

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Princes Hall, Aldershot on Tuesday, 25th May, 2021 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr M.S. Choudhary (Chairman))
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr B.A. Thomas)

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford
Cllr J.B. Canty
Cllr Sophia Choudhary
Cllr D.E. Clifford
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Michael Hope
Cllr Prabesh KC
Cllr J.H. Marsh
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Marina Munro
Cllr A.R. Newell
Cllr M.L. Sheehan
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr B.A. Thomas

Cllr Jessica Auton
Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr A.K. Chowdhury
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar
Cllr K. Dibble
Cllr A.J. Halstead
Cllr L. Jeffers
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr K.H. Muschamp
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr Calum Stewart
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr T.D. Bridgeman, Cllr R.M. Cooper, Cllr M.J. Roberts and Cllr Nem Thapa.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend George Newton, 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 2021/22. It was **MOVED** by Cllr D.E.Clifford; **SECONDED** by Cllr P.I.C. Crerar - That Cllr Bruce Alfred Thomas be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **BRUCE ALFRED THOMAS** be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

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

THE MAYOR (CLLR B.A. THOMAS) IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor expressed his pride at being elected Mayor and first citizen of the Borough of Rushmoor. He thanked his proposer and seconder for their kind words and the Council for supporting his nomination. He then proceeded to signify the appointment of his wife, Mrs Tracey Thomas, as the Mayoress. He said he could not have achieved the honour of becoming Mayor without the support of his wife and that they would be supporting each other on this new challenge in his Mayoral Year. The Mayor also signified the appointment of the Reverend Malcolm Cummins, as the Mayor's Chaplain. Reverend Cummins was from the New Testament Church of God in Aldershot and the Mayor was looking forward to working together with him.

The Mayor announced that he would be supporting the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and The Vine Centre as his charities for the year ahead.

The Mayor promised to do his very best in his new role as first citizen of the Borough of Rushmoor, of which he was very proud to be an elected member.

2. VOTE OF THANKS

It was MOVED by Cllr P.G. Taylor; SECONDED by Cllr K. Dibble and

RESOLVED: That the Council place on record its appreciation of the excellent service rendered by Councillor Mohammed Salim Choudhary as Mayor of the Borough and Mrs Gul Choudhary during the Municipal Year 2020/21.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Choudhary and drew attention to the framed, illuminated scroll, together with a Past Mayor's Badge and a Past Mayoress's Badge that were on display for both Cllr and Mrs Choudhary.

In response, Cllr Choudhary thanked Cllrs Taylor and Dibble for their kind words. Cllr Choudhary spoke of the very different past year due to the Covid pandemic. It had proved to be a challenging year for everyone. Sacrifices had been made by the community and many businesses. Sadly, there had been loss and grief in the community, including the death of long-standing colleague, Cllr Frank Rust who had passed away in 2020.

Cllr Choudhary referred to a year of chairing full Council meetings remotely via Microsoft Teams with decision-making enabled remotely via new legislation. He thanked officers for implementing measures to help residents and businesses and working with partner organisations to keep the community safe. He also referred to the positive contribution that local authorities made in strengthening local communities.

Cllr Choudhary thanked the NHS, key workers, community groups and volunteers who had continued to keep services available and had kept support centres open, such as The Source, Step by Step, Rushmoor Voluntary Services and the Vine Centre and charity fundraisers who had continued to devote their time to raising funds that benefitted people's lives and had played a key part in supporting the local community through prescription runs, shopping and other help for vulnerable residents and being available to chat over the phone with the isolated and lonely.

Cllr Choudhary referred to the engagements he had attended during his Mayoral Year, the theme for his time as Mayor – health and wellbeing and the work of the charities he had supported: Broadhurst Welcome Home Community Ltd and Parity for Disability. He was pleased to report that his Charity Committee had raised around £10,000 in support of his charities. He expressed gratitude to his Charity Committee, chaired by Mr Terry Owens, for their work during the year.

Cllr Choudhary thanked Reverend George Newton for his support, counsel and words of wisdom during his time as Mayor's Chaplain. He also thanked the team of officers who had assisted him during his Mayoral Year.

He concluded by thanking his wife and family for their continued support and encouragement during his 29 years of being a councillor.

