

**DRAFT**

Minutes of the meeting of the  
**Spelthorne JOINT COMMITTEE**  
held at 6.30 pm on 19 March 2018  
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

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**OPEN FORUM**

Before the formal committee session began, the Chairman invited questions from members of the public attending the meeting. Where possible questions received an answer at the meeting, or a written answer was provided subsequently.

**1/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]**

No apologies were received and there were no absences.

**2/17 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]**

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.

**3/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

No declarations of interest were received.

**4/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]**

#### 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any Chairman's announcements.

*Agenda item only*

The Chairman welcomed the new Police Inspector Maxine Cilia to the meeting and paid tribute to past mayor and former Borough Leader, Gerry Ceaser.

The Chairman also spoke about "Project Lima" which is looking at reducing running and maintenance costs within the civic centre by consolidating the areas where officers work. This project is expected to be underway by the end of April.

At Spelthorne's December Council meeting the Chairman announced a new project for the borough, "Every ward at its best". This is designed to support councillors locally to make an impact in their communities by improving problem sites such as derelict properties, fly-tipping hot spots and other unreported nuisances. It also looks at options for any underutilised Council assets. Work is progressing well on this initiative and we have already seen some early successes:

- Some confusing road signs in Staines-upon-Thames have been replaced to provide better clarity for residents
- Sweeps Ditch has been cleared of rubbish
- The shutters to a shop in the Broadway, Kingston Road have been replaced
- A shopkeeper in French Street has agreed to repaint hoardings around his premises.

The Chairman closed his announcements by urging anyone who has not yet responded to the Heathrow consultation which closes on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, to do so. The Borough, which supports expansion, has compiled a list of ten requirements which it feels will support the borough and its residents as neighbours of the airport.

This first round of the Heathrow Expansion Public Consultation closes on 28 March 2018 and I would urge anyone who hasn't already done so to view and respond to the consultation documents on Heathrow's website. On Wednesday this week Spelthorne's Cabinet will be asked to approve the Council's detailed response to this phase of the consultation process. Whilst this Borough continues to support Heathrow expansion, our

response contains a list of ten requirements which we want Heathrow Airport Limited to address in order to protect and enhance the future lives of our residents with any expanded airport, including an Expanded Wider Property Offer Zone and controls on noise and air pollution.

#### **5/17 VICE CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 5]**

The Vice-Chairman announced that the County Council now has a new Chief Executive, Joanna Killian, who took over from David McNulty who retired.

The Vice-Chairman also announced that the County Council and Transport for London had worked closely together to maintain the 216 bus service which was under threat. The service links Kingston to Staines via Ashford Hospital and Sunbury and this was a service that was due to be reduced from September 2018.

#### **6/17 PETITIONS & PETITION RESPONSES [Item 6]**

Petition 1:

Ms Emma Ronan presented a petition to the Committee requesting a pedestrian crossing on the A308 (Staines Road West) at the Black Dog junction.

Ms Ronan's daughter has recently recovered from being knocked down at this junction as she tried to cross the road here. Ms Ronan related her experience as a mother and that of her daughter who has subsequently been very nervous of crossing roads by herself. The petition was supported by the divisional Member.

The Committee sympathised with the petitioner's experience and acknowledged the dangers of crossing busy roads like the one in question for children.

The nearest crossings to the location where the incident occurs are Fordbridge Road, Cadbury Road and School Road, all of which are some minutes away.

Whilst supportive of the suggestion to fund a feasibility study, it was acknowledged that implementing any pedestrian crossing as a result of this study would be subject to available funding which has been drastically cut in recent years. Pedestrian crossings can be extremely expensive to implement especially if there is significant re-design work involved as there would be with this particular junction.

The Chairman stated that he had spoken at length with the Area Highways Manager about this area and it had been identified that there were three places along this road that could benefit from a pedestrian crossing. However, funding will be an issue and it is unlikely that all three crossings could be built. Therefore, it was suggested that alongside the feasibility study itself, the

Committee may consider a strategic review of crossing amenities in the area in general. External funding streams could then be considered as a means to pay for any improvements that are deemed necessary.

Petition 2:

Mr Stuart Boyle spoke to his petition on behalf of the Charlton Village Residents Association. This petition had come as a result of a number of road accidents in the village in the last year, one of which had resulted in a fatality that is the subject of an ongoing police investigation. The petition requested that road safety measures were instigated and a permanent solution to the drainage problems that the road encounters is found.

Whilst the petition did not call for specific measures, the petitioner stated that an upgraded traffic island or a push-button pedestrian crossing would be in line with what residents would find acceptable. A previous feasibility study had led to the decision to install an average speed cameras system alongside the road in question and this is expected to be in place by the end of this year. This was acknowledged by the petitioner.

The difficulties of instigating traffic measures at a time when funding was so difficult were reiterated but it was hoped that the new cameras would make an impact that the residents would benefit from with a view that additional measures could be reviewed in the future.

