

# BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

**MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 21st April, 2016 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr M.J. Tennant (Chairman))  
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Jacqui Vosper (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford  
Cllr T.D. Bridgeman  
Cllr M.S. Choudhary  
Cllr D.E. Clifford  
Cllr Liz Corps  
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar  
Cllr Sue Dibble  
Cllr A.M. Ferrier  
Cllr C.P. Grattan  
Cllr A. Jackman  
Cllr J.H. Marsh  
Cllr K.H. Muschamp  
Cllr P.J. Moyle  
Cllr M.J. Roberts  
Cllr M.D. Smith  
Cllr L.A. Taylor  
Cllr B.A. Thomas

Cllr D.M.T. Bell  
Cllr Sue Carter  
Cllr Sophia 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 S.J. Masterson  
Cllr A.R. Newell  
Cllr J.J. Preece  
Cllr P.F. Rust  
Cllr M. Staplehurst  
Cllr P.G. Taylor  
Cllr D.M. Welch

a Honorary Alderman C. Balchin J.P.  
a Honorary Alderman R.J. Debenham, M.B.E.  
Honorary Alderman R.J. Kimber  
a Honorary Alderman G.J. Woolger

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Jennifer Evans and Cllr G.B. Lyon.

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

## 46. MINUTES

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. K.H. Muschamp and

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25th February, 2016 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 47. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) The Mayor spoke of the sad and sudden death of Councillor Ron Hughes who had passed away at his home on 9th April, 2016. Ron had been elected to Rushmoor Borough Council in May, 2010 to serve the residents of Manor Park Ward. He had been a Cabinet Member since 2014, holding the Health and Housing Portfolio. Cr. Hughes had previously served as Chairman of the Community Policy and Review Panel and Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel.

Cr. Hughes had been a well-known, well respected and popular representative of his Ward and would be greatly missed at the Council.

The Leader of the Council also spoke in tribute to Cr. Ron Hughes.

- (2) The Mayor thanked all Members who had supported his Charity Jazz Ball, which had been held at Princes Hall on 4th March, 2016.
- (3) The Mayor reported that, on 12th March, 2016, the Council had granted Freedom of the Borough to 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment. Around 150 soldiers from the Regiment had marched through Aldershot, led by the Brigade of Gurkhas Band and their Regimental Pipes and Drums. The Mayor had had the privilege of inspecting the troops before formally presenting the Freedom Scroll to the Regiment. The Mayor expressed his pride at the important event for the Borough and the people of Aldershot.
- (4) The Mayor reported that, on 8th April, 2016 he had attended the funeral of Past Mayoress, Mrs. Sheila Frost, at St. Peter's Church in Farnborough.
- (5) The Mayor advised Members that he had been honoured to have been invited by the President of the Army Boxing Association to attend the Inter-Service Boxing Championship Finals at the Combat Centre in Aldershot on 13th April, 2016.
- (6) The Mayor reported that, on 18th April, 2016, a 2¾ miles charity walk around Southwood and Cove had been held, taking in the three churches within the Parish of Cove, which had been led by Mrs. Jo Gosney. It had been an interesting and informative walk, which had been followed by cream tea at Southwood Community Centre, which had been prepared by members of Southwood Church. The walk had been very well supported and £280 had been raised for the Mayor's Charities.
- (7) The Mayor reported that this was the last Council meeting before the local elections on 5th May, 2016 and that two Members would not be seeking re-election. Firstly, Cr. Alan Ferrier and, secondly, Cr. David Welch.

### **Cr. A.M. Ferrier**

Cr. Ferrier had been a Member for Fernhill Ward since 1983. Cr. Ferrier had served on the Cabinet as the Corporate Services portfolio holder from 2001 to 2007. Over his time on the Council, Cr. Ferrier had served on most of the Council's committees and panels across the various decision making structures. In 1990 to 1991 and 2008 to 2009, Cr. Ferrier had had the honour of serving as Mayor of the Borough.

