

ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES of PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held on
Wednesday, 22nd July, 2009.

Members of the Council:

- * J.A. Vickers (Mayor)
- * B.J.F. Cheyne (Deputy Mayor)

* D.J. Archer	* M. Axton	* J. Bartlett
* M.J. Bennison	* J. Browne	* J.V.C. Butcher
* J.C. Cartwright	* R.E. Cole	* Lara Conaway
* Mrs. E. Cooper	* N.C. Cooper	* M.A. Courtney
* Ms. B.A. Cowin	* Mrs. C.J. Cross	* T.C. Crowther
* G.P. Dearlove	* S. Dodsworth	* I.T. Donaldson
I. Donaldson	* V.G. Eldridge	* Mrs. C. Elmer
* C.J. Elmer	* B. Fairbank	* Mrs. J. Fuller
* Mrs. C. Gibbins	* T.J.C. Grey	* P.M. Harman
* S. Hawkins	* A.J. Hopkins	* Mrs. S.R. Kapadia
* A.H. Kopitko	* Rachael I. Lake	* D.M. Lowe
* Mrs. R.J.M. Lyon	* M. Macleod	* J.L. Mulder
* Mrs. M. Odone	* Dr. D. Oliver	* T.G. Oliver
* J. O'Reilly	* D. Packer	* D.E. Palmer
* T. Popham	* Mrs. K. Randolph	* Mrs. L. Robertson
* C.R. Sadler	* S.J. Selleck	Mrs. L. Sharp
J.G. Sheldon	Mrs. M.C. Sheldon	Mrs. T. Shipley
* R.H. Taylor	* D. Tipping	* Mrs. J.R. Turner
* D.J. Walsh	* S.J.E. Wells	* B. White
* R.G. Whittaker		

* denotes attendance

The meeting opened with prayers led by the Reverend Jeremy Cresswell, the Vicar of St. Andrew's Church in Oxshott.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs. C.J. Cross declared a personal interest in Minute Number 11 – 'Surrey County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – Update from District Representative, Councillor Mrs. Ruth Lyon' (Report of the Community Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16th June, 2009), by virtue of being an employee of St. Peter's Hospital.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 22nd April, 2009 and the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 20th May, 2009, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and signed as correct records.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress for their support and was pleased to announce that he had been able to attend some 87 events.

The launch of his Charity Appeal in aid of 'Newlife' had taken place on 26th May, 2009 at Woodlands Park Hotel and the Mayor's Annual Cricket match had taken place on 9th July, 2009 in Oxshott against the Oxshott Village Sports Club. In this regard, the Mayor thanked all those who had been in his team, and in particular, Councillor S.J.E. Wells who had recently returned from abroad to play in the match.

The events had been extremely varied and had included, on 22nd June, 2009, attending a ceremony to celebrate the new Armed Forces Day; a topping out ceremony at Nelson House in Walton; celebrations for a local resident's 100th birthday; and meeting Borough Volunteers at a variety of events including the Molesey District Household Services 20th Anniversary in West Molesey, a Healthy Walks Group at Painshill Park, joining a meals on wheels round to see the dedicated work of the volunteers in the community, and entering a team at a recent Inter-skittles game.

The Mayor and Mayoress had also enjoyed a musical evening for people with special needs at a 'One to One' event at Weybridge; and had attended the Elmbridge Borough Council 'Big Staff Lunch', which had raised some £250 for the Mayor's Charity.

A number of engagements had also involved schools, including the Higher Graduation Ceremony at the American Community School at Cobham; prize giving at the Phillip Southcote School at Addlestone; and attending a presentation event at Brooklands College. The Mayor had also visited various schools to give Junior Citizenship talks.

The Mayor and Mayoress had attended various functions involving Scouts, Brownies and Guides Groups across the Borough; numerous musical events, including the Rock Choir and Walton Oatlands Choral Society; a variety of multi-faith meetings, including the Multi Faith Forum and the International Convention at the Hilton Hotel, Cobham and various sporting events including the Molesey Regatta, Surrey Youth Games, and an England v Australia Ladies Lacrosse game at the Old Surbiton Sports Ground in Cobham.

