

# BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

**MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 24th February, 2022 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr B.A. Thomas (Chairman))  
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr J.H. Marsh (Vice-Chairman) )

Cllr Gaynor Austin  
Cllr Jib Belbase  
Cllr J.B. Canty  
Cllr M.S. Choudhary  
Cllr A.K. Chowdhury  
Cllr R.M. Cooper  
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 Sophie Porter  
Cllr M.L. Sheehan  
Cllr Sarah Spall  
Cllr P.G. Taylor  
Cllr Nem Thapa

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford  
Cllr T.D. Bridgeman  
Cllr Sue Carter  
Cllr Sophia Choudhary  
Cllr D.E. Clifford  
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 A.R. Newell  
Cllr M.J. Roberts  
Cllr M.D. Smith  
Cllr C.J. Stewart  
Cllr M.J. Tennant  
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Honorary Alderman A. Gardiner  
Honorary Alderman R.J. Kimber  
Honorary Alderman D.M. Welch

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

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain (Reverend Malcolm Cummins) led the Council in a period of prayers.

## 39. **WAR IN UKRAINE**

The Mayor voiced the Council's support for the people of Ukraine in their plight to retain their freedoms and to live in a democracy where they could make their own political and economic decisions.

## 40. **MRS CAROL EDGOOSE**

The Council stood in silent tribute to the memory of former Mayor, Mrs Carol Edgoose, who had passed away in early January 2022 and whose funeral had been held on 8th February at the Holy Trinity Church in Aldershot.

### 39. **MINUTES**

It was MOVED by Cllr M.L. Sheehan; SECONDED by Cllr M.J. Tennant and

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 2nd December 2021 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

### 40. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) The Mayor announced that his Charity Ball would be held on 11th March 2022 at Princes Hall.
- (2) The Mayor announced that the Mayoress' Afternoon Tea would be held on 6th April 2022 at the Council Offices. The previous Mayoress' Afternoon Tea event, which had been held on 10th December 2021, had raised £276 for the Mayor's Charities.
- (3) The Mayor announced that his Charity Golf Day would be held on 21st April 2022 at the Army Golf Club in Aldershot.
- (4) The Mayor advised Members that, on 8th December 2021, he had attended the Community Carol Service held at the Cathedral Church of St Michael and St George. This annual community event was organised jointly by the Aldershot Garrison, Aldershot Town Football Club, Aspire Defence and the Council.
- (5) The Mayor reported that he had attended a Holocaust Memorial Service at the Royal Garrison Church on 30th January 2022.
- (6) The Mayor reported that, 22nd February 2022 had been the 50th Anniversary of the bombing of the Headquarters of the 16th Parachute Brigade in Aldershot, where one padre and six civilian staff had been killed and 19 wounded. The Mayor had attended a service of commemoration and the unveiling of a new memorial in Pennefathers Road, together with a dedication of the new Memorial Square in recognition of the loss of life and injury to those who had been involved 50 years previously and to those who had come to their aid. The unveiling had been followed by a march past in Queen's Avenue. It had been a truly poignant and memorable day which had been organised by the Aldershot Parachute Regimental Association.

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

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

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

- (1) **Decision to opt into the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments managed by the Public Sector Audit Appointments as the 'Appointing Person'**

The Chairman of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee introduced the Report of the Committee meeting held on 24th January 2022, which recommended that the Council should accept the Public Sector Audit Appointments' invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1st April 2023.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Sue Carter; **SECONDED** by Cllr P.J. Cullum – That the Council accept the invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1st April 2023.

There voted **FOR: 36; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 0** and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

## **(2) Annual Capital Strategy 2022/23**

Cllr Sue Carter introduced the Report of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 15th February 2022, which recommended the approval of the Capital Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Prudential Indicators for 2022/23.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Sue Carter; **SECONDED** by Cllr P.J. Cullum – That approval be given to the Capital Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Prudential Indicators for 2022/23.

There voted **FOR: 29; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 0** and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

## **(3) Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Non-Treasury Investment Strategy 2022/23**

Cllr Sue Carter introduced the Report of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 15th February 2022, which recommended the approval of: the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23, Annual Borrowing Strategy 2022/23, the Annual Non-Treasury Investment Strategy 2022/23 and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement. It was **MOVED** by Cllr Sue Carter; **SECONDED** by Cllr P.J. Cullum – That approval be given to the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 and Annual Borrowing Strategy 2022/23; Annual Non-Treasury Investment Strategy 2022/23; and, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement.

There voted **FOR: 29; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 0** and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

## **(4) Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax Level**

Cllr P.G. Taylor, Corporate Services Portfolio Holder, introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 8th February 2022 which recommended the approval of the budget and Council Tax requirement for 2022/23 and the Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23.

