

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Offices,
Farnborough on Thursday, 6th October, 2016 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.,	CR. S.J. MASTERSON
M.C.M.I.	CR. P.J. MOYLE
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).	a 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	CR. M. STAPLEHURST
CR. JENNIFER M. EVANS, B.Sc.,	CR. L.A. TAYLOR
M.Sc.	CR. P.G. TAYLOR, A.C.I.B.
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.	CR. J.E. WOOLLEY, B.Sc., L.L.B., M.A.
CR. A. JACKMAN, B.Sc.	

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

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Cr. J.J. Preece.

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

20. **MINUTES** –

Following an amendment to include attendance by Cr. M.J. Roberts, it was MOVED by Cr. D.E. Clifford; SECONDED by Cr. Barbara Hurst and

RESOLVED: That, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 28th July, 2016 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

21. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

- (1) The Mayor reported that, on 14th August, both she and the Deputy Mayor had attended a Jalsa Salana event in East Worldham, Alton, which was the annual gathering of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. This was a huge event held over several days which promoted peace, loyalty, freedom, equality and respect.
- (2) The Mayor reported that she had attended a street party in Farnborough on 21st August, which had been organised by residents to welcome back Phil Burgess, who was a member of the Great Britain silver medal winning team in the Rugby Sevens at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.
- (3) The Mayor reported that her Charity Committee had organised a charity cycle ride on 28th August in aid of the Mayor's Charities. It was estimated that £650 had been raised. The Mayor thanked all those who had organised and supported the event.
- (4) The Mayor reported that she had attended the Canal Zoners' National Service of Remembrance on 11th September at North Camp Methodist Church. Canal Zoners was an organisation for servicemen and women who had served in the Suez Canal Zone of Egypt in the late 1940s up to and including the Suez Crisis of 1956.
- (5) The Mayor advised Members that Aldershot and Farnborough's best gardeners had been celebrated at the Rushmoor in Bloom presentation evening held at Princes Hall on 12th September. It was noted that 2016 had been the 30th year of Rushmoor in Bloom. Awards had been presented in fourteen different categories, from best community garden to best garden to wildlife.

Members were advised that the Best Front Garden Award had gone to Linda Treadwell of Southampton Street in Farnborough and the Award for Best Community Garden had been given to the Blooming Marvellous Supported Adult Gardening Project at Aldershot Allotments for their kitchen garden entitled 'Vegetable Box'. This garden had been created and cared for by volunteers recovering from mental illness.

The Chairman's Award had been presented to Devereux House and recognised the home's continued support of Rushmoor in Bloom over its 30 year history, having entered the very first competition in 1986. The Mayor's Award, recognising the invaluable contribution made by one particular individual, went to Steve Betts from Veolia Environmental Services in recognition of his involvement in the planning and creation of Rushmoor's stunning floral displays.

In the Schools' competition, there had been seven categories, ranging from 'Mr. McGregor's Pot' to 'Best Edible Patch'. Park Primary School in Aldershot had won the Best School Grounds category and the 'Roald Dahl Adventures' category had been won by St. Bernadette's Primary School in Farnborough.

- (6) The Mayor advised Members that her Charity Golf Tournament had been held on 16th September at Southwood Golf Course in Farnborough. 20 teams had taken part, including TAG Farnborough Airport, Veolia Environmental Services, The Meads Shopping Centre and the Headquarters of Aldershot Garrison. All had helped to raise approximately £2,000 for the Mayor's Charities. The George Dawson had been won by the team representing both the Gurkha Golf Society and 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment. Despite the terrible weather the evening before the event, the day ended very well with beautiful sunshine and happy golfers.
- (7) The Mayor reported that she had attended the annual Battle of Britain Service of Remembrance at the North Camp Methodist Church on 18th September. After the Church Service, the Mayor had taken the salute at the March Past of RAF Association members and representatives from the local Air Training Corps Squadrons.
- (8) The Mayor advised Members that she would be holding a Christmas Afternoon Tea event on 25th November at the Council Offices. All were welcome to attend.
- (9) The Mayor also asked Members to note in their diaries that she would be holding a Charity Ball on Friday, 10th March 2017 at Princes Hall in Aldershot. Invitations would be sent out in the near future.

22. **STANDING ORDER 8 – QUESTIONS –**

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

23. **NOTICE OF MOTION – PRE-PAYMENT METERS –**

The Council was asked to consider the following Motion, which had been submitted by Cr. R. Cooper in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9 (1). It was MOVED by Cr. R. Cooper; SECONDED by Cr. M.D. Smith - That

“This Council welcomes the Christians Against Poverty report “The Poor Pay More” that exposes the regressive pricing many Rushmoor residents face through pre-payment meters for energy.

