

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Offices,
Farnborough on Thursday, 30th July, 2015 at 7.20 p.m.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (CR. M.J. TENNANT, B.Sc.)
THE DEPUTY MAYOR (CR. JACQUI VOSPER)

CR. MRS. D.B. BEDFORD	CR. R. HUGHES
CR. D.M.T. BELL	CR. BARBARA J. HURST, B.A., M.A.
CR. T.D. BRIDGEMAN, B.A. (Hons.)	CR. A. JACKMAN, B.Sc.
CR. SUE CARTER	CR. B. JONES, M.Sc., A.R.C.S.,
CR. M.S. CHOUDHARY, M.A.	M.N.E.I.M.M.E., C.Eng., M.I.E.T.,
a CR. SOPHIA CHOUDHARY, L.L.B.	M.B.C.S., C.I.T.P.
CR. D.E. CLIFFORD, M.P.A., M.C.M.I.	CR. G.B. LYON, B.A. (Oxon)
CR. R. COOPER	CR. J.H. MARSH, C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E.
CR. LIZ CORPS, N.N.D., A.T.D.	CR. S.J. MASTERSON
CR. A.H. CRAWFORD, J.P., B.Sc.,	CR. P.J. MOYLE
A.R.C.S., Dip.Man. (Open).	CR. K.H. MUSCHAMP
CR. P.I.C. CRERAR, B.A. (Hons.),	CR. A.R. NEWELL
M.Arch., M.A.	CR. J.J. PREECE
CR. K. DIBBLE, M.A.F.M., B.I.F.M.	CR. M.J. ROBERTS, B.Sc., F.R.S.A.
CR. SUE DIBBLE	CR. P.F. RUST, A.I.M.E.E., M.I.S.M.
CR. R.L.G. DIBBS	CR. M.D. SMITH
CR. JENNIFER M. EVANS, B.Sc.,	CR. M. STAPLEHURST
M.Sc.	CR. L.A. TAYLOR
CR. A.M. FERRIER	CR. P.G. TAYLOR, A.C.I.B.
a CR. D.S. GLADSTONE	CR. B.A. THOMAS
CR. C.P. GRATTAN	CR. D.M. WELCH

Honorary Alderman C. Balchin J.P.

a Honorary Alderman R.J. Debenham, M.B.E.

a Honorary Alderman R.J. Kimber

Honorary Alderman G.J. Woolger

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Crs. Sophia Choudhary
and D.S. Gladstone.

19. **MINUTES** –

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. K.H. Muschamp
and

RESOLVED: That, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
held on 25th June, 2015 (copy having been circulated previously) be
taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record:

20. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

- (1) The Mayor reported that it had been a great pleasure and honour to welcome the Dalai Lama to the Borough when he visited Aldershot on 29th June, 2015 to open the Buddhist Community Centre adjoining Aldershot Town Football Club. Following his visit to the monastery there, the Dalai Lama attended the Football Club's ground where he addressed an invited audience of around 7,000.
- (2) The Mayor reported that he had been at the Rushmoor Voluntary Services celebration event on 22nd July which had acknowledged the contributions that had been made by trustees and committee members of local voluntary organisations. The Mayor acknowledged the vital management and guidance provided by such volunteers to the work of their organisations.
- (3) The Mayor informed Members of the various fundraising activities for his nominated charities during his Mayoral Year. Firstly, the Mayor referred to the request for family favourite recipes for his charity recipe book. Secondly, he referred to the charity cycle ride to take place on Sunday, 6th September and hoped that as many Members as possible would support this event. Thirdly, the Mayor drew Members' attention to his charity golf tournament which would take place on Friday, 18th September 2015 at Southwood Golf Course.
- (4) The Mayor then presented Cr. Sue Dibble with a long service medal. Cr. Sue Dibble had completed 20 years' service in local government with Rushmoor. Cr. Dibble had been elected to Belle Vue Ward in 1995 – now North Town Ward – which she had represented ever since. Over the years, Cr. Dibble had served on many of the Council's committees and panels under the present and previous decision making systems. She had also held the position of Chairman of the Development Management Committee from 1998 to 2000. Cr. Dibble had also been a Member of the Environment Policy and Review Panel since 2001 and the Development Management Committee, in its various forms, since 1998.

Cr. Dibble had represented the Council on several outside bodies, and in particular the Connaught Leisure Centre Management Committee since 2000 and the Mayor stated that these organisations, as well as the Council, had benefitted from her depth of knowledge and great ability over the years.

The Mayor congratulated Cr. Dibble on achieving this milestone in service at Rushmoor and thanked her for her service to the North Town Ward and to the Borough as a whole.

Cr. Dibble addressed the meeting and thanked her family for their support over her 20 years as a Councillor and particularly her parents for instilling in her the importance of standing up for what she believed in and trying to make a difference, no matter how small the issue, which she felt was what being a councillor was all about.

21. STANDING ORDER 8 – QUESTIONS –

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted in pursuance of Standing Order 8(3).

22. NOTICE OF MOTION – WELFARE SPENDING –

The Council was asked to consider the following Motion, which had been submitted by Cr. A.H. Crawford in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9 (1). It was **MOVED** by Cr. A.H. Crawford; **SECONDED** by Cr. P.F. Rust - That

“Given that the 8th July Budget will on average reduce the income of working people on tax credits, this Council recognises the need to invest in services and support partners in order to mitigate the adverse effects on residents of Rushmoor and asks the Directors’ Management Board to draw up suitable plans for consideration by the Cabinet as a matter of urgency.”

