

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr J.H. Marsh)
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr C.P. Grattan)

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr M.S. Choudhary
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Michael Hope
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr A.R. Newell
Cllr M.L. Sheehan
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr Nem Thapa
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr J.B. Canty
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr D.E. Clifford
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr K. Dibble
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr L. Jeffers
Cllr Prabesh KC
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Marina Munro
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr S. Trussler

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

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Jessica Auton, Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford, Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo, Cllr Sophie Porter, Cllr Sarah Spall and Cllr Calum Stewart.

Before the meeting was opened the Mayor's Chaplain, Major Ted Benneyworth, led Members in prayers.

9. **MINUTES**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr D.E. Clifford; **SECONDED** by Cllr M.J. Tennant and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 24th May 2022 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

10. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) The Mayor reported that it had been a very busy first month in office and that he had attended the following events:
 - Farnborough Donkey Derby on 29th May 2022
 - The Gurkha Cup football tournament on 4th June 2022
 - Kids Out on 8th June 2022
 - Beating the Retreat at Aldershot Military Museum on 9th June 2022
 - Victoria Day on 11th June 2022
- (2) The Mayor advised Members that, over the Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, he had attended a Beacon Lighting Ceremony at the Wellington Statue on 2nd June 2022 and a Service of Thanksgiving at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints on 5th June, both of which had been organised by the Council. He had also attended a variety of street parties and other parties around the Borough to mark the Platinum Jubilee.
- (3) The Mayor reported that, on 18th June 2022, he had had the honour of attending a memorable service of remembrance at the Aldershot Military Cemetery to mark the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War conflict. The service had been attended by veterans from Aldershot's former Parachute Regiments and the next of kin of the eighteen soldiers who had given their life. Following the service, the commemoration had moved to Aldershot town centre where he had been proud to be part of the saluting party outside Princes Hall for a parade of serving soldiers and hundreds of veterans through the town centre.
- (4) The Mayor advised Members that, on 20th June 2022, he had taken part in a ceremony to raise the Armed Forces Day flag in Princes Gardens in Aldershot.

11. **STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS**

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

12. **NOTICE OF MOTION - PENSIONS FUND**

The Council was asked to consider a Motion which had been submitted by Cllr Jules Crossley in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9 (1):

"Ahead of the Hampshire Pension Fund (HPF) report on Responsible Investment, which will be considered by the HPF Panel and Board on 28th July, the Council Leader will write to the Chair of the Board of the Hampshire Pension Fund, and request that HPF commits to transition its entire investment portfolio to net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2030, where practical and financially viable, and completely by 2050 at the latest, to be consistent with a maximum temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by the century's end. The Council also urges the Hampshire Pensions Fund to join the Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance, which is the investor alliance doing the most robust work on aligning to 1.5C. Other

County Council Pension Funds, such as Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, are members of this Alliance.

The Council will also review its investment portfolio with a view to not investing in carbon intensive industries or companies which have NOT committed to 1.5C consistent portfolio alignment guarding the critical 1.5 degrees Celsius target and will encourage other organisations in the Borough to do the same.”

In moving the Motion, Cllr Crossley referred to the declaration of a climate emergency and the desperate need for action to avoid the pending devastating impact on the world. Cllr Crossley was of the opinion that county councils and other local authorities should lead by example and take action.

In seconding the Motion, Cllr Gaynor Austin referred to the fact that Rushmoor had declared a climate emergency in 2019. Actions were needed and not just words. The HPF should be urged to divest from fossil fuel investments and Rushmoor should be leading the way for others to see action being taken, not just following.

During discussion, Members referred to the question whether any real change could be made to the HPF as it was one of the largest funds of its kind in the county with a wide range of advisers who acted carefully and prudently for the HPF. It was understood that the HPF Board was committed to net zero and invested on that basis. The view was expressed that, at this stage, any major change in investments could be expensive and unnecessary. The view was also expressed that Rushmoor invested to meet its financial obligations and that the issue of climate change was one that investment pool managers were very aware of and such issues were reviewed on a regular basis.