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

- (i) approval be given to the following recommendations set out in the Budget Booklet:
  - (a) The Executive Head of Finance's report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as set out in Appendix 1;
  - (b) the General Fund Revenue Budget Summary, set out in Appendix 2;
  - (c) the Savings and Transformation items for inclusion in the budget, set out in Appendix 2 (CAB);
  - (d) the Council Tax Requirement of £7,195,943 for this Council;
  - (e) the Council Tax level for Rushmoor Borough Council's purposes of £219.42 for a Band D property in 2022/23 (an increase of £5);
  - (f) the Capital Programme, set out in Appendix 3;
  - (g) the Strategy for the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts, set out in Appendix 4(CAB); and
  - (h) the proposed transfers to and from earmarked reserves in 2022/23 and the holding of reserves, as set out in Table C3; and
- (ii) approval be given to the following, as detailed in Report No. FIN2206:
  - (a) following the review of Council Tax Support by the Task and Finish Group, the current scheme for working age customers continue for 2022/23 with the usual alignment to Housing Benefit Rates (this would mean that the minimum contribution would remain at 12%); and
  - (b) the Council Tax Support Task and Finish Group be requested to undertake a detailed review of the Council Tax Support Scheme in early 2022/23 to take into account the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the increasing cost of the Scheme and its local impact on Scheme recipients and other local Council Tax payers.

Following debate, the Recommendations were put to the meeting. On a Recorded Vote, there voted FOR: Cllrs Jessica Auton, Mrs. D.B. Bedford, J. Belbase, J.B. Canty, Sue Carter, M.S. Choudhary, Sophia Choudhary, A.K. Chowdhury, D.E. Clifford, R.M. Cooper, P.I.C. Crerar, P.J. Cullum, M. Hope, L. Jeffers, Prabesh KC, Mara Makunura, S.J. Masterson, Marina Munro, A.R. Newell, M.L. Sheehan, M.D. Smith, C.J. Stewart, P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant, N. Thapa, Jacqui Vosper and the Deputy Mayor (Cllr J.H. Marsh) (27); AGAINST: Cllrs Gaynor Austin, T.D. Bridgeman, K. Dibble, Christine Guinness, A.J. Halstead, Nadia Martin, Sophie Porter, M.J. Roberts and Sarah Spall (9); and ABSTAINED: Cllr T.W. Mitchell and

the Mayor (Cllr B.A. Thomas) (2) and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

**(5) Council Business Plan Update 2022-2025**

Cllr A.R. Newell, Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships Portfolio Holder, introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 8th February 2022, which recommended the approval of the updated three-year Council Plan 2022-25. It was **MOVED** by Cllr A.R. Newell; **SECONDED** by Cllr M.L. Sheehan – That approval be given to the updated three-year Council Plan 2022-25.

Following debate, the Recommendation was put to the meeting. On a Recorded Vote, there voted **FOR**: Cllrs Jessica Auton, Mrs. D.B. Bedford, J. Belbase, J.B. Canty, Sue Carter, M.S. Choudhary, Sophia Choudhary, A.K. Chowdhury, D.E. Clifford, R.M. Cooper, P.I.C. Crerar, P.J. Cullum, M. Hope, L. Jeffers, Prabesh KC, Mara Makunura, S.J. Masterson, Marina Munro, A.R. Newell, M.L. Sheehan, M.D. Smith, C.J. Stewart, P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant, N. Thapa, Jacqui Vosper and the Deputy Mayor (Cllr J.H. Marsh) (27); **AGAINST**: Cllrs Gaynor Austin, T.D. Bridgeman, K. Dibble, Christine Guinness, A.J. Halstead, Nadia Martin, M.J. Roberts and Sarah Spall (8); and **ABSTAINED**: Cllr T.W. Mitchell and the Mayor (Cllr B.A. Thomas) (2) and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

**(6) Rushmoor Homes Limited – Business Plan Update 2022-2027**

Cllr D.E. Clifford, Leader of the Council, introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 8th February 2022 which set out a five-year business plan for the Council's local housing company, Rushmoor Homes Limited for approval. It was **MOVED** by Cllr D.E. Clifford; **SECONDED** by Cllr M.J. Tennant – That approval be given to

- (i) the updated Business Plan 2022-2027;
- (ii) the amendment of the Shareholder Agreement to enable Rushmoor Homes Limited to purchase leasehold property where this supports its primary aim of providing market rented homes; and
- (iii) in the event of the Government introducing a requirement to provide 'Minimum Revenue Provision' on loans to wholly owned Housing Companies, Rushmoor Homes Ltd be required to review the Business Plan in co-operation with the Council.

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

**NOTE:** Cllr K. Dibble declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item in respect of his involvement as a Director of Rushmoor Homes Limited and, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.

