

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Offices,
Farnborough on Thursday, 23rd April, 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (CR. MRS. D.B. BEDFORD)
THE DEPUTY MAYOR (CR. M.J. TENNANT, B.Sc.)

CR. D.M.T. BELL	CR. R. HUGHES
CR. T.D. BRIDGEMAN, B.A. (Hons.)	CR. BARBARA J. HURST, B.A., M.A.
CR. SUE CARTER	CR. A. JACKMAN, B.Sc.
a CR. A.M.J. CHAINEY	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.,
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.	a CR. G.B. LYON, B.A. (Oxon)
CR. LIZ CORPS, N.N.D., A.T.D.	CR. J.H. MARSH, C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E.
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. J.J. PREECE
M.Arch., M.A.	CR. M.J. ROBERTS, B.Sc., F.R.S.A.
CR. K. DIBBLE, M.A.F.M., B.I.F.M.	CR. P.F. RUST, A.I.M.E.E., M.I.S.M.
CR. SUE DIBBLE	CR. M.D. SMITH
CR. R.L.G. DIBBS	CR. M. STAPLEHURST
CR. JENNIFER M. EVANS, B.Sc.,	CR. L.A. TAYLOR
M.Sc.	CR. P.G. TAYLOR, A.C.I.B.
CR. A.M. FERRIER	CR. B.A. THOMAS
CR. D.S. GLADSTONE	CR. JACQUI VOSPER
CR. C.P. GRATTAN	CR. D.M. WELCH

a Honorary Alderman C. Balchin J.P.
a Honorary Alderman R.J. Debenham, M.B.E.
Honorary Alderman R.J. Kimber
a Honorary Alderman G.J. Woolger

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Crs. A.M.J. Chainey and G.B. Lyon.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Ian Hedges, led the meeting in Prayers.

67. **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 26th February, 2015 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

68. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- (1) The Mayor reported that she had had the pleasure of being at the opening of the new regular Tuesday market in Farnborough on 3rd March, 2015 at the market's new permanent home in Queensmead. This was a new venture for the Council, having brought in-house both the weekly Aldershot and Farnborough markets and car boot sales. The improvements in content, appearance and footfall had already provided a big boost for the vitality of the town centre and the Mayor was confident that Aldershot would soon be enjoying the same success following the completion of the ongoing environmental improvement works.
- (2) The Mayor referred to two fundraising events for the Mayor's charities. Firstly, there had been a quiz night at Wavell School on 20th March, 2015 and, secondly, an Afternoon Tea Party on 2nd April at the Council Offices. The two events had raised over £1,300 for the Mayor's Charities.
- (3) The Mayor reported that Barbara Donaghue had resigned from the Council with effect from 16th March, 2015 due to changes in her personal circumstances within her family and the decision to move back to Middlesborough. This meant that there would be two seats on the Council up for election in the West Heath Ward at the forthcoming local elections on 7th May, 2015.

The Mayor also reported that Cr. Alan Chainey would not be seeking re-election at the local elections. Cr. Chainey had served on the Council for eight years. The Mayor extended the Council's best wishes for the future to Barbara Donaghue and Alan Chainey and also wished all Members who were standing for election in the Borough Council elections well in their endeavours.

69. STANDING ORDER 8 – QUESTIONS –

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

70. NOTICE OF MOTION – CO-LOCATION PROJECTS –

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. Jennifer Evans

"We call upon this Council, when considering co-location projects, to take into account the needs of Aldershot residents for jobs and services, and the need for public investment in Aldershot to show commitment to the future of the town."

Speaking in support of his Motion, Cr. Crawford referred to the issue of Council Offices co-location, which had been considered by the Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel at a recent meeting. The report considered by the Panel had set out all the options for the period ahead, from the point of view of the Council and the productivity of the Farnborough office. Cr. Crawford felt that, however good the returns to this Council by extending the facilities at these offices to take in more people and more partners: front-of-house Police; 24/7 operation for the Police; the Police Targeted Patrol Team; Hampshire Children's Services; and, Hampshire Registration Service, all of these would involve relocation from Aldershot. Cr. Crawford asked Members to imagine what it would be like in the parts of Aldershot currently occupied by these services if all these sites were vacant in eighteen months' time.