With regards to the drainage issues, the Area Highways Manager reported that the road in question relies on a soakaway ditch and that this had been cleared out as a primary measure. Only when this has been done and monitored over a period of time can the drainage capacity be assessed to see if more extensive measures to improve capacity need to be taken. The Cabinet Member for Highways agreed to take a detailed look at the issue at this location and advise the Area Highways Manager accordingly. The Area Highways Manager was then asked to draw up a proposal for to see what additional measures could be carried out to address this problem.

The Joint Committee (Spelthorne) agreed to:

**To allocate £5,000 on a feasibility study on the A308 Black Dog junction**

Reason: In response to the petition brought requesting a pedestrian crossing here.

## **7/17 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 7]**

Question 1

The divisional member for Stanwell and Stanwell Moor submitted a question about recycling rates. In follow-up, he noted that Surrey Heath's rates were the highest in the county and asked what lessons Spelthorne could learn from this.

The Borough's Group Head of Neighbourhood Services reported that it was very difficult to compare recycling services as borough adopted very different

practices from one another. For example, some boroughs might recycle items that another borough does not accept. However, Spelthorne are part of the Surrey Waste Partnership which seeks to share best practice and ways to improve.

#### Question 2

The divisional member asked a question about affordable housing being built in Spelthorne and cited a recent development where only 52 new affordable homes were being built from a total of 350 buildings.

The borough member for Laleham and Shepperton Green replied in his capacity as Chairman for the Borough's Planning Committee. Developers are requested to provide up to 50% of their new builds as affordable housing, However, land prices are market driven and property developers can argue that this means that they are unable to yield sufficient profit from the land they have invested in.

It was suggested that when Spelthorne Borough Council launches its updated Local Plan there will be more clarity on what the local housing picture looks like.

#### Question 3

This was asked by the divisional member for Staines and concerned the Crooked Billet roundabout where the A308 Staines by-pass meets the A30 London Road. This area is affected by flooding due to the poor drainage of the road.

In addition to the answer provided, the Area Highways Manager reported that the gulleys (which are the county council's responsibility) were silted up when he visited the site today and so clearance of the gully will be arranged. He suggested two additional solutions could be looked at: additional overflow ditches to be dug, or a redesign of the roundabout which would re-route pedestrians from the troubled area.

It was noted that drainage issues are a regular problem. The Cabinet Member for Highways acknowledged this and said that this was in part because of the increase in occurrences of flooding caused by unprecedented weather conditions. However, innovations, such as the computerised tracking system for gulleys, had led to significant improvements as officers now had visibility on the number of gulleys and the issues relating to each one.

Drainage issues may be something that Members might like to consider when looking at how to allocate their individual allocation of Highways funding in the coming financial year.

### **8/17 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 8]**

#### Question 1

Mr John Hirsh asked a question about parking allocation policy when new developments seek planning permission. This follows on from the questions that he submitted and had answered at the previous meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

A written response was provided to the questioner but it was acknowledged that a representative from the Transport Development Planning team should attend the next meeting to receive questions about policy.

It was recognised that this is a very complex issue where there are complicated legal restrictions about what can and what cannot be disclosed. It was further acknowledged that there was overlap between what was a borough planning responsibility and what is the remit of the county council.

The questioner advised that he would send in a written supplementary question as a follow up.

## Question 2

Mr Andrew McLuskey submitted a written question which followed on from a petition that he submitted in the October 2017 meeting. This concerned the withdrawal of bus services through Stanwell and Stanwell Moor and what progress had been made since then. A written response was provided to the questioner and the issue he raised is featured in the decision tracker (item 9) to capture further updates.

As his supplementary question, the questioner asked about the 216 bus service, which the Vice-Chairman had mentioned in his announcements, and also the 555 bus service that was supported last year. He asked why it had been possible for the county council to support this service when they had been unable to support bus services in the north of the county,

The Committee assured the questioner that the county does all it can to preserve as many bus services as possible but it was not possible to preserve all of them. Both the Stanwell divisional member and the Vice-Chairman spoke about attending a meeting with Heathrow staff where the importance of public ground transportation had been strongly asserted. It was agreed however that the questioner should receive a written response outlining the reasons why this had occurred.

## **9/17 SPELTHORNE EDUCATION ACTION GROUP [FOR INFORMATION, NO REPORT] [Item 11]**

Representatives from the Spelthorne Education Action group (SEAG) came to present a report to the Committee. As part of the presentation they outlined the history of the SEAG which was set up in 2014 following data that Spelthorne schools were performing poorly. The presentation has been attached as an annex to these minutes.

The SEAG brought together head teachers, council representatives and other related agencies to work together to develop best practice. The latest results are shown as part of the annex.

