

# BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Tuesday, 21st May, 2024 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura (Chairman))  
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr A. Adeola  
Cllr Gaynor Austin  
Cllr Leola Card  
Cllr A.H. Crawford  
Cllr P.J. Cullum  
Cllr Keith Dibble  
Cllr C.P. Grattan  
Cllr Christine Guinness  
Cllr Steve Harden  
Cllr Halleh Koohestani  
Cllr Nadia Martin  
Cllr T.W. Mitchell  
Cllr Sophie Porter  
Cllr Dhan Sarki  
Cllr P.G. Taylor  
Cllr S. Trussler  
Cllr Ivan Whitmee  
Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr Abe Allen  
Cllr C.W. Card  
Cllr Sue Carter  
Cllr Jules Crossley  
Cllr Thomas Day  
Cllr A.H. Gani  
Cllr Lisa Greenway  
Cllr Julie Hall  
Cllr Rhian Jones  
Cllr G.B. Lyon  
Cllr S.J. Masterson  
Cllr Bill O'Donovan  
Cllr M.J. Roberts  
Cllr Sarah Spall  
Cllr M.J. Tennant  
Cllr Jacqui Vosper  
Cllr Becky Williams

Honorary Alderman Terry Bridgeman  
Honorary Alderman John Debenham  
Honorary Alderman Sue Dibble  
Honorary Alderman Tony Gardiner  
Honorary Alderman John Marsh  
Honorary Alderman David Welch

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo and Cllr M.D. Smith.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain, the Mr David Betts, led the meeting in prayers.

## 1. **ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH**

Nominations were invited for the election of the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2024/5. It was **MOVED** by Cllr P.G. Taylor; **SECONDED** by Cllr A. Adeola - That Cllr Mara Makunura be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor **MARA MAKUNURA** be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

The Mayor then made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office in accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1972 and took the Chair.

### **THE MAYOR (CLLR MARA MAKUNURA) IN THE CHAIR**

The Mayor expressed her pride at the honour of being elected Mayor and first citizen of the Borough of Rushmoor. Her appointment as The Mayor marked a significant milestone as the first African to hold the position. During her speech to the Council, she described being a proud parent and a community leader with a strong interest in fostering a cohesive and inclusive community and with a desire to help those facing challenges. Her mayoral year would build on the many years she had served the community both as a councillor and as a volunteer for various local organisations, and she was looking forward to supporting many community events and making a positive impact.

The Mayor thanked her proposer and seconder for their kind words and the Council for supporting her nomination. She then signified the appointment of her daughter Ms Salwexeya Makunura as her Mayoress and Reverend Coleen Kusi-Agyapong as the Mayor's Chaplain.

The Mayor announced that she would be seeking to support a number of charities during the year. Her four primary charities would be West Farnborough Men's Shed, PAG (Parent Action Group), Hart and Rushmoor Young Carers Charity, and Salvation Clinic International Ministries, and additionally supporting The Lighthouse, and Kerith Church Community Pantry.

## **2. VOTE OF THANKS**

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan; SECONDED by Cllr Calum Stewart and

**RESOLVED:** That the Council place on record its appreciation of the excellent service rendered by Councillor Clive Patrick Grattan as Mayor of the Borough and Mrs June Smith as Mayoress during the Municipal Year 2023/24.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Grattan and presented him with a framed, illuminated scroll, together with a Past Mayor's Badge and a Past Mayoress's Badge for Mrs June Smith.

In response, Cllr Grattan thanked the proposer and seconder for their kind words. He referred to the memorable year that he had experienced as Mayor and said that it had been both an honour and a privilege for him. Cllr Grattan referred to some particular highlights of the Mayoral Year and was pleased to report that £8,000 had been raised for his charities (Oak Farm Pre-School and Crohn's and Colitis UK). He thanked his Mayoress Mrs June Smith, for her unwavering support throughout the year and Mrs Amanda Hanson for the administrative support provided. Cllr Grattan also thanked Mr and Mrs Terry and Rak Owens for Chairing his Charity Fundraising Committee and the members of the Committee for all their work during the year.

