

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 15th August, 2024 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura (Chairman))
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Leola Card
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Keith Dibble
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Julie Hall
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Ivan Whitmee
Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr Abe Allen
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr Jacqui Vosper
Cllr Becky Williams

Honorary Alderman Tony Gardiner
Honorary Alderman John Marsh

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr A.H. Gani and Cllr M.J. Tennant.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain, the Coleen Kusi-Agyapong, led the meeting in prayers.

18. NOTICE OF MOTION - COMMUNITY TENSION

The Extraordinary meeting of the Council had been called to consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr S. Trussler under Standing Order 9 (1) on the recent tensions in the community.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr S. Trussler, that an amended Motion be considered by the Council, as set out:

"This Council recognises that the Borough has made strong progress in becoming a welcoming and inclusive place for all, but notes that local community tensions have been raised in recent weeks; with residents feeling unheard, fearful or both. We call upon all involved in registering protest to do so in a peaceful manner.

Furthermore, this Council strongly condemns violence and intimidation that threatens our democratic way of life and recognises the exceptional role that our local police services have played in keeping our communities safe in recent times.

In seeking to show strong joined up political leadership, this Council further calls upon:

- the Council's Chief Executive to write to Central Government and our local MP seeking strategic engagement, support and resources to recognise the strain on resources being experienced in Rushmoor's towns;
- the Council to establish a cross-party working group to work with local community groups and leaders to better understand and address community concerns;
- those in the community wishing to make a positive difference to join with the Council to develop an enhanced programme of community engagement events; and
- the Council to make available an initial budget of £50k to enable this work."

In **SECONDING** the amended Motion, Cllr Gareth Williams advised that all political parties were united in wanting the best for the community in the face of the recent uncertainty and expressed his support of the Motion.

The amended Motion was put to the Meeting and was **DECLARED CARRIED** unanimously.

During debate, Members showed unanimous support for the Motion and acknowledged that Rushmoor was a welcoming Borough in which no individual or group should feel unheard and/or fearful, and it was key to ensure that the concerns of the whole community were listened to and heard. It was felt important to harness the power of the community and engage with all to tackle the recent issues. Support was given to the right to protest peacefully, but violence should not be expected or accepted. The pressure on local services provided by Rushmoor Borough and Hampshire County Councils was recognised, and it was important to ensure that Central Government understood the local position.

The **MOTION** was put to the meeting. In a recorded vote there voted **FOR**: Cllrs A. Adeola, Abe Allen, Gaynor Austin, C.W. Card, Leola Card, Sue Carter, A.H. Crawford, Jules Crossley, P.J. Cullum, Thomas Day, Keith Dibble, C.P. Grattan, Lisa Greenway, Christine Guinness, Julie Hall, Steve Harden, Peace Essien-Igodifo, Rhian Jones, Halleh Koohestani, G.B. Lyon, Nadia Martin, S.J. Masterson, T.W. Mitchell, Bill O'Donovan, Sophie Porter, M.J. Roberts, Dhan Sarki, M.D. Smith, Sarah Spall, P.G. Taylor, S. Trussler, Jacqui Vosper, Ivan Whitmee, Becky Williams, Gareth Williams, The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart) and The Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura) (37) **AGAINST**: 0 **ABSTAIN**: 0 and the **MOTION** was **DECLARED CARRIED** unanimously.

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm.
