

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Offices,
Farnborough on Thursday, 20th April, 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (CR. JACQUI M. VOSPER)
THE DEPUTY MAYOR (CR. SOPHIA CHOUDHARY, L.L.B.)

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

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 received on behalf of Crs. D.S. Gladstone,
M. Staplehurst and J.E. Woolley.

Before the meeting was opened, the meeting was led in prayers by the
Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Steve Stewart.

47. **MINUTES –**

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22nd February and the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23rd February, 2017 (copies having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as correct records of the proceedings.

48. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- (1) The Mayor announced that Councillor Sue Carter had been married to Mr. Ian White on 4th March, 2017 at St. John's Church in Cove, with Reverend Steve Stewart (the Mayor's Chaplain) officiating. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor extended warm congratulations to the couple for a wonderful future together.
- (2) The Mayor reported that she had hosted a Charity Ball at Princes Hall on 10th March, 2017 which had raised approximately £2,500. She thanked all Members who had supported the event.
- (3) The Mayor stated that she had felt honoured to have been invited to attend a reception to celebrate the bicentenary of bilateral relations between Nepal and the UK at the Embassy of Nepal in London on 20th March.
- (4) The Mayor referred to the sad death of former councillor, Dave Thomas, who had passed away at the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice on 25th March, 2017. Mr. Thomas had been elected to Rushmoor Borough Council in May 2000 to serve the residents of the then Cove Ward and to the West Heath Ward in May 2006 and had been re-elected in 2010. He had served his residents well and had been a much-loved councillor.
- (5) The Mayor reported that she had attended the Ahmidiyya Muslim Association National Peace Symposium at the Mosque in Morden on 25th March, 2017. It had been a huge event held at the largest mosque in Western Europe. The event promoted a deeper understanding of Islam and other faiths and sought to inspire a concerted effort for lasting peace.
- (6) The Mayor reported that, on 31st March, 2017, she had hosted an Easter Afternoon Tea which had raised £617. The Mayor thanked all those who had supported the event and particularly Cr. Jennifer Evans for baking a delicious selection of cakes. The Mayor expressed her appreciation of the tremendous support given by Cr. Evans to her Afternoon Tea fundraising events and to those of other Mayors before her too.
- (7) The Mayor reported that she had hosted a reception for former councillor Peter Moyle on 6th April, 2017 to mark his 27 years' service to the Council and the Borough of Rushmoor following his resignation on 21st March, 2017. She thanked all who had attended to thank him

and to wish him well for the future as he and his wife, Jill, moved to a new home in the West Country.

- (8) The Mayor reported that, on 8th April, 2017, the Mayor's Charity Committee had organised a walk around Southwood Woodland, which had been led by local historian, Mrs. Jo Gosney. The walk had been followed by a cream tea at Southwood Community Centre, which had been prepared by members of Southwood Church. The Mayor was pleased that the walk had been very well supported and thanked all those who had organised the event and taken part. The Mayor was pleased to report that the event had raised £257 for her charities.
- (9) The Mayor extended her best wishes to all those Members standing for election at the County Council elections and also the St. John's Ward By-Election. She wished them well in their endeavours.

49. STANDING ORDER 8 – QUESTIONS –

The Mayor reported that a question had been submitted by Cr. T.D. Bridgeman for response by the Chairman of the Development Management Committee (Cr. B.A. Thomas) in respect of enforcement notices which had been placed on the former Beehive Public House, No. 264 High Street, Aldershot and the Old Warehouse, Star Yard, Aldershot in pursuance of Standing Order 8(3).

In response, Cr. Thomas stated that it had been confirmed in a report to the Development Management Committee on 29th March, 2017 that the requirements of the enforcement notice in respect of The Old Warehouse, Star Yard, Aldershot had been satisfactorily complied with when the property had been inspected on 28th March, 2017. With regard to The Beehive, No. 264 High Street, Aldershot, it had been reported that, when inspected on 27th March, 2017, the unauthorised residential use had ceased but some of the work required to remove internal partitions was still in progress. A further visit to the premises would take place in advance of the next meeting of the Development Management Committee on 26th April, 2017 and Members of the Committee would be advised of progress.

50. NOTICE OF MOTION – WELFARE REFORM –

The Council was asked to consider the following Motion, which had been submitted by Cr. Jennifer Evans in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9 (1). It was MOVED by Cr. Jennifer Evans; SECONDED by Cr. T.D. Bridgeman – That

“This Council is mindful of the financial pressures on some of our residents as a result of cuts to benefits introduced in the new financial year. These impact particularly on single parent families and those recently widowed. This Council will monitor the effects of the cuts to ensure that families have the resources they need to maintain their health and well-being. This Council will make the Government aware of any negative impacts of the cuts on our residents.”

