

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Tuesday, 20th May, 2025 at 7.00 pm.

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

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr Jacqui Vosper
Cllr Becky Williams

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Leola Card
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Keith Dibble
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Julie Hall
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Ivan Whitmee
Cllr Gareth Williams

Honorary Alderman Diane Bedford
Honorary Alderman Sue Dibble
Honorary Alderman Tony Gardiner
Honorary Alderman John Marsh

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Abe Allen, Cllr Nadia Martin and Cllr P.G. Taylor.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Coleen Kusi-Agyapong 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 2025/26. It was **MOVED** by Cllr Keith Dibble; **SECONDED** by Cllr Sophie Porter - That Cllr Calum Stewart be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2026.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **CALUM STEWART** be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2026.

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 CALUM STEWART) IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor thanked his proposer and seconder for their kind words, and the Council for supporting his nomination and placing trust in him to represent the Borough, which he accepted with great pride and humility.

The Mayor announced that he would be standing as an independent during his mayoral year, a move he strongly believed was right for the council at this time. He also reported that he would be re-introducing the Rushmoor Community Award, to be known as the “Mayor’s Award”, at each Council meeting an individual or group would be recognised for their contribution to the Borough. In addition, instead of supporting a number of local charities, the Mayor would be supporting young people to “be the best they can be”. A fund would be established, in collaboration with Alderwood School, aimed at helping to finance aspirational programmes and enrichment opportunities for its students.

The Mayor signified the appointment of his mother, Mrs Shani Stewart as his Mayoress and advised that he would not be appointing a Chaplain, but instead would invite a range of speakers of faith, and none, to address the meetings of the council over the next year, to say a prayer or share some reflections.

2. VOTE OF THANKS

It was MOVED by Cllr M.J. Tennant; SECONDED by Cllr Lisa Greenway and

RESOLVED: That the Council place on record its appreciation of the excellent service rendered by Councillor Mara Makunura as Mayor of the Borough and Ms Salwexeya Makunura as Mayoress during the Municipal Year 2024/25.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Makunura and presented her with a framed, illuminated scroll, together with a Past Mayor's Badge and a Past Mayoress's Badge for Ms Salwexeya Makunura.

In response, Cllr Makunura thanked the proposer and seconder for their kind words. She acknowledged the support of her family, in particular, her husband who had been a “rock” to her throughout the year and her “powerhouse” of a Mayoress and daughter who had juggled a full-time job to support the role of the Mayor and become a great role model for others. She also thanked her Chaplain, Reverend Coleen Kusi-Agyapong, who had been a great support and inspiration to her.

Cllr Makunura thanked officers for their support, in particular Mrs Amanda Hanson for her administrative support and dedication to the role, and Cllr Stewart, in his role as Deputy Mayor, for his support and encouragement during a challenging year of council meetings.

Cllr Makunura referred to some particular highlights of the Mayoral Year, including celebrating 50 years of Rushmoor Borough Council, the opening of Union Yard, Aldershot, Aldershot Town Football Club winning at Wembley and international visits for Meudon, France and Oberursel, Germany. She was also pleased to report that in

excess of £5,000 had been raised for her charities, through fundraising activities such as a fashion show, sponsored walk and charity gala event.

Cllr Makunura stated that it had been an honour of a lifetime to serve as Mayor and wished all a brilliant year.

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 Steve Harden; **SECONDED** by Cllr G.B. Lyon – That Cllr Peter James Cullum be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2026.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **PETER JAMES CULLUM** be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2026.

Cllr P.J. Cullum 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.

The Deputy Mayor signified the appointment of his wife, Mrs Ann Cullum as his Deputy Mayoress.

4. **MINUTES**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Gareth Williams; **SECONDED** by Cllr Sophie Porter and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 10th April 2025 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Thomas Day; **SECONDED** by Cllr Sophie Porter - That Cllr Gareth Williams be appointed Leader of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2026.

There voted **FOR:** 19; **AGAINST:** 11; **ABSTAIN:** 6 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

6. **APPOINTMENTS 2025/26**

The Council were advised of a couple of amendments to the committee appointments, as set out:

1. Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee – Cllr C.P. Grattan to replace Cllr Becky Williams, and

2. Policy and Project Advisory Board – Cllr Becky Williams to replace Cllr C.P. Grattan.

During a discussion, it was noted that some Members felt that the Chairs of Committees should not be appointed by the ruling party and appointments should be made at Committee level. As a result, each section of the appointments would be voted on separately.