Cr. Crawford referred to the Council and Grainger's spending of £4.5 million on Activation Aldershot, including resurfacing the stretch of Grosvenor Road that ran between the Aldershot Police Station and where other derelict buildings and vacant sites could be located. Although Cr. Crawford recognised that co-location might be a good return for the Council, he felt it might not be so for the residents of Aldershot, whose public buildings could potentially be abandoned and whose jobs moved to Farnborough, all for the sake of cutting the costs of Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Children's Services and Hampshire Registration Service, and increasing the income of this Council.

Cr. Crawford was of the opinion that these authorities and Rushmoor needed to accept some responsibility for the potentially adverse effects of co-location on Aldershot. As the Motion said, they needed to take into account the needs of residents of Aldershot for jobs and services, and the need for public investment in Aldershot to show commitment to the future of the town.

In seconding the Motion, Cr. Jennifer Evans referred to the potential lack of understanding of the wants and needs of the residents of Aldershot. Cr. Evans was of the opinion that many Aldershot residents felt neglected and ignored with the Council Offices being sited in Farnborough and the local point of contact in Princes Gardens having been closed down several years ago. Cr. Evans felt that these new proposed closures of civic buildings, and consequent loss of easy access to services, such as the police or social services, seemed to Aldershot residents to be a further example of neglect.

Cr. Evans was also of the opinion that there was a democratic deficit with regard to how decisions were made for and about Aldershot. She felt that the main decision-making body of the Council – the Cabinet – consisted of seven Members, but only one of these was an Aldershot councillor. It was also Cr. Evans' opinion that Aldershot's voice was not heard where the main decisions were being made. Cr. Evans urged all councillors from Aldershot to stand up for the town and support the Motion.

During a debate, the view was expressed that access to the Council Offices in Farnborough was difficult for those Aldershot residents who relied on public transport where they did not have easy access to the Route 1 bus service.

Reassurance was sought that the issues of transport would be taken into account when consolidation and co-location were considered.

Members then made reference to the impressive range of services that were located in Aldershot (e.g. Princes Hall, the Centre for Health, Lido, Aldershot Urban Extension) which equally had transport and access implications for Farnborough residents. It was pointed out that the Lido had been a cost implication issue for the Borough for many years, but that the Council had never said that the facility would be closed. Options for the future use of the Lido site had been put out to consultation with residents. It was also pointed out that 75% of the users of the Lido came from outside of the Borough and that this was a factor which needed to be taken into account when considering the future use of the site.

The view was expressed that it was not right to say that the Cabinet was not committed to Aldershot. It was also pointed out that it was Hampshire County Council and the Police who were consolidating their presence in the Borough and not Rushmoor Borough Council. It was recognised that co-location would generate income for Rushmoor and would save costs for the County whilst also putting the Council Offices in Farnborough to the best possible use. Rushmoor was trying to do the best it could for all parties concerned and was looking at the bigger picture from which everyone would benefit. It was also confirmed that a Police presence in Aldershot would be retained.

It was then pointed out that the Motion gave a distorted view of the issues concerned and made no reference to the investment in public and private sectors. The co-location of Hampshire County Council services had been driven by customer demand and was aimed at ensuring that services remained effective. The income generated by the co-location of services had contributed to the Council being able to freeze the Council Tax level for a further year.

Several Members also referred to themselves as Rushmoor councillors and not just of Aldershot or Farnborough. It was stated by some that matters affecting Aldershot received just as much consideration as those affecting Farnborough.

In summing up, Cr. Crawford requested that, when there were detailed discussions with different authorities about co-location, consideration should be given to the needs of the residents of Aldershot. He also suggested that, if properties were going to be left vacant, suitable alternative use of the buildings should be sought so that Aldershot was not left with empty properties for long periods of time.