Cllr Grattan thanked his Chaplain, Mr David Betts, who had been a great support and inspiration to him.

### 3. **ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Mayor invited nominations for the election of the Deputy Mayor of the Borough. It was **MOVED** by Cllr Sophie Porter; **SECONDED** by Cllr G.B. Lyon – That Cllr Calum Stewart be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor **CALUM STEWART** be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

Cllr Calum Stewart then made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Deputy Mayor thanked his proposer and seconder for their kind words and the Council for the confidence placed in him. He pledged his support to the Mayor in the coming year.

### 4. **MINUTES**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Christine Guinness; **SECONDED** by Cllr P.G. Taylor and

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 22nd February 2024 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

### 5. **RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Returning Officer, Mr. P. Shackley, submitted his report on the results of the Borough Council Elections held on Thursday, 2nd May 2024 (appended to these minutes).

The Mayor congratulated all Members who had been re-elected and extended a warm welcome to the new councillors: Cllrs Leola Card, Alex Crawford, Thomas Day, Julie Hall, Steve Harden, Rhian Jones, Lisa Greenway, Bill O'Donovan and Ivan Whitmee. The Mayor also extended the Council's thanks and appreciation for the service given to the Council and the Borough by Cllrs D.E. Clifford, J.B. Canty and Jess Auton who had not sought re-election and Cllrs D.B. Bedford, Jib Belbase, Michael Hope, Marina Munro, M.L. Sheehan and Nem Thapa who had been unsuccessful in being re-elected.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### 6. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

- (1) The Mayor reported that she was proposing to hold a number of fundraising events during her Mayoral Year for her charities including a cycling event, a fashion show, a walking event and a banquet and ball. Further information on fundraising events would be circulated in due course.

(2) The Mayor referred to her first engagements as Mayor, which included:

- Celebrating Africa Day at Farnborough Football Club on 25th May;
- The Gurkha Cup on 26th May
- Farnborough Donkey Derby on 27th May;
- Rotary's Kids Day Out on 19th June; and
- The Lord Lieutenant's Reception for New Mayors and Council Chairmen at Serles House in June.

(3) The Mayor took great pleasure in announcing a long-service milestone that had been achieved by one of the Council's longest ever serving councillors. She congratulated Cllr Keith Dibble on 40 years of continuous service to local Government. Councillor Dibble had been a Member for North Town Ward (formerly Belle Vue Ward) since May 1984 and had served on a very wide range of the Council's committees, panels, and outside bodies over many years. Acknowledging this achievement, the Mayor presented Cllr Dibble with a long service badge to mark 40 years of service.

Cllr Dibble thanked the Mayor and expressed the gratitude he felt in representing his ward residents and championing his community.

## 7. **APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was MOVED by Cllr Keith Dibble; SECONDED by Cllr Sophie Porter - That Cllr Gareth Williams be appointed Leader of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

There voted FOR: 21; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

## 8. **APPOINTMENTS 2024/25**

It was MOVED by Cllr Gareth Williams and SECONDED by Cllr Sophie Porter – That

### (1) **Cabinet**

It be noted that the following appointments of Cabinet Portfolio Holders and the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2024/25 had been proposed by the Leader of the Council:

Cllr Sophie Porter	Deputy Leader and Community and Residents
Cllr Keith Dibble	Development and Economic Growth
Cllr Abe Allen	Enabling Services
Cllr Jules Crossley	Policy, Climate and Sustainability
Cllr Becky Williams	Neighbourhood Services
Cllr Christine Guinness	Regeneration and Property

### (2) **Committees**

The Appointments to Committees for the Municipal Year 2024/25 be approved as follows in accordance with the allocations to achieve political balance:

## **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Voting Members**

Labour: 6

Conservative: 4

Independent: 1

Cllr Gaynor Austin  
Cllr Thomas Day  
Cllr C.P. Grattan  
Cllr Lisa Greenway  
Cllr Julie Hall  
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo  
Cllr A.H. Gani  
Cllr S.J. Masterson  
Cllr Calum Stewart

Cllr Dhan Sarki

### **Standing Deputies:**

Labour:

Cllr Rhian Jones  
Cllr Nadia Martin

Conservative:

Cllr Mara Makunura  
Cllr P.G. Taylor

**NOTE:** The Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning matters is to be an ex officio non-voting member of the Development Management Committee.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **Voting Members**

Labour: 6

Conservative: 4

Liberal Democrat: 1

Cllr Gaynor Austin  
Cllr A.H. Crawford  
Cllr Bill O'Donovan  
Cllr Rhian Jones  
Cllr Sarah Spall  
Cllr M.J. Roberts

Cllr A. Adeola  
Cllr M.D. Smith  
Cllr P.G. Taylor  
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Cllr C.W. Card

### **Standing Deputies:**

Labour:

Cllr Lisa Greenway  
Julie Hall

Conservative:

Cllr S. J. Masterson  
Cllr M.J. Tennant

Liberal Democrat:

Cllr T.W. Mitchell  
Cllr Leola Card

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **Voting Members**

Labour: 6	Conservative: 4	Liberal Democrat: 1
Cllr A.H. Crawford Cllr Thomas Day Cllr Bill O'Donovan Cllr C.P. Grattan Cllr Halleh Koohestani Cllr Nadia Martin Cllr S. Trussler	Cllr P.J. Cullum Cllr G.B. Lyon Cllr M.J. Tennant Cllr S. Trussler	Cllr Leola Card

### **Standing Deputies:**

Labour:	Conservative:	Liberal Democrat:
Cllr Sarah Spall Cllr Ivan Whitmee	Cllr M.D. Smith Cllr Jacqui Vosper	Cllr C.W. Card Cllr T.W. Mitchell

## **POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Voting Members**

Labour: 6	Conservative: 4	Liberal Democrat: 1
Cllr Lisa Greenway Cllr Julie Hall Cllr Rhian Jones Cllr Halleh Koohestani Cllr M.J. Roberts Cllr Ivan Whitmee	Cllr Sue Carter Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo Cllr A.H. Gani Cllr Steve Harden	Cllr T.W. Mitchell

### **Standing Deputies:**

Labour:	Conservative:	Liberal Democrat:
Cllr Thomas Day Cllr C.P. Grattan	Cllr A. Adeola Cllr G.B. Lyon	Cllr C.W. Card Cllr Leola Card

### **(3) Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees**

The appointment of the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees, as set out below, be approved:

#### **Development Management**

Chairman	-	Cllr Gaynor Austin
Vice-Chairman	-	Cllr C.P. Grattan

## **Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards**

Chairman - Cllr A.H. Crawford  
Vice-Chairman - Cllr Bill O'Donovan

### **(4) Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Project Advisory Board**

The appointment of the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Project Advisory Board as set out below, be approved:

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Chairman - Cllr Halleh Koohestani

#### **Policy and Project Advisory Board**

Chairman - Cllr M.J. Roberts

### **(5) Management Boards**

The appointments to the Management Boards for the Municipal Year 2024/25, as follows, be approved:

#### **The Aldershot Recreation Ground Trust**

Cllr Lisa Greenway	Cllr Keith Dibble	Cllr S. Trussler
Standing Deputy:	Cllr Nadia Martin	Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo

#### **King George's Field, Farnborough Trust**

Cllr Rhian Jones	Cllr Gareth Williams	Cllr P.G. Taylor
Standing Deputy:	Cllr Calum Stewart	Cllr Mara Makunura

#### **The Alfred Henry Goode Will Trust**

Cllr G.B. Lyon	Cllr Keith Dibble	Cllr Sophie Porter
Standing Deputies:	Cllr P.J. Cullum	Cllr A. Adeola

There voted FOR: 22; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

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