Outside Borough engagements had included the Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows and a moving event in support of those wounded in action and being supported at Headley Court.

The Mayor outlined forthcoming events, including the Race Night at Sandown Park, on 12th August, 2009 and the Bowls evening on 22nd August, 2009 and encouraged Members to sponsor G.P. Dearlove who would be doing a parachute jump in aid of the Mayor's Charity.

The Mayor on behalf of the Council wished Mrs. T. Shipley a speedy recovery following her recent fall.

4. LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

(a) Question asked by D.J. Walsh to the Leader of the Council, R.H. Taylor

'The Report of the Parliamentary cross party Select Committee on Communities and Local Government which has been addressing the subject of Local Authority investment practices has now been published. This hard-hitting Report is critical of the Audit Commission's failure to realise that local authority treasury management had become increasingly risky and its failure to issue adequate guidance within the increasingly volatile economic context after the Icelandic banking collapse.

In recognition of the Committee's key findings, a series of recommendations were tabled, headed by a call for "all local authorities to ensure that financial officers have sufficient training and expertise and to establish an audit committee with specific responsibility to scrutinise the treasury management function and require rigorous reporting of all decisions taken under it by officials".

Can the Leader provide some indication as to how it is proposed that Elmbridge react to these proposals, particularly in terms of constituting the required internal structures?'

Response given by R.H. Taylor

Thank you for this interesting question. The question arises from the House of Commons Select Committee which took place this year and was finally published on the 11th June, 2009 just a month or so ago.

In this Council, the Officer who has direct management of the Council's exposure to the money market has over thirty years experience in investing the Council's funds. He is ably assisted by our Consultants, Butlers and our own Portfolio Holder, Councillor Roger Whittaker. Other Officers and himself regularly attend seminars given by Butlers, our treasury management advisers and we receive weekly updates from them on the current market conditions.

An annual audit is performed by the Internal Audit Division each year and the results of that audit are reported to the Audit and Standards Committee ensuring compliance with the Council's approved Strategy.

Nevertheless, no matter how good we think our systems are, I think this question is very pertinent and I think we should take due note of what the Select Committee have said, in particular the role of the Audit and Standards Committee in the treasury and management function.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Guidance, is what we are bound by and I understand CIPFA are likely to issue revised Guidance in the autumn and I have asked Officers to bring a report back to Cabinet for us to consider and see how we can improve our systems.

Supplementary Question by D.J. Walsh

I'm happy to hear the assurance that some action will be taken when the full detail of the report is known. It's a very comprehensive report and the main part of it extends to about 78 pages and many Borough Councils have been contributory to that report. There are 2 issues that I am emphatic about. The first one is the necessity for the publication and robust scrutiny of the Annual Investment Strategy and the decisions which are taken under it and secondly, a question of Member training, and remedial action in respect of the evident lack of Member training in this particular subject. Whereas present Councillors are obliged to undertake specialist training before they become members of Planning and Licensing Committees, no such requirement is needed to become members of the relevant Council Committee concerned with treasury management. I would ask the Leader for his reaction on those two particular aspects, which have been raised in the report ?

Response given by R.H. Taylor

Currently, we do not have an Audit or Treasury Committee, so it's difficult for us to improve upon it, but I think the essence of your question is that we take on board the Select Committee's recommendations, we look at our current systems, how ever good they are, I'm sure they can be bettered, and accordingly we will ask Officers to come back with a fulsome report on how we might approach that, with the two points you have particularly mentioned in mind.

Supplementary Question by V.G. Eldridge

It just reminds me that we've got to look in to this, there might be some constitutional changes to the Audit and Standards Committee, in that case will the Leader agree that as he has set up a Constitutional Review Working Group, that perhaps they could look at any constitutional changes that may be required ?