In addition to being Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Cr. Ferrier had also held the post of Chairman of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee and Standards and Audit Committee and also Vice-Chairman of the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel and the then Development Control Committee.

The Mayor paid tribute to Cr. Ferrier's wealth of knowledge and expertise in licensing matters over many years and Cr. Ferrier had been the most regular member of licensing hearings. Prior to Cr. Ferrier's 33 years' service with Rushmoor, he had been a Parish Councillor on Baughurst Parish Council for fourteen years.

Cr. Ferrier's experience and expertise at Rushmoor would be greatly missed and Members showed their appreciation for his long service to the Council and the residents of the Borough. 47 years' service in local government was an outstanding achievement. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor wished Cr. Ferrier well for the future.

### **Cr. D.M. Welch**

Cr. Welch had been first elected to the Aldershot East Ward and had served from 1976 to 1979. Cr. Welch had been re-elected to the then Newport Ward from 1979 to 1980 and then again from 1982 to 1994. He had represented the Alexandra Ward from 1999 to 2002 and had served the residents of Rowhill Ward from 2002.

Cr. Welch had had the honour of serving as Mayor of the Borough on two occasions – from 1988 to 1989 and again from 2007 to 2008.

Cr. Welch had served on the Cabinet from 2001 to 2005 when he had held the Community Portfolio and again from 2010 until 2014 when he had been the Cabinet Member for Health and Housing. Over the years, he had served on many of the Council's committees and panels and, most notably, had been Chairman of the Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel, Chairman of the former Health Committee and Chairman of the former Health and Housing Committee. Cr. Welch had also held the post of Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee and the Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel. He had also served on numerous other groups and outside bodies around the Borough, particularly Age Concern and the Rushmoor Swimming Association.

The Mayor paid tribute to Cr. Welch's experience and expertise and long service and, on behalf of the Council, wished Cr. Welch well for the future.

Several Members then paid tribute to Crs. Ferrier and Welch. Crs. Ferrier and Welch both thanked the Mayor and Members for their kind words and best wishes for the future.

**48. HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY**

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor paid tribute to Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of her 90th Birthday that day. Her Majesty had been a continuous source of strength, leadership and inspiration to the country and across the world.

The Mayor advised Members that he would be sending a letter to Her Majesty The Queen to express the Council's and Borough's congratulations and to pay tribute to her service to Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Members stood to give three cheers for Her Majesty The Queen.

**49. STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS**

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

**50. NOTICE OF MOTION - ACADEMIES**

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

"This Council supports the stand taken by all groups at the LGA over the academisation of all schools sought by Government as being neither relevant nor appropriate to the education, community involvement and educational outcomes for students at primary or secondary level in Hampshire and in Rushmoor and represents a manifest interference in the running of said schools."

Speaking in support of his Motion, Cr. Roberts referred to the White Paper which set out the Government's proposals to convert all state-funded schools in England to academy status by 2022, following the announcement which had been made by the Chancellor in his Budget statement. Academies were state-funded, non-fee-paying schools which were independent of local authorities. They operated in accordance with their funding agreements with the Secretary of State. The White Paper proposed that local authorities would no longer maintain schools. Cr. Roberts was of the opinion that the proposals were fundamentally flawed and should be withdrawn.

During discussion, Members spoke of the success of the current education system and felt that it should be left alone as there appeared to be no evidence to support academisation and that the current proposals were ill-thought out. The view was also expressed that the Government's proposals provided an exciting opportunity for schools to develop to respond to local job markets, to ensure that pupils received appropriate guidance, to provide a good link with universities and to prepare children well for the future ahead of them.

During the debate, it was MOVED by Cr. K.H. Muschamp and SECONDED by Cr. D.E. Clifford that the Motion be referred to the Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel for an in-depth investigation of all aspects of the Government's proposals.

Cr. Roberts, with the consent of the Council, accepted the proposal for reference to the Panel.

