

**Minutes of the Meeting of the SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on 9 March 2016**

PRESENT -

Councillor John Beckett (Chairman); Councillor Mike Teasdale (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Tony Axelrod (as nominated substitute for Councillor Tella Wormington), Steve Bridger, Neil Dallen (as nominated substitute for Councillor Hannah Dalton), Liz Frost, Rob Geleit, Keith Partridge and Jane Race

Absent: Councillor Lucie Dallen, Councillor Hannah Dalton and Councillor Tella Wormington

Officers present: Frances Rutter (Chief Executive), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager), Teresa Wingfield (Senior Accountant) and Daniel Atubo (Grounds Maintenance Supervisor) and Eddie Nowak (Democratic Services Officer)

35 SUBSTITUTIONS

The Committee noted that Councillor Tony Axelrod was present as nominated substitute for Councillor Tella Wormington and that Councillor Neil Dallen was present as nominated substitute for Councillor Hannah Dalton.

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors in items on this agenda.

37 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAY'S GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The Committee received and considered a report that gave details of the decision by Surrey County Council to review the current agreements for highways horticulture and proposals for future arrangements. It was noted that for many years Epsom & Ewell Borough Council had undertaken highways horticulture work on behalf of Surrey County Council which included cutting urban verges six times per annum and rural highway verges twice per annum, maintaining hedges bordering the public highway, roundabouts and weed spraying for an annual contract payment of £99,862.

The current agreement for highways horticultural works had been due to expire on 31 March 2016. The Borough had historically 'topped-up' this basic highway horticulture agreement by cutting all urban verges an average of twelve times per annum. The report further set out the current Highways Horticultural arrangements, details of the expiration of the current arrangements, revised arrangements and follow-up negotiations.

It was agreed -

- (1) That the offer from Surrey County Council of £66,000 for the provision of seven urban and two rural verge cuts per annum be approved.
- (2) That the offer from Surrey County Council of £12,000 for the provision of Highways Horticultural works be approved.
- (3) That the offer from Surrey County Council of £21,379 for the provision of three weed spaying treatments be approved.
- (4) That the “top-up” for the seven urban verge cuts to twelve on all land belonging to both Surrey County Council and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council at an additional cost of £36,500 be approved.
- (5) That the early termination of a mechanical sweeper which will result in a small saving in 2016/17 and a full saving of £50,000 in 2017/18 be approved.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the officers for the negotiations undertaken in consultation with Surrey County Council.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 7.58 pm

COUNCILLOR JOHN BECKETT (CHAIRMAN)