The opinion was also expressed that radical actions were required across the world to save the planet and intervention was required now. Members were urged to vote not just on the financial implications but on what was morally and ethically right.

The Motion was then put to the Meeting. There voted FOR: 9; AGAINST: 21 and the Motion was **DECLARED LOST**.

NOTE: Cllr M.L. Sheehan declared a personal interest in this item as a member of the Hampshire Pension Fund and, in accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct, left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.

13. **REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

The Leader of the Council (Cllr D.E. Clifford) introduced the Report by the Independent Remuneration Panel which had undertaken a review of the Council’s Members’ Allowances Scheme, involving a fundamental examination of each element of the Scheme. The new Scheme proposed in the Report reflected the Panel’s view in the light of information provided, representations made by Members and benchmarking data from other authorities. It was **MOVED** by Cllr D.E. Clifford and **SECONDED** by Cllr P.G. Taylor that the Council adopt the proposals set out in the Independent Remuneration Panel’s Seventh Report.

During discussion, it was MOVED by Cllr Gaynor Austin and SECONDED by Cllr K. Dibble – That the following Amendment be made to the proposed Members' Allowances Scheme:

“That the Council adopts the proposals, as set out in the Independent Remuneration Panel's Seventh Report, subject to:

- (i) the current Members' basic allowance remaining unchanged but be updated in line with the annual percentage pay increase given to Rushmoor's employees and be updated annually, as set out in the report: and
- (ii) no increase to Special Responsibility Allowance payments be made until the next review by the Independent Remuneration Panel.”

Following debate, the Amendment was put to the meeting. On a Recorded Vote there voted FOR: Cllrs Gaynor Austin, C.W. Card, Jules Crossley, K. Dibble, Christine Guinness, Nadia Martin, T.W. Mitchell, M.J. Roberts, Sarah Spall and the Deputy Mayor (Cllr C.P. Grattan) (10); AGAINST: Cllrs A. Adeola, J. Belbase, J.B. Canty, Sue Carter, M.S. Choudhary, D.E. Clifford, P.I.C. Crerar, P.J. Cullum, A. Gani, M. Hope, L. Jeffers, Prabesh KC, Mara Makunura, S.J. Masterson, Marina Munro, A.R. Newell, M.L. Sheehan, M.D. Smith, P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant, N. Thapa, S. Trussler and Jacqui Vosper (23); ABSTAINED: The Mayor (Cllr J.H. Marsh) (1) and the Amendment was **DECLARED LOST**.

Following further debate, the Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel were put to the meeting. On a Recorded Vote there voted FOR: Cllrs A. Adeola, J. Belbase, J.B. Canty, Sue Carter, D.E. Clifford, P.J. Cullum, A. Gani, M. Hope, L. Jeffers, Prabesh KC, Mara Makunura, S.J. Masterson, Marina Munro, A.R. Newell, M.L. Sheehan, M.D. Smith, P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant, N. Thapa, S. Trussler and Jacqui Vosper (21); AGAINST: Cllrs Gaynor Austin, C.W. Card, Jules Crossley, K. Dibble, Christine Guinness, Nadia Martin, T.W. Mitchell, M.J. Roberts, Sarah Spall and the Deputy Mayor (Cllr C.P. Grattan) (10); ABSTAINED: Cllr M.S. Choudhary and The Mayor (Cllr J.H. Marsh) (2) and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

14. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET**

The Mayor reported that one question had been submitted by Cllr. M.J. Roberts for response by the Leader of the Council on the effect of the economic climate on current projects, expected projects and expenditure for the Council.

In response, Cllr D.E. Clifford stated that the Council was aware of the changing economic environment and had been assessing the impact on the revenue and capital budgets as part of the regular financial monitoring. A report was due to be considered by the Cabinet at its July meeting that would provide Members with an initial assessment of the financial risks from inflation, interest rates and the wider economy.

15. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

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

Cabinet	26th April 2022
Cabinet	7th June 2022
Development Management Committee	13th April 2022
Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee	26th May 2022

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm.