Following further debate, the Motion was then put to the Meeting. There voted FOR: 34; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion for reference to the Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

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

### a) **Officer Employment Procedure Rules**

The Chairman of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee (Cr. A.M. Ferrier) introduced the Report of the Committee meeting held on 21st March, 2016 which recommended that approval should be given to the revised Officer Employment Procedure Rules for adoption as part of the Council's Constitution.

It was **MOVED** by Cr. A.M. Ferrier; **SECONDED** by Cr. S.J. Masterson – that approval be given to the Pay Policy Statement 2016/17.

There voted FOR: 24; AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

### b) **Amalgamation of the Licensing and General Purposes and Standards and Audit Committees**

The Chairman of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee (Cr. A.M. Ferrier) introduced the Report of the Committee meeting held on 21st March, 2016 which recommended that approval should be given to the amalgamation of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee and the Standards and Audit Committee.

It was **MOVED** by Cr. A.M. Ferrier; **SECONDED** by Cr. J.H. Marsh – that approval be given to the amalgamation of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee and the Standards and Audit Committee and the Head of Democratic and Customer Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Constitution.

There voted FOR: 32; AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

**NOTE:** Recommendation (ii) of the Committee's Report for the amendment of Standing Order 4 (1) to remove reference to the Standards and Audit Committee, and the deletion of Standing Order 4 (2), stood adjourned without discussion to the Annual Council Meeting on 24th May, 2016.

### c) **Strategy for the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts 2016/17**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Cr. P.G. Taylor) introduced the Report of the Cabinet on 29th March, 2016 which recommended that approval be given to the Strategy for the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts 2016/17.

It was MOVED by Cr. P.G. Taylor; SECONDED by Cr. P.J. Moyle – that approval be given to the Strategy for the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts 2016/17.

There voted FOR: 30; AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

## 52. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET**

The Mayor reported that two questions had been submitted for Cabinet Members.

The first question had been submitted by Cr. M.J. Roberts for the Cabinet Member for Environment and related to the Housing and Planning Bill, which Cr. Roberts felt failed to respond to real issues, was bi-partisan in outcomes and should be withdrawn.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Environment (Cr. R.L.G. Dibbs) state that the provisions of the Housing and Planning Bill were extensive and complex and were still being debated and discussed at length by both Houses of Parliament. Many proposals and counter-proposals had been discussed and it was true that, if enacted, some of the provisions would have significant implications on services provided by the Council. The Government had issued a number of technical consultation documents containing options on how certain provisions might be implemented. The Council would continue to keep a careful watch on the passage of the Housing and Planning Bill.

The second question had been submitted by Cr. A.H. Crawford for the Leader of the Council and related to the issue of devolution.

In response, the Leader of the Council (Cr. P.J. Moyle) stated that the journey towards the potential creation of a Combined Authority across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight had not been an easy one. The Treasury had negotiated an 'in principle' deal with the Solent Authorities that was not currently supported by Hampshire, which was reluctant to see the County split and preferred a Hampshire-wide solution. Government Ministers were understood to be keen to encourage Hampshire to join a proposed Solent Combined Authority and were continuing to pursue this line. In the meantime, no formal announcement had been made by the Government, although this was believed to be likely in the near future.

Against this background and mindful of the significant financial resource links associated with not being part of a Combined Authority, Cr. Moyle advised Members that the remaining Hampshire Councils (Winchester, New Forest, Test Valley, Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor) together with Enterprise M3 were working together on developing a potential North Hampshire and New Forest Combined Authority option.

Work was progressing well, albeit that issues and details to be addressed, including governance options and the controversial issue of a directly elected mayor.

The Council had delegated authority to the Leader and the Chief Executive to take part in the discussions and the development of options. Members would be kept informed and a seminar for Members would be organised in the near future to be followed by a debate at full Council.

### 53. **POLICY AND REVIEW PANELS - ANNUAL REPORTS 2015/16**

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

The Chairman of the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel, Cr. Barbara Hurst, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2015/16.