Response given by R.H. Taylor

I believe there's already a preliminary document on constitutional changes about to come out to Members and we will be meeting this autumn. With respect to this particular event, I think we need to wait until Officers report, to see what needs to be done and whether we need to add to it. But if we need to add to it, certainly we will take those steps.

(b) Question asked by C.R. Sadler to the Leader of the Council, R.H. Taylor

'Last October the Leader advised that following an increase in Commuter Car Park charges to £5 per day, a 43% increase in charges which had been expected to increase annual Council income by £258,000 for the year 2008/2009, there had actually been a reduction in income in the first 6 months of that financial year of £4,331, or 1.9%.

Can the Leader now advise how much income was collected from Pay and Display Machines at these car parks for the full financial year 2007/2008 and how much for the full financial year 2008/2009 and provide the percentage difference between the two

amounts, so that Members may be made aware whether this situation is still as bad as it was in the first half of the year?’

Response given by R.H. Taylor

The total amount of money we collected from pay and display machines in all our car parks in 2007/08 amounts to £1,246,012. The total amount we collected in 2008/09 is £1,202,199, a reduction on the 2007/08 figure of £43,813, which amounts to 3.52%.

Supplementary Question by C.R. Sadler

That’s quite a stunning figure and it shows that the situation is getting even worse. We’re in a situation now where we will hear later on this evening that we are looking at trimming the number of staff that we employ and yet we seem to be going along with a drop in income as a result of these, frankly excessive, charges. Is he planning to do anything about it ?

Response given by R.H. Taylor

Well we’re not planning to reduce the amount of car parking charges in Elmbridge in the foreseeable future; and I do believe there are a number of special circumstances one should take into account when analyzing these figures. Soon after we introduced the increase in car parking charges, petrol and diesel increased in price from roughly the mid £0.80s per litre to over £1.30 at their peak; and in fact even now they’re about 25% over and above what they were during mid-2007. No sooner had the prices begun to diminish, than we ran in to a full-blown recession, the economic catastrophe of which is still to fully unravel. You may be aware that unemployment in Elmbridge has trebled in the last few months. It used to be around 500 people, it’s now nearer 1600 people, and the number of vacancies does not in any way mitigate the chances of those unfortunate people being employed. So there are a whole host of events quite beyond our control, which have taken place, and it’s difficult for us to make a sensible analysis of the numbers I’ve just given you. I don’t think we should knee-jerk into reducing the amounts. When you actually study the breakdown, which you haven’t seen and I have, and I’m happy to give you this after the meeting, you will see that at Weybridge Station the income has increased. It’s small at 1.5% but nevertheless increased, and there are special reasons why parking has held fairly steady there as opposed to other places, for example the Walton Station, where it’s gone down by about 9%, principally because there are more available roads where you can park freely. Clearly, when our Parking Strategy is fully implemented, which will take time I know, hopefully those situations will be normalised and the true benefits of our parking charges will come into effect.

Supplementary Question asked by J. Bartlett

Is the Leader against members of the public opening up their forecourts and if necessary charging for parking on their own land ?

Response given by R.H. Taylor

I’m not aware of that happening but I suppose if they declare to the Inland Revenue, it’s quite enterprising.

(c) Question asked by C.R. Sadler to the Leader of the Council, R.H. Taylor

'At the beginning of May, the Head of Environmental Care provided an update on progress with the Draft Elmbridge Parking Strategy. He advised that a draft of a slightly revised version of the Elmbridge Parking Strategy was likely to go before the Surrey County Council Elmbridge Local Committee at its July meeting and then the matter was likely to be considered by the Cabinet depending on the response elicited at the Local Committee meeting. As the matter is not on the Agenda for the July meeting of the Surrey County Council Elmbridge Local Committee, please would the Leader advise Members when we may expect to see progress in respect of the Elmbridge Parking Strategy, on which many Members contributed comments last Autumn?'

