

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 19th April, 2018 at 7.00 pm.

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

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford
Cllr T.D. Bridgeman
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr D.E. Clifford
Cllr Liz Corps
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar
Cllr Sue Dibble
Cllr Jennifer Evans
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 P.G. Taylor
Cllr B.A. Thomas
Cllr J.E. Woolley

Cllr D.M.T. Bell
Cllr J.B. Canty
Cllr M.S. Choudhary
Cllr R.M. Cooper
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr K. Dibble
Cllr R.L.G. Dibbs
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 L.A. Taylor
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Honorary Alderman C. Balchin

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr K.H. Muschamp.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Steve Stewart, led the meeting in prayers.

53. **MINUTES**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Barbara Hurst; **SECONDED** by Cllr M.J. Tennant and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22nd February, 2018 be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

54. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) The Mayor spoke of the sudden death of former Councillor Andy Straker who had passed away on 17th March, 2018, aged 51. He had become a councillor in 1994 and had represented the North Town Ward alongside Cllrs Keith and Sue Dibble until 2003. He had been the Labour Group Leader from 1996 to 2003 and had been the Council Leader during the Municipal Year

1999/2000. Andy Straker's poignant and well attended funeral had been held at the Park Crematorium in Aldershot on 17th April, 2018.

- (2) The Mayor reported that she had held her Bollywood Charity Ball at Princes Hall on 9th March, 2018. She thanked all Members who had supported the event which had been held in aid of her charities.
- (3) The Mayor advised Members that she had attended the unveiling of a Victoria Cross Memorial Stone at the Municipal Gardens in Aldershot on 25th March. The Memorial Stone had been donated by the Government Department for Communities in memory of the only resident of Aldershot to have been awarded the Victoria Cross in World War One – Alfred Maurice Toye. The date of the unveiling had coincided with the anniversary date that Alfred Maurice Toye had committed the act of bravery which had resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross.
- (4) The Mayor thanked everyone who had baked cakes, helped at and attended her Easter Afternoon Tea event which had been held at the Council Offices on 6th April, 2018. The event had raised just under £650 for her charities.
- (5) The Mayor reported that, on 1st April, 2018, she had attended the RAF Centenary Parade at the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust Museum which had featured several Squadrons of the Air Training Corps.
- (6) The Mayor reported that her Charity Fundraising Committee was organising a Charity Walk at the Rowhill Nature Reserve on 13th May, 2018 from 2 pm. There would be a guided walk to be led by the Rowhill Manager.
- (7) The Mayor referred to the fact that the meeting was the last full Council meeting before the Borough Council Elections on 3rd May, 2018 and that there were three Members who were not seeking re-election: Cllrs Les Taylor, Jeremy Preece and Adam Jackman.

Cllr Taylor had served on the Council for six years, having been elected in 2012 to represent the residents of Cherrywood Ward. Cllr Preece had served the residents of Wellington Ward since his election in 2014. Cllr Jackman had served on the Council for twelve years following his election in 2006 to represent the residents of Knellwood Ward.

The Mayor thanked Cllrs Taylor, Preece and Jackman for their work representing the residents of their Wards and the people of Rushmoor and wished them well for the future.

The Mayor wished all those Members who were standing for election well in their endeavours.

55. **STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS**

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

56. NOTICE OF MOTION - TACKLING OBESITY

The Council was asked to consider a Motion which had been submitted by Cllr A.H. Crawford in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9 (1). It was MOVED by Cllr A.H. Crawford; SECONDED by Cllr P.F. Rust – That

“This Council undertakes to use all means at its disposal, including working with partner organisations, to tackle the crisis of obesity that is afflicting many residents of the Borough, including children and young people.”

Speaking in support of his Motion, Cllr Crawford referred to the increasing toll taken by obesity on the NHS, with more people being admitted to hospital with heart conditions, gallstones problems or needing hip and knee replacements related to their weight. NHS data showed an 18% increase in admissions over the previous year for obesity treatment – usually stomach-reducing surgery – or conditions caused or complicated by obesity, such as heart disease or pregnancy. Cllr Crawford also quoted recent press coverage given to the fact that obesity increased the risk of developing and dying from bowel cancer by 1.5 times, with the association being stronger for men than women.

