

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Tuesday, 26th May, 2026 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart (Chairman))
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P.J. Cullum (Vice-Chair))

Cllr A. Adeola	Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr Dave Bell	Cllr Kevin Betsworth
Cllr C.W. Card	Cllr Leola Card
Cllr Sue Carter	Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Keith Dibble	Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Uttar Gurung	Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Julie Hall	Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Sharon Harvey	Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr Steve Masterson	Cllr Rob Matthews
Cllr Sally McGuinness	Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr Sophie Porter	Cllr Mike Roberts
Cllr Dhan Sarki	Cllr Ian Simpson
Cllr Nicky Slater	Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr Paul Taylor	Cllr Ivan Whitmee
Cllr Becky Williams	Cllr Gareth Williams

Honorary Alderman Diane Bedford
Honorary Alderman Terry Bridgeman
Honorary Alderman Tony Gardiner

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Gaynor Austin, Cllr A.H. Crawford, Cllr Rhian Jones, Cllr Halleh Koohestani, Cllr G.B. Lyon, Cllr T.W. Mitchell and Cllr M.J. Tennant.

1. **WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLORS**

The outgoing Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all new councillors to the Council following the local elections: Cllrs Kevin Betsworth, Uttar Gurung, Sharon Harvey, Rob Matthews, Sally McGuinness, Ian Simpson and Nicky Slater. The Council also welcomed back Cllrs Dave Bell and Jib Belbase.

Congratulations were also given to those Members who had been re-elected: Cllrs Craig Card, Mara Makunura, Martin Tennant, Sarah Spall and Ade Adeola.

The Mayor also spoke on behalf of the Council to acknowledge those councillors who had not returned to the Council following the elections and thanked former councillors Jules Crossley, Akmal Gani, Clive Grattan, Nadia Martin, Stuart Trussler, Abe Allen, Peace Essien-Igodifo, Mike Smith and Jacqui Vosper for the service they had given to the Council and the Borough of Rushmoor.

2. **ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH 2026/27**

Nominations were invited for the election of the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2026/27. It was MOVED by Cllr Steve Harden; SECONDED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan - That Cllr P.J. Cullum be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2027.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **PETER JAMES CULLUM** be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2027.

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 P.J. CULLUM) IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor thanked his proposer and seconder, and the Council for endorsing his nomination and placing trust in him to represent the Borough, which he accepted with pride. He committed to always representing the Borough and its residents with impartiality and announced that he would be supporting three charities during his Mayoral year: Diabetes UK, Step by Step and Phyllis Tuckwell.

The Mayor then signified the appointment of his wife, Mrs Ann Cullum as his Mayoress and advised that he was in the process of appointing a Chaplain for future meetings.

3. **VOTE OF THANKS**

It was MOVED by Cllr Keith Dibble; SECONDED by Cllr Gareth Williams and

RESOLVED: That the Council place on record its appreciation of the excellent service rendered by Councillor Calum Stewart as Mayor of the Borough and Mrs Shani Stewart as Mayoress during the Municipal Year 2025/26.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Stewart and presented him with a framed, illuminated scroll, together with a Past Mayor's Badge and a Past Mayoress's Badge for Mrs Shani Stewart.

Cllr Stewart thanked Members and congratulated the Mayor and Mayoress on their appointment. He reflected on his year and the range of experiences he had through the year, from being recognised in Greggs to visiting Buckingham Palace and meeting the King. He described not always feeling instinctively comfortable in the role but that he felt it was an immense privilege and honour to have met so many people who quietly contributed to our community, and that he had the opportunity to experience the Borough in such a unique way. He also acknowledged the hospitality of the Nepali Community and partners in the twin town of Oberursel, which he had been fortunate to visit.

Cllr Stewart announced that £9,000 had been raised for his charity, Step Beyond Alderwood, which would go towards providing support to young people at Alderwood School. He extended a special thanks to Virginia Barrett, Principal - Farnborough

College of Technology, who had supported a dinner at the Galleries earlier in the month, and the local Rotary Clubs and Tamu Dhee Society, who had also supported his fundraising activities.

Cllr Stewart thanked officers for their support, in particular Mrs Amanda Hanson in the Democracy Team who had managed the mayoral diary around his busy schedules. He thanked his Mum, as his Mayoress, for her enormous support and encouragement and extended his thanks to Cllr Cullum, in his role as Deputy Mayor, for his support throughout the year.

In concluding, he remarked that the role of Mayor had reminded him that, despite what we sometimes told ourselves about modern public life, most people were kinder, warmer and more community-minded than we often gave each other credit for. Over the year, he had found himself caring deeply, not just about the role of Mayor, but about what it represented; connection, community, service and belonging.

He thanked all for the enormous privilege and honour of serving the Borough as one of the youngest ever councillors to be elected Mayor of the Borough.

4. **ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Mayor invited nominations for the election of the Deputy Mayor of the Borough. It was **MOVED** by Cllr Mara Makunura; **SECONDED** by Cllr Paul Taylor – That Cllr Jib Belbase be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2027.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **JIB BELBASE** be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2027.

Cllr Jib Belbase then made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

The Deputy Mayor thanked his proposer and seconder for their kind words and the Council for their trust and support in appointing him as Deputy Mayor. He also extended his congratulations to the Mayor and pledged to support him to make his year a success.

The Deputy Mayor signified the appointment of his wife, Mrs Amita Belbase as his Deputy Mayoress.

5. **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 19th March 2026 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

6. **RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Returning Officer, Mr Ian Harrison, submitted his report on the results of the Borough Council Elections held on Thursday, 7th May 2026 (appended to these minutes).