Response given by R.H. Taylor

There has been quite a bit of progress on the Parking Strategy in as much as the Walton Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) is out for consultation and in fact that consultation period is drawing to a close. We're very close to being able to draw that together and also the Weybridge CPZ has been out to consultation with surprising results. The timing of the report on our Parking Strategy and I must stress it's ours, not Surrey County Council (SCC) and the Elmbridge Local Committee is a SCC Committee, not our Committee. I don't know why it didn't come to July, but I have asked questions of the new Chairman, Councillor Margaret Hicks and I am assured that it will come to the September Local Committee.

Supplementary Question asked by C.R. Sadler

If it comes to the September meeting of the Local Committee, when will it actually come back to Members of this Council, that's what the 60 Members of this Council are more interested in ?

Response given by R.H. Taylor

It very much depends on what is decided at the Local Committee. If decisions are taken upon it and actions agreed, then it can come back to us very quickly. It just depends on what happens at that Committee.

(d) Question asked by M. Macleod to the Leader of the Council, R.H. Taylor

'Can the Leader explain why the Corporate Plan objective of publishing and promoting the Elmbridge Parking Management Strategy has been put back to the fourth quarter, and tell us:

- what actions were taken to try to keep this on its original schedule, and
- what is being done to prevent further delay?'

Response given by R.H. Taylor

I think the question has largely been answered by the last question. The Parking Strategy, which includes on-street parking is not within our remit to finalise, and you will

be aware, Councillor Macleod, that in Weybridge particularly there has been a very mixed reaction to the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) which has made implementation and final plans as to what's to be done, very complicated. In fact, I suspect the whole CPZ is being withdrawn and it will be curtailed significantly to approach specific roads rather than covering the whole area. When things like that happen, and developments like that transpire, it's very difficult to keep to a timetable, which in any event we are not in control of, so we will bring it back just as fast as we have the correct feedback and decisions by Surrey County Council.

Supplementary Question asked by M. Macleod

Thank you for your response. The Leader may be aware that many residents are explicitly blaming Elmbridge's recent increase in off-street parking charges – which were not strategically coordinated with on-street controls – for an increase in displacement parking outside people's homes. I believe some 95% blamed Elmbridge for parking problems in a recent survey in part of Weybridge North.

So, given that an effective Parking Management Strategy is key to improving the situation, how would the Leader suggest that we can show people that Elmbridge and Surrey are working together effectively to resolve parking problems in Elmbridge?

Response given by R.H. Taylor

As I've just highlighted, in Weybridge particularly, which you're very familiar with, 78% of the people, I believe that was the correct percentage, wrote back and said they didn't want any controls whatsoever, having studied the controls Surrey County Council decided to bring in; and varied them to such an extent that Surrey have almost abandoned the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) as it stands at this moment in time and are having to redraw in a very much smaller area. Yes, I think you're quite right, I think the public have every right to blame the name Elmbridge for introducing car parking fees before coordinating it with on-street car parking. This occurs almost every Council, and every time I refer to Councillor Sadler, because it was your side of the Chamber who introduced car parking fees without a co-ordinated Scheme with Surrey for the roads and we have picked up that cudgel and have decided to do something about it. In fact I seem to remember that only a few months ago you asked why I agreed to spend £30,000 with Surrey for them to accelerate the Walton CPZ. It's so we can get some action and something done. Better that than fiddle around and do nothing for another few years. That has brought results.

Supplementary Question asked by C.R. Sadler

I really am fed up with references back to decisions taken by this Council 4 years ago. The fact of the matter is that this Administration has raised charges far above inflation, distorting the whole effect of the car parking charges that were brought in progressively in 2005/2006. I believe that the Leader is trying to get out of it and is trying desperately to avoid taking any further action, despite the public's clear concern about that. Will the Leader recognise that large elements of the public, not just in Weybridge, Walton or Thames Ditton, are fed up with the current arrangements that we have, and actually do something about rather than simply put off until some unknown date, any action ?