It was MOVED by Cllr Gareth Williams and SECONDED by Cllr Sophie Porter – That

(1) Cabinet

It be noted that the following appointments of Cabinet Portfolio Holders and the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2025/26 had been proposed by the Leader of the Council:

Cllr Sophie Porter	Deputy Leader and Healthy Community and Active Lives
Cllr A.H. Crawford	Finance and Resources
Cllr Jules Crossley	Policy, Performance and Sustainability
Cllr Keith Dibble	Housing and Planning
Cllr Christine Guinness	Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services
Cllr Julie Hall	Economy, Skills and Regeneration

There voted FOR: 20; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAIN: 16 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

(2) Committees

The Appointments to Committees for the Municipal Year 2025/26 be approved as follows in accordance with the allocations to achieve political balance:

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Labour: 6	Conservative: 4	Independent: 1
Cllr Gaynor Austin	Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo	Cllr Calum Stewart
Cllr Thomas Day	Cllr A.H. Gani	
Cllr C.P. Grattan	Cllr S.J. Masterson	
Cllr Lisa Greenway	Cllr Jacqui Vosper	
Cllr Dhan Sarki		
Cllr Ivan Whitmee		

Standing Deputies:

Labour:	Conservative:
Cllr Rhian Jones	Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Nadia Martin	Cllr G.B. Lyon

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

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Labour: 6	Conservative: 4	Liberal Democrat: 1
Cllr Gaynor Austin Cllr C.P. Grattan Cllr Rhian Jones Cllr Bill O'Donovan Cllr M.J. Roberts Cllr Sarah Spall	Cllr Sue Carter Cllr P.J. Cullum Cllr P.G. Taylor Cllr Jacqui Vosper	Cllr C.W. Card

Standing Deputies:

Labour: Cllr Thomas Day Cllr Ivan Whitmee	Conservative: Cllr A.H. Gani Cllr S. J. Masterson	Liberal Democrat: Cllr Leola Card Cllr T.W. Mitchell
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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Labour: 6	Conservative: 4	Liberal Democrat: 1
Cllr Abe Allen Cllr Thomas Day Cllr Halleh Koohestani Cllr Nadia Martin Cllr Bill O'Donovan Cllr Becky Williams	Cllr Steve Harden Cllr G.B. Lyon Cllr M.J. Tennant Cllr S. Trussler	Cllr Leola Card

Standing Deputies:

Labour: Cllr Sarah Spall Cllr C.P. Grattan	Conservative: Cllr Ade Adeola Cllr Mara Makunura	Liberal Democrat: Cllr C.W. Card Cllr T.W. Mitchell
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POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Voting Members

Labour: 6	Conservative: 4	Liberal Democrat: 1
Cllr Abe Allen	Cllr Ade Adeola	Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr Lisa Greenway	Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo	
Cllr Rhian Jones	Cllr Mara Makunura	
Cllr Halleh Koohestani	Cllr M.D. Smith	
Cllr M.J. Roberts		
Cllr Ivan Whitmee		

Standing Deputies:

Labour:	Conservative:	Liberal Democrat:
Cllr Dhan Sarki	Cllr Steve Harden	Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Becky Williams	Cllr S.J. Masterson	Cllr Leola Card

There voted FOR: 34; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAIN: 2 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

(3) Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees

The appointment of the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees, as set out below, be approved:

Development Management

Chairman	-	Cllr Gaynor Austin
Vice-Chairman	-	Cllr C.P. Grattan

Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards

Chairman	-	Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Vice-Chairman	-	Cllr Rhian Jones

There voted FOR: 20; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAIN: 16 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

(4) Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Project Advisory Board

The appointment of the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Project Advisory Board as set out below, be approved:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chairman	-	Cllr Halleh Koohestani
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Policy and Project Advisory Board

Chairman	-	Cllr Abe Allen
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There voted FOR: 20; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAIN: 16 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

(5) Management Boards

The appointments to the Management Boards for the Municipal Year 2025/26, as follows, be approved:

The Aldershot Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Lisa Greenway	Cllr Keith Dibble	Cllr S. Trussler
Standing Deputy:	Cllr Nadia Martin	Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo

King George's Field, Farnborough Trust

Cllr Rhian Jones	Cllr Gareth Williams	Cllr P.G. Taylor
Standing Deputy:	Cllr Calum Stewart	Cllr Mara Makunura

The Alfred Henry Goode Will Trust

Cllr G.B. Lyon	Cllr Keith Dibble	Cllr Sophie Porter
Standing Deputies:	Cllr P.J. Cullum	Cllr A. Adeola

There voted FOR: 31; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAIN: 5 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 8.18 pm.