Speaking in support of his Motion, Cr. Crawford referred to the announcement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Emergency July Budget that cuts in spending on welfare of £12 billion would be made by 2019-20. The biggest cut to tax credits would be the reduction to the work allowances in Universal Credit. The biggest cut to welfare spending would come from extending the freeze in working-age benefits, tax credits and local housing allowance through to 2020. It was understood that the freeze would affect 13 million families nationally, who would lose an average of £260 a year as a result of this measure. He felt that this represented a shift in the design of the Universal Credit system as these allowances had originally been intended to give claimants incentives to move into work. Furthermore, it was understood that this budget change would cost about 3 million families nationally an average of £1,000 per year each. It would also reduce the incentive for the first earner in a family to get into work. The changes in the current tax credit system would have much the same effect.

Cr. Crawford felt that the Council needed to know who was affected locally in order to help people where the Council could. Cr. Crawford was of the opinion that many of the gainers from the higher national minimum wage would be single childless people or those married to someone on higher earnings, so they would be outside the tax credit system altogether. Overall nationally, the increase in employment income from the higher national minimum wage would be about £4 billion by 2020. However, welfare spending as a whole was due to fall by £12 billion and tax credit spending was due to be cut by £6 billion.

Cr. Crawford called on the Council to recognise the need to invest in services and to support partners in order to mitigate the adverse effects on residents of Rushmoor and the need to ask the Directors' Management Board to draw up suitable plans for consideration by the Cabinet as a matter of urgency.

During the debate on the Motion, the view was expressed by some that the Council had already put in place measures to support residents who were struggling financially (e.g. Council Tax Support Scheme) and a cross-party task and finish group had also already been established to examine welfare system issues. It was therefore felt that the measures proposed in the Motion were unnecessary and that the Motion should not be supported.

The Motion was put to the Meeting. There voted FOR: 11, AGAINST: 22 and the Motion was **DECLARED LOST**.

23. **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CABINET – DEVOLUTION: PROPOSALS FOR A HAMPSHIRE-WIDE COMBINED AUTHORITY –**

The Leader of the Council (Cr. P.J. Moyle) introduced the Report of the Cabinet, which recommended the development of a proposal with other Hampshire and Isle of Wight authorities to bring about devolution of powers and responsibilities from central Government to the wider Hampshire area.

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. R.L.G. Dibbs – That

- (i) the local discussions on the devolution of powers and responsibilities be noted;
- (ii) the actions taken by the Leader, through the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association, in supporting the principle of a Combined Hampshire Authority as a basis for developing a devolution deal for the area be endorsed;
- (iii) the principle of the Leader and Chief Executive working alongside colleagues in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to develop a model for devolution which met local needs be agreed; and
- (iv) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to approve the initial proposal for submission to Government.

There voted: FOR: 34; AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

24. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET –**

The Mayor reported that three questions had been submitted for Cabinet Members:

- (1) Cr. L.A. Taylor asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services about the Council's pay agreements for its directly employed staff and whether these would continue to abide by the "real" living wage as defined by the Living Wage Foundation.

In response, Cr. Taylor stated that, as a result of a Council resolution in 2013, staff had been moved to the Living Wage. This hourly rate had been uprated each year in line with the recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation and currently stood at £7.85 per hour. It was noted that the proposed National Living Wage of £7.20 per hour was less than the current payment by Rushmoor of £7.85, so the existing arrangements would stay in place. The situation would be monitored as more details emerged. The Council intended that staff would not be disadvantaged by any changes.

- (2) Cr. M.J. Roberts asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Service Delivery about the number of stop and planning compliance notices that had been issued in the previous twelve months as far as housing was concerned and what roads the properties were situated in.

In response, Cr. Dibbs stated that no stop notices had been issued and that there was no such thing as a planning compliance notice.

- (3) Cr. B. Jones asked a question of the Leader of the Council regarding the current position with respect to the Marks and Spencer store in Aldershot.

In response, Cr. Moyle stated his deep disappointment that it appeared that the Marks and Spencer store in Aldershot would be closing despite strong representations made by the Council, the local Member of Parliament - Sir Gerald Howarth MP, other interested parties and residents. Cr. Moyle confirmed that the Council would be following up the issue and a progress report would be issued to all Members. The Council would continue with its plans for Union Street in Aldershot and this would now embrace the Marks and Spencer store premises.

25. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES –**

- (1) **Cabinet –**

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. K.H. Muschamp and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 30th June, 2015 (Para. Nos. 54 - 64) be received.

- (2) **Cabinet –**

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. K.H. Muschamp and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 14th July, 2015 (Para. Nos. 65 – 67) be received.

(3) **Development Management Committee –**

It was MOVED by Cr. G.B. Lyon; SECONDED by Cr. B.A. Thomas and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Management Committee held on 24th June, 2015 (Para. Nos. 68 – 80) be received.

(4) **Licensing and General Purposes Committee –**

It was MOVED by Cr. A.M. Ferrier; SECONDED by Cr. S.J. Masterson and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 29th June, 2015 (Para. Nos. 81 - 82) be received.

(5) **Standards and Audit Committee –**

It was MOVED by Cr. J.H. Marsh; SECONDED by Cr. A.M. Ferrier and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Standards and Audit Committee held on 2nd July, 2015 (Para. Nos. 83 – 88).

26. **REPORTS OF POLICY AND REVIEW PANELS –**

RESOLVED: That the Reports of the undermentioned meetings of the Policy and Review Panels be received:

POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL	DATE OF MEETING	PARA. NOS. RECEIVED
Environment	9th June, 2015	89 – 95
Community	11th June, 2015	96 – 101
Borough Services	15th June, 2015	102 - 108

The Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.