Response given by R.H. Taylor

Actually, I think your conclusion is absolutely untrue. If you ask traders in Weybridge particularly or in Walton, the increase in parking fees and the tiered structure is producing exactly what we wanted. It's churning customers, churning cars and increasing trade in our town centres. That's exactly what it was designed to do. Of course people don't like paying car parking charges, nobody likes paying for petrol or diesel either, but it's just a fact of life and actually our charges are extremely reasonable. You buy a season ticket if you park every day, you can park for under £2 a day. That is not excessive. I'd have to argue strongly on the statement you made.

Supplementary Question asked by N.C. Cooper

Would the Leader like to repeat that ? That parking charges are improving businesses within the Borough. Has he been to Molesey and seen the number of shops that are continuing to close. If you ask our traders, they would say that Molesey is virtually a no-go area and they would point their finger at car parking charges. Would you like to repeat it, aiming particularly at Molesey ?

Response given by R.H. Taylor

Molesey is quite an interesting place. I have been to Molesey and I have met the traders on more than one occasion and I'm afraid it's really the mix of trades in Molesey, which are responsible for their own demise. You walk to Bridge Street, also in Molesey and they're very successful. Not a single vacant shop. You go down Walton Road, adjacent to our car park and it's a completely different mix of shops and less popular, and I'm sorry, but they may well point their finger at car parking, but I don't think that is the base of the problem.

Supplementary Question asked by C.R. Sadler

Has the Leader seen this from the Walton Informer, which would have been circulated last week, which simply headlines 'New parking rules – threat to our Town'?

Response given by R.H. Taylor

I have not seen the article to which you refer.

5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2009/10 – POST POLICE CAPPING

Members considered a report seeking approval for an amended Council Tax for the households of Elmbridge Borough Council after the decision by the Government to cap the Council Tax of Surrey Police.

S. Dodsworth, seconded by R.E. Cole, moved the following amendment:

'That in addition to the recommendations detailed in the report, that this Council notes:

- (i) the decision of HM Government and Parliament to cap the Police Authority, forcing the Surrey Police Authority to return £1.6m to the taxpayer equating to six pence a week to the average Band D household;
- (ii) the central funding of Surrey Police has dropped from £86 per head of population in 1997 to £93 in 2009, representing a real-term reduction of 39%;
- (iii) ranking just 40th out of the country's 43 fund rankings and the demonstrable lack of government support has already led to a loss of 144 support staff; and
- (iv) the rebilling exercise will potentially cost the Surrey Police Authority an additional £1.2 million and force the loss of a further 35 police officers and 15 staff posts.

This Council believes

- (i) that Surrey Police is one of the best performing Police forces in England and Wales, and that current budget restrictions are continuing a trend of unacceptable cuts in front line operational staff;
- (ii) that the current government formula, used to determine the amount of central support that Surrey Police receives, is demonstrably unreasonable and inadequate when consideration is given to the Surrey Police services required for the protection of Surrey residents; and
- (iii) that in future years the final decision on Surrey Police Authority's recommended increase should be made by the taxpayers of Surrey through the mechanism of a county-wide referendum.'

S. Dodsworth requested a recorded vote, whereupon there voted:

In support:

D.J. Archer, M.J. Bennison, J. Browne, J.V.C. Butcher, B.J.F. Cheyne, R.E. Cole, Lara Conaway, Ms. B.A. Cowin, Mrs. C.J. Cross, G.P. Dearlove, S. Dodsworth, Mrs. C. Elmer, C.J. Elmer, Mrs. J. Fuller, T.J.C. Grey, S. Hawkins, A.J. Hopkins, A.H. Kopitko, Rachael I. Lake, Mrs. M. Odone, Dr. D. Oliver, T.G. Oliver, J. O'Reilly, D. Packer, D.E. Palmer, S.J. Selleck, R.H. Taylor, D. Tipping, B. White and R.G. Whittaker. (30)