The Motion was put to the Meeting. On a Recorded Vote, there voted FOR: Crs. D.M.T. Bell, T.D. Bridgeman, A.H. Crawford, Keith Dibble, Sue Dibble, Jennifer Evans, C.P. Grattan, B. Jones, J.J. Preece, M.J. Roberts, P.F. Rust, M. Staplehurst and L.A. Taylor (13); AGAINST: Crs. Sue Carter, M.S. Choudhary, D.E. Clifford, Liz Corps, P.I.C. Crerar, R.L.G. Dibbs, A.M. Ferrier, D.S. Gladstone, R. Hughes, Barbara Hurst, A. Jackman, J.H. Marsh, P.J. Moyle, K.H. Muschamp, M.D. Smith, P.G. Taylor, B.A. Thomas, Jacqui Vosper and D.M.

Welch (19); ABSTAINED: The Deputy Mayor (Cr. M.J. Tennant) and the Mayor (Cr. Mrs. D.B. Bedford) (2) and the Motion was **DECLARED LOST**.

71. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES –**

Review of Contract Standing Orders –

The Chairman of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee (Cr. M.J. Tennant) introduced the Report of the Committee which recommended revised Contract Standing Orders for adoption as part of the Council's Constitution.

It was MOVED by Cr. M.J. Tennant; SECONDED by Cr. A.M. Ferrier – That approval be given to the revised Contract Standing Orders, as set out in the Report.

There voted FOR: 33; AGAINST: 0 and the recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

72. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET –**

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

(1) Cr. P.I.C. Crerar asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Youth about the future of the Aldershot Lido.

In response, Cr. Sue Carter stated that there were no plans to close the Aldershot Lido. Funding remained in the Council's budget for the facility, which operated at a deficit of £170,000 annually. The cross-party Lido Working Group had identified various options, which had been the subject of widespread public consultation. The narrow majority of responses was for the facility to be converted into a splash pad facility. In considering the issue further, the Cabinet had agreed to re-convene the Working Group to explore the extent of public support and interest in getting actively involved in securing the future of this historic facility whilst reducing the annual subsidy.

(2) Cr. J.J. Preece asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Service Delivery about the provision of late night toilets in Aldershot town centre.

In response, Cr. Dibbs stated that the issue had not yet been progressed, but would be discussed at an informal meeting of the Cabinet following the Parliamentary and Local Elections. Cr. Dibbs said that initial investigations regarding the provision of such a facility had revealed that such a facility would cost over £100,000 at a time when the Council was trying to save money. Cr. Dibbs would be recommending that the issue should be taken back to the Environment Policy and Review Panel to consider other solutions.

(3) Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Business, Safety and Regulation about initiatives in place to tackle recent burglaries and gold thefts in the Borough that had been particularly targeted at Nepalese residents.

In response, Cr. Muschamp informed Members of the extensive programme of enforcement activity by the Police concerning such burglaries and thefts. A Silver Community Confidence Group had been set up to address community concerns and provide reassurance about the police response.

(4) Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Health and Housing about Accent Peerless Housing Association and structural surveys of Stafford House and Alexander House in Station Road, Aldershot.

In response, Cr. R. Hughes stated that he was pleased to confirm that the Council was holding Accent Peerless to account in relation to the issues that had arisen at Stafford House and Alexander House. There had been regular contact with the Housing Association, including a meeting with its Chief Executive and senior staff. Cr. Hughes had been advised that a full structural survey had been carried out on 27th March, 2015 by Savills Surveyors in partnership with a firm of structural engineers. Cr. Hughes had been reassured that this had been a very comprehensive survey which had included taking samples of the concrete structure and this was currently being tested by a laboratory with the final report due to be published during the week commencing 4th May, 2015.

Cr. Hughes was also able to confirm that a separate report had been carried out on the lifts and recommendations had been identified for refurbishment. Accent Peerless was obtaining quotations for the work and had confirmed its intention to consult with the residents. Cr. Hughes reassured Members that the issues concerned had been taken very seriously and would continue to be monitored closely until the Council was satisfied that all of the necessary remedial and improvement works had been completed.

Cr. Hughes also confirmed that there had been no further episodes of flooding or major disrepair issues over the previous few months and hoped that this continued to be the case.

