

Minutes of the meeting of the
Spelthorne JOINT COMMITTEE
held at 6.30 pm on 18 July 2022
at Goddard Room, Spelthorne Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-
Thames, TW18 1XB.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its next meeting.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Buddhi Weerasinghe (Chairman)
- Maureen Attewell
- * Robert Evans
- * Sinead Mooney
- * Joanne Sexton
- Alison Todd
- * Denise Turner-Stewart

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr John Boughtflower (Vice-Chairman)
- * Cllr Chris Bateson
- * Cllr Malcolm Beecher
- * Cllr Ian Beardsmore
- Cllr Rose Chandler
- * Cllr Ian Harvey
- Cllr Denise Saliagopoulos

* In attendance

40/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Cllr Attewell, Cllr Chandler, Cllr Todd and Cllr Saliagopoulos.

41/22 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2022 were agreed.

42/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

43/22 ECO PARK UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 4]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: None

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None

Member discussion – key points:

The chairman read the following statement from Surrey County Council:

'The Council is continuing to engage with Suez over the future of the Eco Park, including the gasifier, which is now operational along with the Anaerobic Digester. The arbitration process between Suez and SCC is also ongoing. A report is being taken to Cabinet on 26 July where an update will be provided in respect of how the future of the Eco Park is being considered as part of the provision of services and infrastructure following the expiry of the current contract in September 2024. The link to this report will be provided to the Committee when papers are published to ensure members receive the latest information.'

There was a discussion about a possible overspend on the EcoPark. It was stated that any overspend would be covered to a large extent by the supplier. The Committee Officer undertook to find out more details.

44/22 DECISION TRACKER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 5]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Gregory Yeoman, Partnership Committee Officer, Surrey County Council

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None

Member discussion – key points:

Item 2. Cllr Evans asked for more information on what the construction is that is planned, and asked if the residents had been consulted.

Item 4. Cllr Turner-Stewart asked for confirmation that Ashford Road was still included in the speed reduction scheme, with its limit being reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

The Committee Officer would contact the Highways team with the above enquiries.

The Chairman offered to take queries relating to Cllr Todd's Division for the time being.

45/22 PETITIONS [Item 6]

No petitions were received.

46/22 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 7]

No Member questions were received.

47/22 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 8]

One Public question had been received from Mrs Sanders of Sunbury-on-Thames regarding CIL balances and forecasts. The question and officer response were published in the agenda pack. Mrs Sanders was not present at the meeting and there was no supplementary question.

48/22 APPROVAL OF CIL FUNDING FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION FOR DECISION) [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Joanna Ghazaleh, Infrastructure Delivery Coordinator, Spelthorne Borough Council

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None

Member discussion – key points:

The officer outlined the two schemes under consideration.

Sunbury NHS Centre

There was support for this application but it was felt that the Centre was underperforming, with comments from residents to members outside this meeting and one member's personal experience at the Centre cited. The comment was made that if the application is passed the funding should come with a requirement for the Centre to improve its level of service.

The cost of some of the individual items listed in the application was challenged, with a request for some more information to be provided. Clarity was also called for on what items listed in the overall application were included in the Phase 1a and 1b works, which is what the application was covering. Without this, it was felt that a decision could not be made and members agreed to defer this until a later meeting pending the officer providing the clarification needed. The officer would schedule a meeting of the CIL Task Group in the first instance.

Football pitch improvements

Members supported this application.

The officer was questioned about the projections shown in Annex 4, which are based on estimates of future receipts from developers. She acknowledged that while deriving the estimates from past trends did involve some risk, this was the approach used by other authorities as well. CIL receipts in 20/21 exceeded £2million, whilst in 21/22 £1.3m was accrued. The timing of the receipts cannot be predicted with 100% accuracy because project delivery can slip.

Overall, the work of the Task Group was commended, with a comprehensive spending package promoted across a variety of projects.

Resolved:

The Joint Committee (Spelthorne) agreed:

- (i) To defer the decision on Strategic CIL funding of £848,587 to the NHS – Sunbury Health Centre (Appendix 1) – to a subsequent meeting pending clarification on the status of transport elements.**
- (i) Strategic CIL funding of £68,050 to Spelthorne Borough Council (Leisure) - Grass football pitch improvements (Appendix 2).

Reasons for Recommendations:

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations require the Council to use CIL towards funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure required to support the development of its area. The above applications have been considered in context of existing and upcoming development within Spelthorne. The above schemes meet the general criteria to be considered for CIL funding, and it is recommended funding is granted.

49/22 REPRESENTATION ON TASK GROUPS AND EXTERNAL BODIES (FOR DECISION) [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Gregory Yeoman, Community Partnership Officer, Surrey County Council

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None

Member discussion – key points:

The officer summarised the report and there was no further discussion.

Resolved:

The Joint Committee (Spelthorne):

- (i) Agreed the continuation of the Joint Committee's CIL task group for the year 2022/23 as set out in section 2.2 of this report and the Terms of Reference as set out in Annex 1.
- (ii) Agreed the CIL group membership as set out in the Terms of Reference.
- (iii) Agreed to the discontinuation of the Transport task group – paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 refer.
- (iv) Noted the Terms of Reference of the external bodies in Annex 1, and membership set out in section 2.3 of the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

The report proposes Joint Committee task group membership for the forthcoming year to enable the provision of informed advice and recommendations to the Committee on subjects within the Committee's remit. The appointment of councillors of the Joint Committee to external bodies enables the committee's representation on, and input to, such bodies.

50/22 FORWARD PROGRAMME [Item 11]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Gregory Yeoman, Partnership Committee Officer, Surrey County Council

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None

Member discussion – key points:

Prompted by the very small number of items on the forward plan, there was a discussion about the future of the Joint Committee where Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the idea that the committee might be closed. The committee provided a very good means for both the borough and county councils to meet and discuss key issues, and removing it would be a short-sighted action. Residents, too, would lose an opportunity to bring their concerns to the committee, and these changes, the reasons behind them and their implications had not been adequately discussed.

It was stated that the proposed changes were resident-driven; the existing system had been in place for 20 years and needed refreshing to ensure residents have access to a model that reflects changes in how people communicate and reaches a larger proportion of the Spelthorne population.

The officer undertook to pass the comments on to the Cabinet Member.

A request was made to add Greener Future for Surrey to the forward plan.

51/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 12]

Currently 21 November 2022 although an earlier meeting is expected to accommodate the deferred CIL decision from Item 9 above.

Meeting ended at: 7.39 pm

Chairman