In introducing the Motion, Cr. Evans stated that April had seen the imposition of the latest round of welfare benefit cuts. These had followed a number of cuts in benefits that had had an impact on the poorest and most vulnerable, including disabled people, older residents and children. Included were: the bedroom tax, which was payable by older people below pension age whose children had left home and had spare bedrooms. Although, in theory, it would be possible for someone to move to a smaller home, in practice, there was a severe shortage of such accommodation in the area which meant that many residents had to find the money out of their often low incomes. In addition, other benefit caps, such as on housing benefit, and an overall cap on the amount people could receive in benefit meant that some residents had seen their income drop considerably over the last few years. As well as this, a charge for council tax had been introduced which meant that even the lowest income households of working age would have to pay.

Cr. Evans stated that the Council, through its Welfare Reform Task and Finish Group, had been monitoring the effects of these cuts on low income households and had some measures in place to support those who got into difficulties. However, these funds were limited. Rushmoor also had a very effective food bank, which had outlets in Farnborough and Aldershot. She felt that, in some ways, this was admirable and a testament to the caring nature of our population. But in other ways, it was a warning that so many people had so little money and so many new demands on their funds that they could not afford to feed their families adequately.

Cr. Evans advised that child tax credits would no longer be given to parents for a third or subsequent child. She felt that, there seemed to be a mistaken view that children were some sort of indulgence for people, and having them was purely a private matter. She was of the opinion that the country needed a growing population to become the citizens of the future, who could work, pay tax and support the retired and those unable to work. Children were an investment in the future and parents needed to be given support with their welfare and education. She felt that cutting back on this benefit might lead to more women seeking abortions and more families placed under stress. Currently the United Kingdom was able to import workers through the movement of labour. These workers had been educated and trained at another country's expense and had come as mature and capable workers. In future this source of workers would be restricted and the UK needed to ensure that families had the support to nurture and educate its own children to take on these roles. Cr. Evans felt that placing families under financial pressure when they had larger families would be counter-productive

as it should be ensured that children had secure and stable families to thrive and become productive citizens.

Cr. Evans also spoke of the cutback in support given to bereaved families. Currently, if a mother or father died, leaving young children, that family was supported until the youngest child left school. From now on, this would not be the case. These families would get support only for 18 months.

Cr. Evans stated that it had been calculated that the poorest families would lose at least £1,600 per annum in benefits by 2020 when Universal Credit was introduced. Many of these families would be working families on low incomes. Research carried out locally by Citizens' Advice showed that many of these families would struggle to manage when their benefits were reduced by £120 per month, as they were barely managing now.

Cr. Evans said that the Council had been proactive in trying to support residents having problems because of welfare reform. She stated that the Motion proposed that the Council's data should be used to communicate to central government the effects of the reforms to enable a proper review of their impacts and she urged Members to support the Motion.

In seconding the Motion, Cr. Bridgeman stressed that there were many residents who did not have the resources to carry out the evaluations required as part of the reforms.

During discussion, it was mentioned that the Council was doing the work already to support residents and monitoring the situation continuously. Reference was also made to zero hours contracts, the National Living Wage and the value of the work of the Welfare Reform Task and Finish Group.

The Motion was then put to the Meeting. There voted FOR: 25; AGAINST: 2; ABSTAINED: 8 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

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

(1) **Strategy for the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts –**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Cr. P.G. Taylor) introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 4th April, 2017, which recommended the approval of the Strategy for the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts 2017/18.

It was **MOVED** by Cr. P.G. Taylor; **SECONDED** by Cr. D.E. Clifford – that approval be given to the Strategy for the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts 2017/18.

There voted FOR: 29; AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

(2) **Rushmoor Local Plan – Draft Submission Consultation –**

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Service Delivery (Cr. M.J. Tennant) introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 4th April, 2017, which recommended the approval of the Draft Submission Local Plan and changes to the Policies Map.

It was **MOVED** by Cr. M.J. Tennant; **SECONDED** by Cr. K.H. Muschamp – that approval be given to the Rushmoor Local Plan Draft Submission Local Plan and changes to the Policies Map.

During discussion, an amendment was proposed by Cr. A.H. Crawford in respect of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2016, which reduced the need for homes required in Rushmoor to 436 per year from the 470 per year in the 2014 assessment. Cr. Crawford felt that the Rushmoor Local Plan should be updated with realistic data to take account of housing need in the area. He felt that the incoming Chief Executive should be given the opportunity to bring to bear his expertise and experience to the Local Plan before going out to consultation.

It was **MOVED** by Cr. A.H. Crawford; **SECONDED** by Cr. C.P. Grattan that the Recommendation be amended as follows:

“Subject to review by the incoming Chief Executive, the Council is requested to approve for publication and consultation:

- (i) the draft Submission Local Plan (Annex A); and
- (ii) the changes to the Policies Map (Annex B).”

Following debate, the Amendment was put to the Meeting. There voted **FOR: 11; AGAINST: 22** and the Amendment was **DECLARED LOST**.

