

# BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

**MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 27th July, 2017 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr Sophia Choudhary (Chairman))  
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr S.J. Masterson (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr D.M.T. Bell  
Cllr J.B. Canty  
Cllr D.E. Clifford  
Cllr Liz Corps  
Cllr K. Dibble  
Cllr R.L.G. Dibbs  
Cllr C.P. Grattan  
Cllr A. Jackman  
Cllr G.B. Lyon  
Cllr Marina Munro  
Cllr J.J. Preece  
Cllr P.F. Rust  
Cllr M.D. Smith  
Cllr L.A. Taylor  
Cllr M.J. Tennant  
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Cllr T.D. Bridgeman  
Cllr M.S. Choudhary  
Cllr R.M. Cooper  
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar  
Cllr Sue Dibble  
Cllr D.S. Gladstone  
Cllr Barbara Hurst  
Cllr B. Jones  
Cllr J.H. Marsh  
Cllr A.R. Newell  
Cllr M.J. Roberts  
Cllr M.L. Sheehan  
Cllr M. Staplehurst  
Cllr P.G. Taylor  
Cllr B.A. Thomas  
Cllr J.E. Woolley

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford, Cllr Sue Carter, Cllr A.H. Crawford, Cllr Jennifer Evans and Cllr K.H. Muschamp.

Before the meeting was opened Mr David Betts of the Aldershot Garrison Chaplaincy Team led the meeting in prayers.

## 17. **MINUTES**

It was MOVED by Cllr D.E. Clifford; SECONDED by Cllr P.G. Taylor and

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June, 2017 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

## 18. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(1) On behalf of the Council, the Mayor congratulated Cllr David Clifford and Ms Liz Stovell on their marriage earlier that week. Cllr and Mrs Clifford were extended very best wishes for their future together.

(2) The Mayor reported that she had attended the Aldershot Junior Schools' Kwik Cricket Festival at the Aldershot Cricket Club on 23rd June. This had been

the 28th year that the Aldershot Cricket Club had organised the Kwik Cricket Festival which involved over 350 children taking part in a day of cricket matches between schools.

- (3) The Mayor reported that she had had the pleasure of hosting a reception for Sir Gerald Howarth on 20th July, 2017 to mark his retirement from the House of Commons, having been the Member of Parliament for the Aldershot Constituency for over 20 years. The Mayor reported that Sir Gerald had been in touch following the event to say how touched he had been by the event and the gift from the Council and the attendance of so many guests from the different areas of his work as the Member of Parliament for the area. He had been particularly moved by the appearance of the Aldershot Military Wives Choir who had sung for Sir Gerald and guests.

## 19. **STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS**

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted in pursuance of Standing Order 8 (3).

## 20. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Council was asked to consider the following Motion, which had been submitted by Cllr J.J. Preece in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9 (1). It was MOVED by Cllr J.J. Preece; SECONDED by Cllr T.D. Bridgeman – That

“While thanking Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services (HFRS) for its recent partnership in monitoring fire safety in multi-storey residential blocks in Rushmoor, this Council resolves to ask:

- Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority to ensure that HFRS is fully funded and resourced to keep the residents of Rushmoor safe, including having all the necessary trained personnel, equipment and procedures in place so that fires at all levels of the tallest residential building can be tackled effectively;
- All relevant partners to conduct an Emergency Planning Exercise as soon as practicable to test the response to a major fire in a multi-storey residential block.”

In introducing the Motion, Cllr Preece stated that the Grenfell Tower fire had been the worst UK fire disaster since the Second World War. At least 80 people had met a horrific death and he considered that this had been preventable. Cllr Preece also felt that the subsequent response of Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council had angered many people. He said that people in Rushmoor would want to know that such an event could not happen in Rushmoor and that, if it did, Rushmoor Borough Council would spring into action with a clearly defined disaster plan.

Cllr Preece commented that it was reassuring to know that Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service had conducted fire safety checks on the five multi-storey buildings in Rushmoor, including Alexander House and Stafford House. Both buildings had passed fire safety checks although cladding at Stafford House and areas of external

insulation at Alexander House needed to be sorted out and that follow-up work would be required.

Cllr Preece stated that fire safety work was very complicated and that fire safety inspections were about saving lives and therefore required properly qualified fire personnel to carry them out. Cllr Preece quoted Hampshire Chief Fire Officer, Dave Curry, who once said “sprinklers are a must for high rise buildings” and had also cited the deaths of two firefighters at Shirley Tower in Southampton in 2010 and a fire at Lakanal House in London in 2009 in which six people had died. Cllr Preece felt it was imperative that new sprinkler systems should be inspected by qualified people.

Cllr Preece spoke of the recent campaign to keep Rushmoor fire station operational 24 hours per day and was disappointed that further cuts were now being imposed on the fire station. It was noted that Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service was proposing to cut the number of immediately available fire crew from twelve to ten. Cllr Preece understood this to mean that only two fire engines would be available during the day and one at night. The Fire Brigade Union was fighting this proposal and proposing alternative cuts. Cllr Preece was disappointed that all fire services were facing austerity measures and that this included those firefighters who the nation saw risking their lives at the Grenfell Tower fire disaster. Cllr Preece was also concerned as fire services called on neighbours when they were stretched, so cuts to other services would also impact on Rushmoor.