Against:

M. Axton, J. Bartlett, J.C. Cartwright, Mrs. E. Cooper, M.A. Courtney, T.C. Crowther, V.G. Eldridge, B. Fairbank, Mrs. S.R. Kapadia, D.M. Lowe, Mrs. R.J.M. Lyon and J.L. Mulder. (12)

Abstain:

N.C. Cooper, I.T. Donaldson, Mrs. C. Gibbins, P.M. Harman, M. Macleod, T. Popham, Mrs. K. Randolph, Mrs. L. Robertson, C.R. Sadler, Mrs. J.R. Turner, J.A. Vickers, D.J. Walsh and S.J.E. Wells. (13)

The Mayor declared the amendment to be CARRIED.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (a) it be noted that, at its meeting on 3rd December, 2008, the Council calculated the amount of 62,101 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2009/10, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- (b) it be noted that the Council Tax base of 62,101 for the Elmbridge Borough area comprises 3,386 for that part of the Borough comprising the area covered by Claygate Parish Council and 58,715 for the remaining part of the Borough;
- (c) the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2009/10 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (i) £68,774,540 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act;
 - (ii) £49,924,360 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act;
 - (iii) £18,850,180 being the amount by which the aggregate at c(i) above exceeds the aggregate at c(ii) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32 (4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
 - (iv) £6,480,496 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant and increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97 (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus) and increased by the amount of any sums which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) (England) Directions 1994 under Section 98 (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Community Charge Surplus);
 - (v) £199.19 being the amount at i(iii) above less the amount at c(iv) above, all divided by the amount at a above, calculated by the Council

in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;

(vi) Valuation Bands

Claygate Parish Council Area

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
142.24	165.96	189.66	213.37	260.78	308.20	355.61	426.74

Remainder Of The Borough (Excluding Claygate)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
132.79	154.93	177.06	199.19	243.45	287.72	331.98	393.38

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at c(v) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular Valuation Band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different Valuation Bands;

- (d) it be noted that for the year 2009/10 the Claygate Parish Council has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Precepting Authority – Claygate Parish Council

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
9.45	11.03	12.60	14.18	17.33	20.48	23.63	28.36

- (e) it be noted that for the year 2009/10 the Surrey County Council has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Precepting Authority - Surrey County Council

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
726.12	847.14	968.16	1,089.18	1,331.22	1,573.26	1,815.30	2,178.36

- (f) it be noted that for the year 2009/10 the Surrey Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Precepting Authority – Surrey Police

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
129.24	150.78	172.32	193.86	236.94	280.02	323.10	387.72

- (g) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts of c(vi), e and f above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2009/10 for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Parts of the Council's Area

For that part of the Elmbridge Borough Council area within the Claygate Parish Council area:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
997.60	1,163.88	1,330.14	1,496.41	1,828.94	2,161.48	2,494.01	2,992.82

For that area of Elmbridge Borough Council not within the Claygate Parish Council area:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
988.15	1,152.85	1,317.54	1,482.23	1,811.61	2,141.00	2,470.38	2,964.46

(h) That this Council notes:

- (i) the decision of HM Government and Parliament to cap the Police Authority, forcing the Surrey Police Authority to return £1.6m to the taxpayer equating to six pence a week to the average Band D household;
- (ii) the central funding of Surrey Police has dropped from £86 per head of population in 1997 to £93 in 2009, representing a real-term reduction of 39%;
- (iii) ranking just 40th out of the country's 43 fund rankings and the demonstrable lack of government support has already led to a loss of 144 support staff; and
- (iv) the rebilling exercise will potentially cost the Surrey Police Authority an additional £1.2 million and force the loss of a further 35 police officers and 15 staff posts; and

This Council believes

- (i) that Surrey Police is one of the best performing Police forces in England and Wales, and that current budget restrictions are continuing a trend of unacceptable cuts in front line operational staff;
- (ii) that the current government formula, used to determine the amount of central support that Surrey Police receives, is demonstrably unreasonable and inadequate when consideration is given to the Surrey Police services required for the protection of Surrey residents; and
- (iii) that in future years the final decision on Surrey Police Authority's recommended increase should be made by the taxpayers of Surrey through the mechanism of a county-wide referendum.