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 S.J. Masterson; SECONDED by Cllr K.H. Muschamp – That Cllr J.H. Marsh be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **JOHN HENRY MARSH** be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

Cllr Marsh 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 K.H. Muschamp; SECONDED by Cllr P.G. Taylor and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 22nd April 2021 (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, 6th May 2021 (appended to these minutes).

The Mayor congratulated all Members who had been re-elected and extended a warm welcome to the new councillors: Cllrs Jessica Auton, Jib Belbase, Michael Hope, Sarah Spall and Nem Thapa.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

6. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor advised the Council that he proposed to hold a number of events during his Mayoral Year. These would include two afternoon tea events and a Charity Ball in March 2022.

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

It was MOVED by Cllr M.J. Tennant; SECONDED by Cllr K.H. Muschamp - That Cllr D.E. Clifford be appointed Leader of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

There voted FOR: 23; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

8. **APPOINTMENTS 2021/22**

It was MOVED by Cllr K.H. Muschamp and SECONDED by Cllr D.E. Clifford –

Appointment of Cabinet Portfolio Holders –

That it be noted that the following appointments of Cabinet Portfolio Holders and the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2021/22 had been made by the Leader of the Council:

Cllr K.H. Muschamp – Deputy Leader and Customer Experience and Improvement
Cllr Marina Munro – Planning and Economy
Cllr A.R. Newell – Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships
Cllr M.L. Sheehan – Operational Services
Cllr P.G. Taylor – Corporate Services
Cllr M.J. Tennant – Major Projects and Property

Committees –

That the appointments to Committees for the 2021/22 Municipal Year be approved, in accordance with the allocations to achieve political balance indicated below:

(1) **COMMITTEES –**

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Voting Members

Conservative: 8

Labour: 2

Liberal Democrat: 1

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar
Cllr M. Hope
Cllr L. Jeffers
Cllr J.H. Marsh
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr C.J. Stewart
Cllr N.B. Thapa

Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr Sophie Porter

Cllr T.W. Mitchell

Standing Deputies

Conservative:
Cllr A.K. Chowdhury

Labour:
Cllr A.J. Halstead

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

CORPORATE COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS

Voting Members

Conservative: 8

Labour: 3

Cllr Jessica Auton
Cllr J.N. Belbase
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr Sophia Choudhary
Cllr A.K. Chowdhury
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Prabesh KC
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr A.J. Halstead
Cllr Sarah Spall

Standing Deputies

Conservative:
Cllr J.B. Canty

Labour:
Cllr T.D. Bridgeman

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –

Voting Members

Conservative: 9

Labour: 2

Cllr Mrs D.B. Bedford
Cllr J.N. Belbase
Cllr M.S. Choudhary
Cllr R.M. Cooper
Cllr L. Jeffers
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr N.B. Thapa

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr K. Dibble

Standing Deputies

Conservative:
Cllr Sue Carter

Labour:
Cllr Sophie Porter

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Voting Members

Conservative: 8

Labour: 3

Cllr Jessica Auton
Cllr J.B. Canty
Cllr Sophia Choudhary
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr M. Hope
Cllr Prabesh KC
Cllr Mara Makunura

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr M.J. Roberts

Standing Deputies

Conservative:
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Labour:
Cllr Christine Guinness

- (3) That the appointments of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the following Committees be approved as set out below:

Development Management

Chairman	-	Cllr C.J. Stewart
Vice-Chairman	-	Cllr L. Jeffers

Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards

Chairman - Cllr Sue Carter
Vice-Chairman - Cllr P.J. Cullum

- (4) That the appointment of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Project Advisory Board be approved as set out below:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cllr M.D. Smith

Policy and Project Advisory Board Cllr J.B. Canty

- (5) That the appointments to the Management Boards for Council Trusts for the Municipal Year 2021/22 be approved as follows, and that each Management Board be authorised to make decisions on behalf of the Council by majority vote:

The Aldershot Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford Cllr K. Dibble Cllr M.S. Choudhary

Standing Deputy: Cllr Nadia Martin

King George's Field, Farnborough Trust

Cllr C.J. Stewart Cllr Christine Guinness Cllr P.G. Taylor

Standing Deputy: Cllr Mara Makunura

The Alfred Henry Goode Will Trust

Cllr D.E. Clifford Cllr Nadia Martin Cllr K.H. Muschamp

Standing Deputy: Cllr Sophie Porter

There voted FOR: 34; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.