The Council therefore:

- welcomes the Government's recent focus on this issue and calls for it to consider the report and its recommendations that pre-payment meter charges are reduced so that they are in line with regular tariffs;
- will press all providers of social housing in our Borough to give their tenants the option of moving from pre-payment meters to regular tariffs; and
- will seek to ensure that all social housing tenants are provided with energy saving advice to help them reduce their costs."

In introducing his Motion, Cr. Cooper tabled revised wording to the Motion, to add the following words to the penultimate sub-section

- “- will press all providers of social housing in our Borough to give their tenants the option of moving from pre-payment meters to regular tariffs **and that wherever possible that this should be without charge**; and”

Cr. Cooper stated that people on pre-payment meters paid more per year than those on regular tariffs. He referred to the Christians Against Poverty report 'The Poor Pay More' where it referred to 59% of people on pre-payment meters stating that they could not afford to heat their homes; 29% stated that they could not afford to cook all their food and 25% said that they could not afford to wash all their clothing. Cr. Cooper was of the opinion that energy companies should make available the same tariffs to all their customers and that customers should have the right of choice of supplier in the same way that non-pre-payment customers did.

During discussion, Members agreed with the general thrust of the Motion, however, it was pointed out that the vast majority of pre-payment meters were in place because of existing debt. It was also mentioned that it was not for social housing providers to decide what type of tariffs were to be given to tenants. It was explained that energy suppliers could install a pre-payment meter at any property if they wished and that they could do this without a landlord's permission. Such a decision remained entirely with the energy supplier. It was further explained that the tariff for pre-payment meters would be higher than other tariffs because the energy charges would incorporate an element of the debt that the customer owed and that pre-payment meter tariffs were invariably single rate tariffs. Members were advised that pre-payment meter customers could switch to another supplier, even if they had a debt with the current supplier. This was known as the debt assignment protocol.

It was noted that Ofgem had put in place new regulations for energy suppliers, which could result in customers saving money. However, under the new ruling, the users of pre-payment meters would still be paying more than those on other tariffs. Members were of the opinion that there was a need for the Government to intervene to eradicate the price differentials.

The comment was also made that the pre-payment meters were also in place in private housing as well as social housing. Members felt that the Council could have a role in providing advice and guidance for all pre-payment meter users, including via the Council's website. It was suggested that there should be a residents' support scheme to help vulnerable residents who did not have the funds to pay.

During the debate, it was suggested that the Motion should be referred to the Community Policy and Review Panel for more detailed investigation, including the fuel poverty issues.

The Motion was then put to the meeting. There voted FOR: 34; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion and the proposal to refer it to the Community Policy and Review Panel were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

NOTES:

- (1) Cr. Barbara Hurst declared a personal interest in this item as a Trustee on the Board of Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux and remained in the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon; and
- (2) Cr. Jennifer Evans declared a personal interest in this item as a Campaign Co-ordinator for the Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux and remained in the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.

24. RECOMMENDATION OF THE CABINET –

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2019/20

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Cr. P.G. Taylor) introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 20th September, 2016, which recommended the adoption of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2019/20. It was **MOVED** by Cr. P.G. Taylor; **SECONDED** by Cr. D.E. Clifford - That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2019/20 be approved for adoption.

There voted: FOR: 27; AGAINST: 9 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

25. QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET –

The Mayor reported that one question had been submitted.

- (1) Cr. A.H. Crawford asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Health and Housing about the need for a task and finish group to conduct a review to ensure that Council departments worked together to prevent the creation of "Dickensian doss-houses".

In response, Cr. Hurst stated that this matter would be referred to the private rental team for action. The team had powers to give landlords a time

limit in which to put matters right or to close down such properties, if required. Cr. Hurst undertook to provide a written response to a question regarding rogue landlords who do not have planning permission.

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

(1) **Cabinet –**

It was MOVED by Cr. D.E. Clifford; SECONDED by Cr. Sue Carter and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 26th July, 2016 (Para. Nos. 105 - 113) 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 23rd August, 2016 (Para. Nos. 114 – 118) be received.

(3) **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 20th September, 2016 (Para. Nos. 119 – 132) be received.

(4) **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 20th July, 2016 (Para. Nos. 133 – 138) 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 17th August, 2016 (Para. Nos. 139 – 143) be received.

(6) **Development Management Committee –**

It was MOVED by Cr. J.H. Marsh; SECONDED by Cr. R.M. Cooper and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Management Committee held on 14th September, 2016 (Para. Nos. 144 – 152) be received.

27. **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
Corporate Services	5th July, 2016	153 - 159
Leisure and Youth	5th September, 2016	160 – 162
Environment	6th September, 2016	163 – 171
Corporate Services	8th September, 2016	172 – 175
Borough Services	12th September, 2016	176 – 181
Community	15th September, 2016	182 – 185

The Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.