(5) Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Service Delivery about parking services systems thinking review.

In response, Cr. R.L.G. Dibbs stated that this had not been a Member led review. The review had been completed in December, 2014 and since that time various measures had been implemented as a result of the systems thinking review.

73. **POLICY AND REVIEW PANELS – ANNUAL REPORTS 2014/15 –**

(1) **Borough Services Policy and Review Panel –**

The Chairman of the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel, Cr. Barbara Hurst, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2014/15.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel be noted.

(2) **Community Policy and Review Panel –**

The Chairman of the Community Policy and Review Panel, Cr. M.D. Smith, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2014/15.

Cr. B. Jones asked a question of the Chairman regarding whether the Panel had considered including in its work programme for 2015/16 an examination of the desirability of extending the Borough's scheme for licensing Houses in Multiple Occupation beyond the minimum property coverage by law up to the maximum coverage permitted.

In response, Cr. Smith stated that the regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation was currently a topical issue in the Borough and had been discussed in some detail at the Panel's last meeting when a workshop had been held on private sector housing issues. There had been some changes in regulatory controls, including the potential for Selective Licensing, which the Panel would want to debate in the forthcoming municipal year. Cr. Smith was confident that the Panel's mid-cycle group would give serious consideration to including a review of available Houses in Multiple Occupation regulatory powers on the Panel's work programme, mindful of the concerns which existed within the Borough.

Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding what initiatives were in place to increase the effectiveness of the Registered Provider Review Panel in calling housing associations to account where there was a failure to maintain properties to a good housing standard.

In response, Cr. Smith stated that he had been pleased with the effective cross-party scrutiny carried out by the Registered Provider Review Panel, when housing associations had been held to account in a thorough and constructive way. This had led to improvements in performance by registered providers for the benefit of tenants and leaseholders. One example of this had been to include site visits which had provided worthwhile and beneficial information to the Panel. Cr. Smith was confident that, in planning the work programme for the following municipal year, the mid-cycle group would reflect on events during the previous year to see if there was scope for further developing its approach.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Community Policy and Review Panel be noted.

(3) **Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel –**

The Chairman of the Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel, Cr. Jacqui Vosper, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2014/15.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Corporate Services Policy and Review Panel be noted.

(4) **Environment Policy and Review Panel –**

The Chairman of the Environment Policy and Review Panel, Cr. D.E. Clifford, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2014/15.

Cr. J.J. Preece asked a question of the Chairman regarding further options to be explored by the Panel following the decision not to implement a late night levy.

In response, Cr. Clifford explained that his recollection of the last meeting of the Panel was that the Panel had agreed to take no further action on the late night levy. The Panel had asked for some more information on licensing tools and this had been sent to the Panel Members at the end of January. Cr. Clifford was aware that neither Cr. Preece nor any other Member had raised this either with the officers or at the mid-cycle meeting since, but agreed that it could be reviewed at the next meeting of the mid-cycle group.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Environment Policy and Review Panel be noted.

(5) **Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel –**

The Chairman of the Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel, Cr. Liz Corps presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2014/15.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel be noted.

74. **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 3rd March, 2015 (Para. Nos. 324 - 330) 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 31st March, 2015 (Para. Nos. 331 - 339) be received.

(3) **Development Management Committee –**

It was MOVED by Cr. B.A. Thomas; SECONDED by Cr. Barbara Hurst and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Management Committee held on 4th March, 2015 (Para. Nos. 340 – 348) be received.

(4) **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 meeting held on 9th March, 2015 (Para. Nos. 349 – 351) be received.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 30th March, 2015 (Para. Nos. 352 - 358) be received.

(6) **Development Management Committee –**

It was MOVED by Cr. B.A. Thomas; SECONDED by Cr. Barbara Hurst and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Management Committee held on 1st April, 2015 (Para. Nos. 359 – 363) be received.

75. **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
Leisure and Youth	16th March, 2015	364 – 366
Corporate Services	19th March, 2015	367 – 372
Borough Services	23rd March, 2015	373 – 376
Environment	24th March, 2015	377 – 379
Community	26th March, 2015	380 – 385

The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.