A further cause for concern was that couples who were obese could be risking the health of their future children, according to experts who were calling for far more awareness of the effects of modern lifestyles on babies in the womb. Cllr Crawford also referred to the fact that most studies suggested that eating lots of fibre reduced the risk of obesity, but that may be partly because people who were a healthy weight tended to have a high-fibre diet.

Cllr Crawford spoke of the work of the Leisure and Youth Panel in 2017 when it had examined the issue of the healthy weight of children and said that the Council needed to do more work in this area. He referred to his on-going survey on small playgrounds in Farnborough and Aldershot that had received 353 responses so far. The risk of obesity was one of the main factors that concerned respondents, 96% of whom wanted the Council to maintain the nineteen small playgrounds that the Leisure and Youth Panel had heard were approaching the end of their life.

Cllr Crawford was of the opinion that the Council needed to make a more extensive commitment in providing a lead on what was a serious obesity crisis, including for the Borough’s children and young people – and not least by investing and sustaining the small playgrounds where young children could enjoy exercise.

During discussion, reference was made to the Council’s on-going work with partners in tackling obesity, which had been identified as a key priority area. The view was expressed that the Motion gave the impression that obesity was being neglected and therefore it was MOVED by Cllr Barbara Hurst; SECONDED by Cllr Sue Carter that the Motion be amended as follows:

“Recognising the valuable work already being carried out with a wide range of partners, this Council re-affirms obesity as a key health priority and also its commitment to improve the health of Rushmoor residents of all ages. Consequently,

this Council will consider, with partners, any measures aimed at tackling both the causes and effects of obesity.”

Following debate, the Amended Motion was put to the Meeting. There voted FOR: 25; AGAINST; 0, whereupon the Amended Motion became the Substantive Motion.

Arising out of further discussion, it was MOVED by Cllr Keith Dibble; SECONDED by Cllr Jennifer Evans - That the Substantive Motion be amended to add: “That Rushmoor sets a target by 2020 to reduce obesity in Year 6 children by 50%.” During debate on this amendment, it was suggested that the issues raised would be better dealt with by a committee, which could examine them in detail. Cllr Keith Dibble then withdrew his Amendment in favour of referring the Substantive Motion to the appropriate body.

It was then MOVED by Cllr D.E. Clifford; SECONDED by Cllr Keith Dibble that the Substantive Motion be referred to the appropriate body for further discussion. After debate, this was put to the meeting. There voted FOR: 32; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion to refer the issue to the appropriate body for further discussion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

57. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

(1) **Changes to the Budget – Capital Investment**

The Leader of the Council (Cllr D.E. Clifford) introduced the Report of the Cabinet which recommended the approval of a variation of £10 million to the 2018/19 Capital Programme and an increase in the operational boundary and the authorised limit for external debt accordingly. It was MOVED by Cllr D.E. Clifford; SECONDED by Cllr P.G. Taylor – That approval be given to a variation of £10 million to the 2018/19 Capital Programme and an increase in the limits for external debt accordingly, as set out in the Report.

There voted FOR: 31; AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

(2) **Review of the Governance Structure**

The Chairman of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee (Cllr A. Jackman) reported that the Committee had considered various changes to the decision making structure, the main one being the replacement of the existing policy and review panels by one Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a Policy and Project Advisory Board. The Report also set out a number of consequential changes to documents within the Constitution.

It was MOVED by Cllr A. Jackman; SECONDED by Cllr. M.D. Smith – That

- (i) the proposed changes to the decision making structure set out in the Report be endorsed;

- (ii) the changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix 2 (incorporating Annexes 1-6) be approved; and
- (iii) the Chief Executive and the Head of Democratic and Customer Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and the Chairman of the Committee, be authorised to make any further consequential changes to the Constitution resulting from these proposals, the Leader's decision on portfolio responsibilities and the outcome of the internal review of the structure of the organisation.

During discussion, Cllr Jennifer Evans spoke of her reservations regarding the democratic accountability of the proposals. It was **MOVED** by Cllr Jennifer Evans; **SECONDED** by Cllr A.H. Crawford - That the proposals should be referred back to the Licensing and General Purposes Committee for further discussion.