6. FORMAL UPDATE FOLLOWING THE ESHER WARD BY-ELECTION - COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL AND POLITICAL GROUP REPRESENTATION

Members were advised that following the Annual Council Meeting on 20th May, 2009, a By-election in Esher Ward took place on 4th June, 2009 to fill the existing Council vacancy. Members considered the implications of the return of the number of Members on the Council to 60, following the By-election, together with the confirmation of a change in Political Group representation.

RESOLVED that it be noted and confirmed that:

- (a) subsequent to the Annual Council Meeting, and following the June By-Election, that there was a return to 60 seats on the Council for the purposes of the calculation of seats on Committees/Sub-Committees etc.;
- (b) the Political composition of the Council be as set out below:

<u>Political Group</u>	<u>Numbers Of Members</u>
Conservative	32
Residents' Associations	19
Liberal Democrats	7
Hinchley Wood Residents' Association	<u>2</u>
Total:	60

- (c) the recalculation of committee etc. seats apportioned on the basis of the revised Political representation, resulted in no change to the allocation of seats for each Political Group on its 6, 13 and 23 seat Committees;
- (d) with regard to the composition of the Area Planning Sub-Committees, which were calculated on the basis of membership of the Political Groups within the Wards covered by each of the Sub-Committees:
 - (i) there was no change to the composition of the North and West Area Planning Sub-Committees; and
 - (ii) that in order to achieve proportionality, the size of the East Area Planning Sub-Committee would increase [from 10 seats] to 11 seats for the remainder of the 2009/10 Municipal Year;
- (e) further to d(ii) above, that the additional seat on the East Area Planning Sub-Committee be allocated to the Conservative Political Group, in order to achieve proportionality; and
- (f) following nomination by the Conservative Group Leader, T.J.C. Grey be appointed to the resultant vacancy on the currently constituted East Area Planning Sub-Committee, for the remainder of the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

7. URGENCY DECISIONS

Members noted that there had been no executive or non-executive decisions taken as a matter of urgency since the last meeting of the Council.

8. REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendments noted below, the reports and recommendations of the Cabinet and the following Committees at the meetings held on the dates shown, be adopted:

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER 22nd April, 2009
DECISION MAKING

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RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

By leave of the Council and in the interests of accuracy, it was noted that the name of the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Affairs should read 'J.V.C. Butcher'.

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LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

In moving the report, the Portfolio Holder thanked S.R. Kapadia for contributing significantly to the work on the Local Development Scheme.

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER 8th May, 2009
DECISION MAKING

CORPORATE AFFAIRS OVERVIEW 20th May, 2009
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OVERVIEW 20th May, 2009
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS 20th May, 2009
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE

LICENSING COMMITTEE 20th May, 2009

PLANNING COMMITTEE 20th May, 2009

APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE 9th June, 2009

PLANNING COMMITTEE 9th June, 2009

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ITEM 4 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS [2008/2531
– LAND NEAR JUNCTION 10 M25, COBHAM

Mrs. S.R. Kapadia queried whether a response was yet available to the question raised in the Minutes in respect of whether Thames Water was an authority bound by the Freedom of Information Act. It was agreed that Mrs. S.R. Kapadia be provided with a written update in this regard.

CABINET 10th June, 2009

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 16th June, 2009

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ITEM 11 – SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – UPDATE FROM DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE, COUNCILLOR MRS. RUTH LYON

Arising from discussion on this item, Mrs. R.J.M. Lyon suggested that the Council invite representatives from the Ashford and St. Peter's and Kingston Hospitals to address Members at a briefing meeting (possibly prior to the Community Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1st September, 2009), to enable them to each provide an overview of their Foundation Trust proposals in this regard.