The introduction of Early Help alongside other mechanisms that have sprung up around children and young people's services has meant that it is felt that SEAG is no longer required as a group. The group's chairman therefore thanked the Joint Committee for all their support and asked the chairman to agree that the group is formally disbanded. It was also suggested that an article should be drafted and released to the press to highlight the group's successes.

*Miss Sexton leaves at the end of this item.*

#### **10/17 DECISION TRACKER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 9]**

The Committee considered the decision tracker. The timeline concerning the evaluation of the SCOOT traffic light system in Staines was queried. The Area Highways Manager explained that the work was due to be completed by the end of the financial year. However, a delay has arisen as a result of a fault in the central computer system that links traffic signals. A meeting of stakeholders will take place in April with a view that the on site work will be carried out in May and June.

Following on from the item on graffiti removal: the Vice-Chairman wanted clarity on whether graffiti for a specific location fell under the borough or county graffiti remit. It was agreed that a written response would be provided to him once the location and nature of the graffiti had been disclosed.

The Committee agreed to remove the items from the decision tracker in accordance with the advice of the Committee Officer.

#### **11/17 EARLY HELP PRIORITIES FOR SPELTHORNE [FOR DECISION] [Item 10]**

The Families Service Manager presented a report detailing the latest progress in the formation of the Early Help programme. This programme seeks to bring together related services and agencies so that families who require additional support can benefit from early intervention.

Feedback from the Committee was that councillors did not feel informed of the work that has been going on in their areas. There was particular concern that the re-structure around children's centres was going to result in some closures.

The Families Services Manager related that a separate report was due to come to the next committee which will outline the future of that particular branch of the service. She regretted that councillors did not feel apprised of the current situation and informed them that many of their meetings would be open to councillors should they wish to attend.

Councillors were also referred to the Terms of Reference that had been provided as part of their reports pack where the membership of the various agencies including Childrens and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is detailed for their reassurance.

The Joint Committee (Spelthorne)

(i) Endorsed the Joint Committee representatives County Councillor Richard Walsh and Borough Councillor Maureen Attewell to the local Early Help Advisory Board, for the remainder of 2017/18 and 2018/19

Reason:

To enable Joint Committee representation at Early Help Board meetings to oversee the work being carried out.

### **12/17 ADDRESS FROM CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS [Item 12]**

The Cabinet Member for Highways addressed the Committee. Following on from his previous visit in October, he wanted to update the Committee with some of the department's ambitions for the coming year.

Information on the website has been improved especially in relation to demonstrating intervention levels for pot holes. More improvements will be forthcoming.

The Cabinet Member is keen to involve committees in planning highways activities in their area including pricing up some of their schemes and work with their local teams to deliver them.

The availability of new funding was also outlined. Each committee would be awarded a share of £1.4 million of new funding in the 2018/19 budget. Each member would have an allowance of £7,500 each to allocate towards improvements in their area. This could be used either as direct funding, match funding or pooled with other members' funding to tackle specific issues.

### **13/17 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 13]**

The Area Highways Manager presented his report which outlined the various funding available for schemes over the coming year. New funding streams have become available, such as those outlined by the Cabinet Member in the previous item; however, because guidelines for the use of these funding streams have not yet been confirmed, the Area Highways Manager is unable to make specific recommendations for projects that might be considered.

In order to expedite schemes and allow work to get underway, the Area Highways Manager will provide an update to the Committee at their next informal, private meeting which will be scheduled in April. This allows a forum for members to be consulted about proposals in their areas and therefore facilitate them to be carried out as promptly as possible. In addition, the Area

Highways Manager has asked for the delegated authority, to progress any work that is necessary in order that the programme can be delivered in its entirety within the next financial year.

The Joint Committee (Spelthorne) agreed:

- (i) To authorise the Area Highway Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to allocate Committee's Highways revenue and capital funding to suitable and beneficial activities and projects, once the details of additional revenue funding have been confirmed.
- (ii) To 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: This enables the Area Highways Manager to carry out any tasks in order to prepare and deliver the 2018/19 highways improvement programme.

#### **14/17 SPELTHORNE HEALTH & WELL BEING STRATEGY UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 14]**

The report was presented by Cllr Attewell who is chairman of the group. The Committee noted the report and commented on the successes contained within. In particular, praise was given for the improvements in turnaround time for residents who have applied for Disabled Facilities Grants.

#### **15/17 FORWARD PROGRAMME 2018/19 [Item 15]**

The Committee agreed to add the following topics to the forward programme as recommended:

- Highways update.
- Community Safety and committee funding report.
- Parking review update.
- Children's services consultation.
- Living Streets: Partnership initiative to encourage children to walk to school.
- Representation on Partnerships and Task Groups

In addition, a representative from the Transport Development and Planning team has been invited to answer questions on their service.

#### **16/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 16]**

The next meeting is Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 beginning at 6.30pm.

Meeting ended at: Time Not Specified

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**Chairman**