Following debate, the Motion was put to the Meeting. There voted **FOR: 11; AGAINST: 21** and the Motion to refer back to the Licensing and General Purposes Committee was **DECLARED LOST**.

Following further debate, it was **MOVED** by Cllr Keith Dibble and **SECONDED** by Cllr J.J. Preece that - Recommendation 8.1 (iii) be amended to include the Opposition Group Leader in the list of people to be consulted in making any further consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the proposals, the Leader's decision on portfolio responsibilities and the outcome of the internal review of the structure of the organisation.

Following debate on the proposed Amendment, there voted **FOR: 11; AGAINST: 23** and the Amendment was **DECLARED LOST**.

The Council then voted on the original Recommendations. There voted **FOR: 23; AGAINST: 11** and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

NOTE: In accordance with Standing Order 29, the proposed amendments to the 'Standing Orders for the Regulation of Business' (Annex 4, Appendix 2) will stand adjourned without discussion to the Annual Council Meeting. The Council will also be asked at the Annual Council meeting to waive the Council Procedure Rules in order for the changes to take immediate effect.

58. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET**

The Mayor reported that four questions had been submitted for response by the Cabinet.

- (1) Cllr D.S. Gladstone asked a question of the Leisure and Youth Portfolio Holder regarding the closure of children's playgrounds in the Borough.

In response, Cllr M.L. Sheehan stated that none was scheduled to be closed.

- (2) Cllr J. Canty asked a question of the Concessions and Community Support Portfolio Holder regarding standing against anti-Semitism and all other forms of racism.

In response, Cllr G.B. Lyon stated that, in many ways the Council was already complying with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of anti-Semitism and he committed to adding the endorsement of the recommendations of the Board of Deputies of British Jews' Manifesto for Local Government to the Cabinet work programme for consideration in the future.

- (3) Cllr A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Concessions and Community Support Portfolio Holder regarding the current date for the full roll out of Universal Credit in the Borough.

In response, Cllr G.B. Lyon stated that 18th October, 2018 was the current date for full roll out of Universal Credit in the Borough.

- (4) Cllr M.S. Choudhary asked a question of the Environment and Service Delivery Portfolio Holder regarding the services provided by Serco and whether service delivery specifications were being met.

In response, Cllr M.J. Tennant stated that, despite some initial teething problems, there had been some improvements in performance in services following the commencement of the new contract. He referred to work carried out by Serco to analyse service delivery and that the vast majority of customers were very happy. Performance had been very good and this had been backed up by the results of independent research.

59. **POLICY AND REVIEW PANELS - ANNUAL REPORTS 2017/18**

- (1) **Borough Services Policy and Review Panel –**

The Chairman of the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel, Cllr A.R. Newell, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2017/18.

Cllr Jennifer Evans asked a question of the Chairman regarding anti-social behaviour in Aldershot Town Centre. In response, Cllr Newell stated that the question would perhaps be better asked of the Portfolio Holder. However, he understood that ten Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued since September and other repeat offenders had had criminal offender behaviour orders issued against them. He said that there had been 100% compliance with the surrender of alcohol on request and that there had been a fall in the number of anti-social behaviour reports.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel be noted.

- (2) **Community Policy and Review Panel –**

The Chairman of the Community Policy and Review Panel, Cllr M.D. Smith, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2017/18.

Cllr A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding Accent Housing and leaseholders in Station Road, Aldershot who faced substantial outstanding charges on which they had not been consulted and the poor communications with the finance department which was based in Shipley, Yorkshire. In response, Cllr Smith said that some of the issues had been raised at the January Registered Providers meeting and that they were being addressed. He understood that officers, where appropriate, had offered advice and assistance to Ward Councillors to help residents in reporting complaints to Accent and to access the escalation procedure.

Cllr Crawford raised a supplementary question regarding what Registered Providers could do to assist leaseholders. Cllr Smith undertook to provide a written reply to the supplementary question.