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 24th June, 2009

CORPORATE AFFAIRS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24th June, 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2nd July, 2009

CABINET 8th July, 2009

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ITEM 4 – 2009/10 WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

B. Fairbank requested that vote be undertaken in respect of the recommendations within Item 4, concerning the disbanding of the Standing Finance Panel.

Following a show of hands, the Mayor declared the recommendation to Council as set out in the Cabinet report to be CARRIED.

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ITEM 8 AND 13 – TO AGREE FUTURE OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DELIVERY OF FROZEN MEALS TO ELMBRIDGE RESIDENTS

S.J.E. Wells, seconded by a number of Members, moved that consideration of the above item be undertaken in public session. By leave of the Council, it was agreed that, subject to Members of the Council not divulging information which was exempt from publication by virtue of Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), consideration of the item be undertaken in public session.

S.J.E. Wells, seconded by Mrs. R.J.M. Lyon, moved the following amendment:

'Being mindful of the need for the Council to do all within its power to enable elderly residents to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible, it is recommended that the proposal to transfer the delivery of frozen ready meals to a private provider be reviewed by the Community Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting, in the context of the full background data now available, before any final decision is taken on the future of this Council service.'

I.T. Donaldson requested a recorded vote, whereupon there voted:

In support:

J. Bartlett, J.C. Cartwright, Mrs. E. Cooper, N.C. Cooper, M.A. Courtney, T.C. Crowther, I.T. Donaldson, V.G. Eldridge, B. Fairbank, Mrs. C. Gibbins, P.M. Harman, A.J. Hopkins, Mrs. S.R. Kapadia, D.M. Lowe, Mrs. R.J.M. Lyon, M. Macleod, J.L. Mulder, Mrs. K. Randolph, Mrs. L. Robertson, C.R. Sadler, S.J. Selleck, Mrs. J.R. Turner, D.J. Walsh and S.J.E. Wells. (24)

Against:

D.J. Archer, M.J. Bennison, J. Browne, J.V.C. Butcher, R.E. Cole, Lara Conaway, Ms. B.A. Cowin, Mrs. C.J. Cross, G.P. Dearlove, S. Dodsworth, Mrs. C. Elmer, C.J. Elmer, Mrs. J. Fuller, T.J.C. Grey, S. Hawkins, A.H. Kopitko, Rachael I. Lake, Mrs. M. Odone, Dr. D. Oliver, T.G. Oliver, J. O'Reilly, D. Packer, D.E. Palmer, R.H. Taylor, D. Tipping, B. White and R.G. Whittaker. (27)

Abstain:

B.J.F. Cheyne and J.A. Vickers. (2)

Accordingly, the Mayor declared the amendment to be

LOST.

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ITEM 9 – ASHLEY ROAD OFF-STREET
VILLAGE PUBLIC CAR PARKING CHARGES
PUBLIC PETITION

By leave of the Council, it was noted that a Call-In had been received in respect of the above item, and that the matter would be the subject of consideration by the Environmental Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17th September, 2009.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

9th July, 2009

Arising from discussion on the rescheduling of the date of the Licensing Committee meeting, it was noted that, wherever possible, Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings should be held on those dates as agreed by the Council as part of the annual Schedule of Meetings.

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The meeting commenced at 7.50 p.m. and concluded at 11.15 p.m.

J.A. VICKERS
Mayor

Committee and Member Services Officer

Mrs. M. Hayes - Committee and Member Services Manager

Other Officers in attendance

R. Moran	- Chief Executive
Mrs. S. Selvanathan	- Strategic Director – Resources
D.R. Wiltshire	- Strategic Director – Services
A. Harrison	- Head of Legal Services
M. Toze	- Committee and Member Services Officer
J. Horsfield	- Corporate Communications Manager