Following further discussion, the Recommendations were put to the Meeting. There voted **FOR: 22; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 11** and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

(3) **Customer and Digital Strategy 2017- 2020 –**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Cr. P.G. Taylor) introduced the Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 4th April, 2017 which recommended the approval of the Customer and Digital Strategy 2017-2020.

It was **MOVED** by Cr. P.G. Taylor; **SECONDED** by Cr. D.E. Clifford – that approval be given to the Customer and Digital Strategy 2017-2020. There voted **FOR: 32; AGAINST: 0** and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

52. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET –**

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted.

53. **POLICY AND REVIEW PANELS – ANNUAL REPORTS 2016/17 –**

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

The Chairman of the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel, Cr. A.R. Newell, presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2016/17.

Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding the total grant remaining to be given to the Farnborough and Cove War Memorial Hospital Trust. In response, Cr. Newell stated that the currently value of the annual grant provided to the Trust was £102,000. Following a supplementary question regarding possible plans to reduce the grant, Cr. Newell stated that the Cabinet had instigated a review of the way the Council supported the Trust and a number of options would be assessed with the Trustees. A report would then be brought back to Members.

Cr. Crawford asked a second question of the Chairman regarding the Good Causes Lottery and the Members of the small consultative group involved in setting guidelines for choosing good causes. In response, Cr. Newell stated that the consultative group had been established at the Panel meeting in September 2016. The group consisted of Crs. T.D. Bridgeman, R. Cooper and M. Staplehurst.

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 2016/17.

Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding progress in updating the data from the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Rushmoor, taking into account the increases in prices and rental costs in the past three years, a definition of “affordable” housing that took into account local wages and costs and the impact of viability assessments on the 35% level for affordable housing in approvals of future housing developments. In response, Cr. Smith stated that a paper setting out further survey information on local house prices and rents and incomes would be presented to the Panel on 15th June, 2017. Officers had already started work collecting further information on local house prices, rents and incomes. The latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment had been published in 2016 and this would be referenced in the Housing and Homelessness Strategy. This Strategy had been established as a rolling document and would be reviewed with Members on a six-monthly basis.

Cr. Crawford asked a second question of the Chairman regarding when Frimley Health Trust originally consulted with the Council on the development of the Frimley Health and Care System Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). In response, Cr. Smith stated that the Council had not formally been consulted on the development of the STP, which had been published in October 2016. Following the Notice of Motion at Council and a discussion between the Chief Executive and Sir Andrew Morris, arrangements had been made for the Panel to consider the STP in early February 2017. Following a supplementary question on when Frimley Health Trust would next attend a meeting, Cr. Smith undertook to contact Cr. Crawford with the information as soon as this was known.

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

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

On behalf of the Vice-Chairman, Cr. A.R. Newell presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2016/17.

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. R.L.G. Dibbs presented the Annual Report of the Panel for 2016/17.

Cr. J.J. Preece asked a question of the Chairman regarding whether he felt that the Cabinet was doing enough to address the issue of poor recycling rates and whether the Council had done enough to avoid the risk of incurring fines for performance in this area. In response, Cr. Dibbs stated that, under the new waste management contract, the Council would be moving in the right direction. He hoped that the Council could work towards better recycling rates in order to avoid potential Government sanctions for poor performance.

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 2016/17.

Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Chairman regarding whether the provision of flumes and a shallow swimming and paddling pool to be included within the shape of the current open-air pool would be included in the report referred to in the Annual Report. In response, Cr. Corps stated that these issues had been discussed at both the Lido Working Group and the Panel. The report would include provision of flumes, but that this could be the retention of the existing ones, a 50 metre heated pool, splash pad and paddling area with the shape of the current open air pool. It was understood that the report would reflect what had been agreed at the Working Group and Panel.

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

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

(1) **Cabinet –**

It was **MOVED** by Cr. D.E. Clifford; **SECONDED** by Cr. K.H. Muschamp and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th March, 2017 (Para. Nos. 327 – 336) be received.

(2) **Cabinet –**

It was **MOVED** by Cr. D.E. Clifford; **SECONDED** by Cr. K.H. Muschamp and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th April, 2017 (Para. Nos. 337 - 349) be received.

(3) **Development Management Committee –**

It was **MOVED** by Cr. B.A. Thomas; **SECONDED** by Cr. J.H. Marsh and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Management Committee held on 1st March, 2017 (Para. Nos. 350 – 354) be received.

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

It was **MOVED** by Cr. A. Jackman; **SECONDED** by Cr. M.L. Sheehan and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 27th March, 2017 (Para Nos. 355 - 361) be received.

(5) **Development Management Committee –**

It was MOVED by Cr. B.A. Thomas; SECONDED by Cr. J.H. Marsh and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Management Committee held on 29th March, 2017 (Para. Nos. 362 – 371) be received.

55. **REPORT OF POLICY AND REVIEW PANELS –**

RESOLVED: That the Report of the undermentioned meeting of the Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panel held on 3rd April, 2017 (Para. Nos. 372 – 376) be received:

The Meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.