Cr. Crawford asked a second question of the Chairman regarding voluntary drivers for Neighbourcare, who had received parking penalty charge notices, debt collection letters and threats of court action arising from providing transport for frail and vulnerable patients to Aldershot Centre for Health who now felt that they could not provide such voluntary care under these circumstances. In response, Cllr Smith stated that this issue would be raised at future discussions with NHS Property Services regarding parking at the Health Centre.

Cllr Crawford raised a supplementary question regarding what the Council would be doing on this issue. In response, Cllr Smith undertook to arrange for a response to be provided when the actions agreed by the Environment Policy and Review Panel had been followed up.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Community Policy and Review Panel be noted.

(3) Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel –

Cllr Jacqui Vosper presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel be noted.

(4) Environment Policy and Review Panel –

The Chairman of the Environment Policy and Review Panel, Cllr D.S. Gladstone presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2017/18.

Cllr A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding the parking system at Aldershot Centre for Health. In response, Cllr Gladstone referred to the recent discussions at the Environment Panel with NHS Property Services. Following the meeting, he had sent letters to NHS Property Services and to Mr Leo Docherty MP to seek their support for suggestions to improve the current untenable situation regarding imposing of unwarranted penalty charge notices at the Aldershot Centre for Health car park. In response to a supplementary question, Cllr Gladstone undertook to advise Members when he had received responses.

Cllr Jennifer Evans had submitted a question on Serco contract delivery performance, however, she withdrew the question in the light of the question already asked of the Environment and Service Delivery Portfolio Holder.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Environment Policy and Review Panel be noted.

(5) Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel –

The Chairman of the Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel, Cllr Diane Bedford presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2017/18.

Cllr A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding the consideration by the Council of the results of his survey on small playgrounds in the Borough. In response, Cllr Bedford requested a copy of the survey results and supporting information. She stated that the Panel had recently considered the issue of playgrounds and had been concerned at the low levels of usage of the Borough's smaller playgrounds. It had been agreed that, given the costs involved in replacing them, liaison would take place with ward councillors and surveys would be carried out with residents around each playground to ensure that there was demand to support replacing them. Cllr Bedford stated that she was aware that officers had been able to fund the majority of playground refurbishments through external funding, but that this was becoming more and more difficult to secure.

Cllr L.A. Taylor asked a question of the Chairman regarding whether a formal review should take place in order to re-consider the closure of Southwood Golf Course in the light of SANG provision that would arise from Blandford House/Malta Barracks and other future provision. In response, Cllr Bedford stated that she did not believe that the situation regarding SANGs had changed significantly following the decisions made by the Cabinet regarding the closure of Southwood Golf Course. The Draft Submission Local Plan had identified that the Council would plan for at least 7,848 new homes between 2014 and 2032 but that the estimated capacity for housing that could be delivered was around 8,700. Taking other issues into account, it was understood that capacity could be up to 8,995 new homes over the Plan period.

Cllr J.J. Preece asked a question of the Chairman regarding the joint meeting of the Leisure and Youth Panel and the Environment Panel to discuss the future of Southwood Golf Course and her recommendation to postpone closure while other solutions could be determined. This had received cross-party support at the meeting but had been dismissed by the Cabinet. In response, Cllr Bedford stated that there had been a full and detailed debate at the joint meeting and the Panel's decision had been based on the information presented to it and the views of the joint Panel Members. She had endeavoured to represent these views clearly at the Cabinet Meeting. However, she recognised that the Cabinet was the decision making body for the majority of decisions made by the Council and that the Cabinet had to take account of all the Council's priorities and services for the benefit of the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Borough as a whole.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel be noted.

60. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

(1) **Cabinet**

It was MOVED by Cllr D.E. Clifford; SECONDED by Cllr M.L. Sheehan and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 6th March, 2018 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 28th March, 2018 be received.

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

It was MOVED by Cllr A. Jackman; SECONDED by Cllr M.D. Smith and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 9th April, 2018 be received.

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

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

POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL	DATE OF MEETING
Environment	27th February, 2018
Leisure and Youth	19th March, 2018
Environment	20th March, 2018
Corporate Services	22nd March, 2018
Borough Services	26th March, 2018

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.