Cllr Preece drew attention to two major fires in Surrey on 11th July, 2017 when Rushmoor crews had been called on, along with Fleet, Hartley Wintney, Bordon, Horsham, Surbiton, Sutton and Guildford fire stations, along with many others. It was understood that calls to the Surrey call centre had had to be switched to Merseyside. The local fire service was both facing cuts and being stretched to provide services. Cllr Preece said that it was against this background that the Government was asking for the fire inspection of buildings: multi-storey residential, other blocks of flats and homes in multiple occupation and high-rise offices. Cllr Preece understood that there were currently half the number of inspectors than there had been in 2010. Cllr Preece was of the opinion that to save lives and prevent further tragedies the Council needed to keep the pressure on to protect Rushmoor’s fire service.

Cllr Preece was pleased to learn about the emergency exercise which Rushmoor carried out each year with Hampshire and the Police and Fire and Rescue Service to test procedures, etc. Cllr Preece called for an emergency exercise to be carried out to test the response to a high rise building fire in Rushmoor. Such an exercise would require several units, specialist equipment for fighting a tower block fire (which would have to come from Surrey). The response times for all of these units would need to be tested. The exercise would also need to test the evacuation and displacement of people from their homes as well as looking at recovery from a major fire, including re-housing people in the medium term if their homes required extensive repairs and what the Council could do if homes were destroyed. Cllr Preece called on Members to support the Motion.

During discussion, reference was made to the lessons learned from previous fire tragedies and fire assessments to be carried out by premises owners to reduce the risk of a fire starting. There was an investigation underway by the fire authority into the causes of the fire at Grenfell Towers as well as police, coroner's and public enquiries. When the findings of these investigations were known there would no doubt be changes in fire legislation and building regulations to ensure members of the public were fully protected. Members' attention was also drawn to the introduction of a new Fire Inspectorate which would oversee the operation of all fire services across England. Reference was also made to the positive findings of the recent peer review challenge for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Attention was also drawn to emergency planning arrangements, which was currently co-ordinated in Hampshire by Hampshire County Council, involving all relevant agencies. In Rushmoor, the Council's role was to operate a control centre for which effective communication was vital to all those involved. The Borough Services Policy and Review Panel had been given an opportunity to watch the control centre in action at an emergency planning exercise.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr D.E. Clifford and **SECONDED** by Cllr G.B. Lyon – that the Motion be referred to the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel for consideration.

During discussion, it was suggested that the Rushmoor Fire Station Commander and a representative of the Fire Brigade Union should be invited to take part in the Panel's discussions on the Motion. The point was made that there should be a focus on whether Rushmoor would be 'fit for purpose' to deal with a tragedy similar to what happened at Grenfell Tower in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. This would not only include liaison with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Police but also with the Garrison, social landlords, local hotels and other agencies to test how partners would respond in situations of crisis and disaster to recover situations and the process of developing contingency plans.

Following further discussion, the Motion to refer the original Motion to the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel was put to the Meeting. There voted **FOR: 32; AGAINST: 0** and the Motion to refer the issue to the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel was **DECLARED CARRIED** unanimously.

## 21. **APPOINTMENTS**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr L.A. Taylor; **SECONDED** by Cllr Keith Dibble and

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr A.H. Crawford be appointed to the Licensing and General Purposes Committee in place of Cllr Jennifer Evans for the remainder of the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

## 22. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

- (1) **Treasury Management Operations for 2016/17 and revisions to the 2017/18 Indicators**

The Corporate Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr P.G. Taylor) introduced the Report of the Cabinet which recommended the approval of:

- (i) The updated treasury management practices and schedules
- (ii) A variation to the Capital Programme of £15 million with delegation to the Cabinet to draw down for the purposes of investment property acquisition in 2017/18; and
- (iii) The updated 2017/18 prudential indicators contained in Appendix E of the Report.

It was MOVED by Cllr P.G. Taylor; SECONDED by Cllr D.E. Clifford – that approval be given to the recommendations.

There voted FOR: 22; AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

## (2) **Code of Corporate Governance**

The Chairman of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee (Cllr A. Jackman) introduced the Report of the Committee on the updated Code of Corporate Governance 2016/17.

It was MOVED by Cllr A. Jackman; SECONDED by Cllr J. Woolley – that approval be given to the Code of Corporate Governance.

There voted FOR: 25; AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

## 23. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET**

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted for the Cabinet.

## 24. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

### (1) **Cabinet**

It was MOVED by Cllr D.E. Clifford; SECONDED by Cllr G. Lyon and

**RESOLVED:** That the Reports of the Meetings of the Cabinet held on 13th and 27th June, 2017 be received.

### (2) **Development Management Committee**

It was MOVED by Cllr B.A. Thomas; SECONDED by Cllr J.H. Marsh and

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Management Committee held on 21st June, 2017 be received.

(3) **Licensing and General Purposes Committee**

It was MOVED by Cllr J. Woolley; SECONDED by Cllr M.D. Smith and

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Meeting of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 26th June, 2017 be received.

25. **REPORTS OF POLICY AND REVIEW PANELS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Reports of the undermentioned meetings of the Policy and Review Panels be received:

<b>POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL</b>	<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>
Borough Services	12th June, 2017
Community	15th June, 2017
Corporate Services	29th June, 2017

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

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