for Waverley Local Committee. The Chairman thanked Yvette for all her committee work over the last seven years and the support she has provided to members.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30pm ended at 9.18pm.

Meeting ended at: 9.18 pm

Chairman

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MINUTES ANNEX 1

SPELTHORNE JOINT COMMITTEE – 17 July 2017

AGENDA ITEM 7

WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Mr Robert Evans will ask the following question:

“In the light of the Grenfell disaster what additional action has been taken or is being considered to ensure the safety of Spelthorne residents?”

Lee O’Neil, Spelthorne Borough Council Assistant Chief Executive, will give the following answer:

“Following the horrific fire at Grenfell Tower Spelthorne has been working closely with a range of partners to ensure the safety of residential blocks within the borough.

The Government has written to all local authorities and registered providers of social housing (housing associations) to request that they undertake fire safety checks on any tower blocks they own and that they identify, record and inspect any housing blocks that are more than 18 metres high which have been clad with a particular type of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM). Spelthorne is not a significant owner of housing stock in the borough and does not own any buildings which meet those criteria. Our officers have however been liaising with housing associations to ensure that they have undertaken the necessary checks on their properties and have adequate fire risk assessments in place.

Surrey Fire and Rescue have identified all high rise buildings in Surrey and fire crews have visited and checked the cladding to these blocks. Four buildings have been identified in Surrey where the cladding required testing, none of which were in Spelthorne. All of these have been found to be satisfactory.

Following the recent conversion of Chubb House in Sunbury Cross from offices to residential accommodation, Spelthorne’s Environmental Health

team have contacted Surrey's Fire Safety Officer and the Approved Building Inspector responsible for checking that the conversion and cladding of the building complied with the Building Regulations. The Fire Safety Officer (who was a consultee for the Building Regulations application) and the Approved Building Inspector have both stated that they are satisfied with this property's fire safety precautions.

Surrey Fire and Rescue crews have received enhanced training on fire safety in residential blocks and they have produced a fire safety booklet for residents, which is available on their website. Copies of this have been sent to the residents of high rise buildings and also to the companies that manage these properties. They have also written to all responsible persons who own tower blocks in the county strongly advising them to review their fire risk assessments and reminding them of their fire safety responsibilities.

Whilst Spelthorne's Environmental Health team already work closely with Surrey Fire and Rescue's Fire Safety Officers, it has been agreed that joint working and information sharing protocols will be further enhanced in the future.

All licensed houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) are required to have an up-to-date fire risk assessment and Spelthorne's officers are currently in the process of reviewing these for all residential blocks in the borough."

2. Mr Robert Evans will ask the following question:

"Surrey County Council is making major changes to its 'Community Recycling Centres' including closing four across the County.

Many local residents are already very concerned about the amount of fly tipping which occurs and understandably fear a worsening of the situation.

As Spelthorne Council will be responsible for monitoring/addressing this, what assurances can be given to local people and how much additional budget has Spelthorne set aside to cover the inevitable increase in fly tipping?"

Jackie Taylor, Spelthorne Borough Council Group Head Neighbourhood Services, will give the following answer:

"At this stage the changes are only a proposal which is currently out for consultation and we would urge all to respond.

Until the results of the consultation have been analysed and SCC Cabinet have made their decisions it is not known how the proposals and decisions may directly affect Spelthorne.

Spelthorne already invests funding towards a very successful joint enforcement team who have secured many prosecutions against fly tippers

and also contribute funds towards the Surrey Waste Partnership fly tipping project.

Given the many unknowns and our existing financial contributions, Spelthorne is not at this stage setting aside extra funding to deal with the potential for increased fly tipping as a result of the proposals put forward by SCC.”

AGENDA ITEM 8

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Mr Andrew McLuskey will ask the following question:

“Notwithstanding numerous complaints made by myself to the Joint Committee and its predecessor can the Chair explain why the public footpaths on either side of St Anne’s Avenue, Stanwell are impassable? Can the Chair also explain why my complaints have been ignored?”

Steve Mitchell, SCC Countryside Access Team Manager, will give the following answer:

“There are still outstanding issues on the public footpath and I hope we can reassure you that your complaints have not been ignored and the County Council has taken steps to resolve the issues so that the path is available and safe for public use.

We do recognise however, that the path has been obstructed for some time, which is an inconvenience for local people. The Countryside Access Team still have large backlogs of issues of this nature and significantly reduced resources with which to tackle them. We do not have an exact timetable to completion of the necessary work, but we hope you will see some progress on the ground shortly.”

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