#### 43. THE COUNCIL TAX 2022/23

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

- (i) it be noted that the Council calculated the amount of 32,795.29 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (the 'Act');
- (ii) the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Act:
  - (a) £82,641,531 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act
  - (b) £75,445,589 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £7,195,943 being the amount by which the aggregate at (ii)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year
  - (c) £219.42 being the amount at (ii)(c) above, all divided by the amount at (i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(d)

| Valuation Band | Rushmoor Borough Council |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| A              | £146.28                  |
| B              | £170.66                  |
| C              | £195.04                  |
| D              | £219.42                  |
| E              | £268.18                  |
| F              | £316.94                  |
| G              | £365.70                  |
| H              | £438.84                  |

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (ii)(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

- (iii) it be noted that for the year 2022/23 Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

| <b>Precepting Authority</b>                                    | <b>Precept Amount</b> |
|--|-----------------------|
| Hampshire County Council (HCC)                                 | £45,613,657.05        |
| Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire (PCCH)             | £7,754,774.27         |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority (HIWFRA) | £2,473,748.72         |

| Valuation Band | HCC       | PCCH    | HIWFRA  |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| A              | £927.24   | £157.64 | £50.29  |
| B              | £1,081.78 | £183.91 | £58.67  |
| C              | £1,236.32 | £210.19 | £67.05  |
| D              | £1,390.86 | £236.46 | £75.43  |
| E              | £1,699.94 | £289.01 | £92.19  |
| F              | £2,009.02 | £341.55 | £108.95 |
| G              | £2,318.10 | £394.10 | £125.72 |
| H              | £2,781.72 | £472.92 | £150.86 |

- (iv) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (ii)(e) and (iii) above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

| Valuation Band | TOTAL     |
|----------------|-----------|
| A              | £1,281.45 |
| B              | £1,495.02 |
| C              | £1,708.60 |
| D              | £1,922.17 |
| E              | £2,349.32 |
| F              | £2,776.46 |
| G              | £3,203.62 |
| H              | £3,844.34 |

- (v) the Council determines that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Following debate, the Motion was put to the meeting. On a Recorded Vote, there voted FOR: Cllrs Jessica Auton, Mrs. D.B. Bedford, J. Belbase, J.B. Canty, Sue Carter, M.S. Choudhary, Sophia Choudhary, A.K. Chowdhury, D.E. Clifford, R.M. Cooper, P.I.C. Crerar, P.J. Cullum, M. Hope, L. Jeffers, Prabesh KC, Mara Makunura, S.J. Masterson, Marina Munro, A.R. Newell, M.L. Sheehan, C.J. Stewart,

P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant, N. Thapa, Jacqui Vosper and the Deputy Mayor (Cllr J.H. Marsh) (26); AGAINST: Cllrs Gaynor Austin, T.D. Bridgeman, K. Dibble, Christine Guinness, A.J. Halstead, Nadia Martin, Sophie Porter, M.J. Roberts and Sarah Spall (9); ABSTAINED: Cllr T.W. Mitchell and the Mayor (Cllr B.A. Thomas) (2) and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

#### 44. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET**

The Mayor reported that three questions had been submitted for response by Members of the Cabinet.

The first question had been submitted by Cllr P.J. Cullum for response by the Operational Services Portfolio Holder regarding the next stage for the roll-out of the food waste collection service.

In response, Cllr M.L. Sheehan stated that the introduction of the first stage of the food waste service had been a success and that the Council was building on this for Phase Two. The Chief Executive's news email to Members would provide an update on progress and further arrangements for the roll-out of the service. It was noted that the Contracts Team would be contacting Ward Councillors with details of properties and sites in Phase Two.

The second question had been submitted by Cllr S.J. Masterson for the Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder on the next steps for developing the visitor centre and café at Southwood Woodland.

In response, Cllr M.J. Tennant stated that good progress was being made with the visitor centre and the project was on target in terms of timescales and budgets. Discussions were on-going with the proposed tenant for the café. A planning application for the visitor centre and café would be submitted in the near future, with the aim of work starting on site in late summer.

The third question had been submitted by Cllr Jacqui Vosper for the Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder on the Council's plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War.

In response, Cllr Marina Munro stated that the Parachute Regimental Association was co-ordinating the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War on 18th June 2022, with an event to be based around Princes Gardens in Aldershot which would include a parade. In respect of events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Cllr Munro stated that the Council would be joining in the national Beacon Lighting event on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and that it was proposed to organise a Mayor's Big Picnic during the Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Munro also referred to other events being organised by individuals and organisations around the Borough.



45. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Reports of the following meetings be received:

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Cabinet   | 14th December 2021 |
| Cabinet   | 18th January 2022  |
| Cabinet   | 8th February 2022  |
| Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee | 22nd November 2021 |
| Development Management Committee                    | 8th December 2021  |
| Development Management Committee                    | 19th January 2022  |
| Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee | 24th January 2022  |

46. **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD**

**RESOLVED:** That the Reports of the Policy and Project Advisory Board meetings held on 24th November 2021 and 26th January 2022 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9th December 2021 be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

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