**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, Cr. M.D. Smith, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2015/16.

Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding the evidence and incidence of street homelessness in the Borough. In response, Cr. Smith stated that the number of street homeless in Aldershot town centre had increased over the previous year. This reflected the position in neighbouring authorities and national trends – a reported increase of 30% in street homeless.

Local evidence was that, during March 2016, 31 people had at some point spent some time on the streets, of which it was believed that currently twelve people were consistently street homeless in Aldershot town centre. However, the Police had reported that the numbers on the street at night were substantially less than that. Most of the people had a local connection to Rushmoor.

The Council was working with relevant agencies, such as The Vine, the Police and Inclusion (a drug and alcohol service) to help the people involved to secure appropriate accommodation. Despite this, a number continued not to engage with Rushmoor's officers and some that had engaged had not been able to sustain their accommodation. The Council was continuing to monitor the situation and was exploring all options to ensure that the number of street homeless was reduced as soon as possible. The Panel would be keeping the situation under review.

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

#### (3) **Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel –**

The Chairman of the Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel, Cr. Jacqui Vosper, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2015/16.

Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding the Council's website. In response, Cr. Vosper stated that, as part of the Panel's review of the web service, the Panel had been informed that customer feedback was monitored regularly by using the results of the "Did you find what you were looking for?" form that appeared on content pages. The performance over time was available in the Council's Corporate Plan and was usually around the 80% positive rate. Where people did not find what they were looking for, the Council looked to make improvements.

Cr. Vosper also advised that the Council also was assessed externally by the Society of IT Managers. The latest assessment had given the Council the highest score of four stars and recommended the Council's planning section to other councils as a service that was easy to use.

In response to changing trends, further improvements had been made to the website design so that it worked well on mobile phones and tablets.

**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, Cr. D.E. Clifford, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2015/16.

Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding a decline of Aldershot town centre. In response, Cr. Clifford referred to the Aldershot Town Centre Prospectus and stated that a steady recovery was being witnessed in Aldershot Town Centre rather than a decline and cited the Westgate and Wellesley developments.

Cr. J.J. Preece asked a question of the Chairman regarding public conveniences. In response, Cr. Clifford stated that current proposals were not likely to result in the closure of any public conveniences in Rushmoor. Cr. Clifford further stated that, with regard to the distinction made between toilets inside parks and outside parks, this related to the ongoing procurement process where toilets within parks were considered to fit well with the grounds maintenance service and a holistic approach to parks management. Cr. Clifford understood that the issue would be discussed again by the Cabinet and that the Panel would also be given an opportunity to comment.

**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, Cr. Liz Corps presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2015/16.

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



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

(1) **Cabinet –**

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. K.H. Muschamp and

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 1st March, 2016 (Para. Nos. 287 - 296) be received.

(2) **Cabinet –**

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. K.H. Muschamp and

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 29th, March, 2016 (Para. Nos. 297 – 304) be received.

(3) **Development Management Committee –**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Management Committee held on 2nd March, 2016 (Para. Nos. 305 – 311) be received.

(4) **Standards and Audit Committee –**

It was MOVED by Cr. J.H. Marsh; SECONDED by Cr. A.M. Ferrier and

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Meeting of the Standards and Audit Committee held on 14th March, 2016 (Para. Nos. 312 - 315) be received.

(5) **Licensing and General Purposes Committee –**

It was MOVED by Cr. A.M. Ferrier; SECONDED by Cr. S.J. Masterson and

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Meeting of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 21st March, 2016 (Para. Nos. 316 – 323) be received.

(6) **Development Management Committee –**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Management Committee held on 30th March, 2016 (Para. Nos. 324 – 330).

#### 55. **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>	<b>PARA. NOS. RECEIVED</b>
Corporate Services	31st March, 2016	331 – 335
Leisure and Youth	4th April, 2016	336 – 338
Environment	5th April, 2016	339 – 343

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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