The Council placed on record its thanks and appreciation for the service and dedication given to the Council and the Borough by Cllrs Jules Crossley, A.H. Gani, C.P. Grattan, Nadia Martin and S. Trussler who had been unsuccessful in being re-elected and Cllrs Abe Allen, Peace Essien-Igodifo, M.D. Smith and Jacqui Vosper who did not seek re-election.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

7. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor reported on his first engagements as Mayor, which would include:

- Rotary's Kids Day Out on 10th June;
- The Lord Lieutenant's Reception for New Mayors and Council Chairmen at Serles House on 22nd June; and
- National Armed Forces Day Event on 27th and 28th June.

The Mayor also advised that he was planning some charity fundraising events including a Civic Dinner in March 2027.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Sophie Porter; **SECONDED** by Cllr Julie Hall - That Cllr Gareth Williams be appointed Leader of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2027.

There voted **FOR:** 18; **AGAINST:** 0; **ABSTAIN:** 14 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

9. **APPOINTMENTS 2026/27**

The Council were advised of a couple of amendments to the committee appointments that had been circulated with the Council Book agenda:

1. Development Management Committee – Cllr Jib Belbase to replace Cllr Mara Makunura and Standing Deputies to be Cllrs Paul Taylor and Mara Makunura,
2. Policy and Project Advisory Board – Cllr Mara Makunura to replace Cllr Jib Belbase, and
3. Audit and Governance Committee – Cllr Steve Masterson to be added as Standing Deputy.

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 2026/27 had been made by the Leader of the Council:

Cllr Sophie Porter	Deputy Leader and Healthy Community and Active Lives
Cllr Gaynor Austin	Finance and Resources
Cllr Keith Dibble	Housing, Planning and Property
Cllr Christine Guinness	Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services
Cllr Julie Hall	Economy, Skills and Regeneration

(2) **Committees**

The Appointments to Committees for the Municipal Year 2026/27 be approved as follows in accordance with the allocations to achieve political balance:

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Labour: 4

Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Nicky Slater
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Conservative: 3

Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Steve Masterson

Reform: 2

Cllr Dave Bell
Cllr Kevin Betsworth

Other: 1

Cllr Calum Stewart

Ind: 1

Cllr Becky Williams

Standing Deputies:

Labour:

Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr Sarah Spall

Conservative:

Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr Paul Taylor

Reform:

Cllr Sharon Harvey
Cllr Rob Matthews

Others:

Cllr Craig Card
Cllr Leola Card

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

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Labour: 5

Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr Sarah Spall

Conservative: 3

Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Paul Taylor
Cllr M.J. Tennant

Reform: 1

Cllr Ian Simpson

Others: 2

Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr T.W. Mitchell

Standing Deputies:

Labour:

Cllr Nicky Slater
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Conservative:

Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr Steve Masterson

Reform:

Cllr Kevin Betsworth
Cllr Sharon Harvey

Others:

Cllr Leola Card
Cllr Calum Stewart

LICENSING AND CORPORATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Labour: 5

Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr Sarah Spall

Conservative: 3

Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Steve Masterson

Reform: 2

Cllr Dave Bell
Cllr Kevin Betsworth

Others:

Cllr C.W. Card

Standing Deputies:

(not licensing hearings)

Labour:

Cllr Uttar Gurung
Cllr Mike Roberts

Conservative:

Cllr Paul Taylor

Reform:

Cllr Sally McGuinness
Cllr Ian Simpson

Others:

Cllr Leola Card
Cllr Calum Stewart

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**Voting Members****Labour: 5**

Cllr Uttar Gurung
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr Mike Roberts
Cllr Nicky Slater
Cllr Sarah Spall

Conservative: 3

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr G.B. Lyon

Reform: 2

Cllr Kevin Betsworth
Cllr Sally McGuinness

Others:

Cllr Halleh Koohestani

Standing Deputies:**Labour:**

Cllr A. H. Crawford
Cllr Lisa Greenway

Conservative:

Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr M.J. Tennant

Reform:

Cllr Sharon Harvey
Cllr Rob Matthews

Others:

Cllr C.W Card
Cllr Leola Card

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Voting Members

Labour: 5

Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Uttar Gurung
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Mike Roberts

Conservative: 2

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Mara Makunura

Reform: 2

Cllr Sharon Harvey
Cllr Rob Matthews

Others:

Cllr Leola Card
Cllr Calum Stewart

Standing Deputies:

Labour:

Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Conservative:

Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr Steve Masterson

Reform:

Cllr Dave Bell
Cllr Kevin Betsworth

Others:

Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Halleh Koohestani

(3) Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Committees

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

Development Management

Chair - Cllr Calum Stewart
Vice-Chair - Cllr Steve Masterson

Audit and Governance

Chair - Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Vice-Chair - Cllr Martin Tennant

Licensing and Corporate Business

Chair - Cllr Sarah Spall
Vice-Chair - Cllr Sue Carter

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

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

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair - Cllr Halleh Koohestani

Policy and Project Advisory Board

Chair - Cllr Thomas Day

(5) **Council's Trust Management Boards**

The appointments to the Management Boards for the Municipal Year 2026/27, as follows, be approved:

The Aldershot Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Jib Belbase Cllr Kevin Betsworth Cllr Keith Dibble

Standing Deputy: Cllr Lisa Greenway

King George's Field, Farnborough Trust

Cllr Calum Stewart Cllr Paul Taylor Cllr Gareth Williams

Standing Deputy: Cllr Rhian Jones

The Alfred Henry Goode Will Trust

Cllr Kevin Betsworth Cllr Sophie Porter Cllr Paul Taylor

Standing Deputy: Cllr Keith Dibble

There voted FOR: 30; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAIN: 2 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm.
