

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 20th June, 2019 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr Sue Carter (Chairman))
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P.F. Rust (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr J.B. Canty
Cllr A.K. Chowdhury
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr K. Dibble
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr A.J. Halstead
Cllr Prabesh KC
Cllr J.H. Marsh
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr K.H. Muschamp
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr M.L. Sheehan
Cllr C.J. Stewart
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr J.E. Woolley

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford
Cllr Sophia Choudhary
Cllr R.M. Cooper
Cllr A.S. Dekker
Cllr Veronica Graham-Green
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr L. Jeffers
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr Marina Munro
Cllr A.R. Newell
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr B.A. Thomas

Honorary Alderman C. Balchin J.P.
Honorary Alderman R.J. Kimber

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr T.D. Bridgeman, Cllr M.S. Choudhary, Cllr D.E. Clifford, Cllr P.I.C. Crerar, Cllr P.J. Cullum and Cllr Jacqui Vosper.

Before the meeting was opened, Cllr J.H. Marsh led the meeting in prayers.

8. MINUTES

It was MOVED by Cllr K.H. Muschamp; SECONDED by Cllr P.G. Taylor and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 21st May, 2019 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

9. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) The Mayor extended congratulations to Councillor Sophie Porter who would be getting married that Saturday to her fiancé, Matt. She wished the couple a memorable day with family and friends and a wonderful future together.

- (2) The Mayor advised Members that PC Mark Ranola had been awarded an OBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. PC Ranola had received an OBE for his services to policing and the community in Hampshire in recognition of his "generous and industrious work" for the large and growing Nepali community in Rushmoor since 2004. The Mayor would be writing to PC Ranola to extend the Council's congratulations on receiving this honour.
- (3) The Mayor advised Members that she had attended the annual Gurkha Cup Football Tournament on 26th May, 2019. The Mayor thanked the Tamu Dhee Association UK, Mr Nanda Jung Gurung and members of the Association who had very generously presented her with a cheque for £500 for the Mayor's charities.
- (4) The Mayor advised Members that she had attended the annual Farnborough Donkey Derby at King George V playing Fields on 27th May, 2019, which had been organised by local Rotarians. The event had been very well attended and it was understood that a considerable amount had been raised for local charities.
- (5) The Mayor advised that she had had the honour of attending a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 29th May, 2019 and had been accompanied by former councillor, Barbara Hurst, and her granddaughter.
- (6) The Mayor advised that, on 1st June, 2019, she had attended the Rushmoor 'Get Involved' Fair in Aldershot town centre. The Fair had been supported by many local voluntary organisations and gave an insight into what local charities, community groups and clubs did. The Fair provided information on how to get involved in volunteering and support local organisations who played an important part in the local community.
- (7) The Mayor advised Members that she had been proud to attend the Victoria Day event in Aldershot town centre on 8th June, 2019. The rain had held off and more than 500 people from community groups, schools and businesses had taken part in the grand parade. The Best in Parade certificate had been awarded to Aldershot Girl Guiding and, for the second year running, the Best Dressed Shop Window certificate had been awarded to Edgar Jerome in Wellington Street. The Mayor thanked those at the Council who had organised the event, with the help of an enthusiastic group of volunteers and residents who were part of the Aldershot Community Together group.
- (8) The Mayor reported that, every June, Rotary Clubs throughout Britain and Ireland, together with the Kids Out Charity, took over 25,000 disadvantaged children on a big day out. The local Kids Out fun day, for over 800 children and their carers, had been held on 12th June at the Army Rugby Stadium, in Aldershot.
- (9) The Mayor advised Members that, earlier that day, she had attended a presentation of the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll to the family of Lance Corporal Newsome, formerly of the Royal Army Service Corps. The Elizabeth

Cross and Memorial Scroll was granted to the next of kin of UK Armed Forces personnel who had died on medal-earning operations or as a result of an act of terrorism, in recognition of their loss and sacrifice.

- (10) The Mayor advised that Armed Forces Day would be celebrated in Aldershot on 24th June, 2019 with the raising of the Armed Forces Day flag in Princes Gardens, Aldershot and also on 29th June, 2019 with troops from 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and the Corps of Drums on parade in Aldershot town centre.
- (11) On behalf of all Members of the Council, the Mayor congratulated Honorary Alderman Colin Balchin and his wife, Rosemary, who would be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 27th June, 2019.

10. **STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS**

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted under Standing Order 8.

11. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

The Council was asked to consider three Notices of Motion which had been submitted for debate in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9 (1).

(1) Environment and Sustainability/Climate Emergency

The first two Motions had been submitted by Cllrs C.J. Stewart and A.J. Halstead in respect of environment and sustainability/climate emergency.

In introducing this item, Cllr Stewart referred to discussions held by the Conservative and Labour Groups, in consultation with the Liberal Democrat Group, to amalgamate the first two Motions to cover the subject of a green and sustainable Borough and carbon-neutral Council by 2030. It was therefore **MOVED** by Cllr Stewart and **SECONDED** by Cllr Gaynor Austin that the first two Motions on the agenda be consolidated as follows:

“This Council acknowledges a ‘Climate Emergency’.

Taking into account the responses from residents to the recent public engagement on a long-term vision for the Borough, this Council agrees to develop a plan to enable:

- a green and sustainable Rushmoor; and
- a carbon-neutral Council by 2030.

In developing this plan, Rushmoor Council will:

- seek to improve the Borough’s recycling rates;
- explore the adoption of a ‘green’ procurement strategy;
- aim to eliminate its use of single-use plastics; and
- by working with partner agencies, encourage greener transport usage.

Using the full democratic processes of the Council and encompassing all members in the development, scrutiny and implementation of this plan, it will be brought back to this Council by year end.”

Speaking in support of the amended Motion, Cllr Stewart stated that the Council must be committed to making lasting change. He was of the opinion that the Council had to facilitate the Borough’s residents to work with the Council to create a greener and sustainable Rushmoor. Cllr Stewart also referred to the need for the Council to be clear what actions could be taken to make Rushmoor more resilient and to work with partners to achieve this.

In seconding the amendment, Cllr Gaynor Austin drew attention to the need to declare a climate emergency and for the Council to work together with residents and partners to achieve the aims set out in the amendment.

During discussion, Members referred to the need for green transport opportunities, local authorities to work together or a task and finish group to drive the aims of the amended Motion forward and co-ordinate action.

On a recorded vote, there voted FOR: Cllrs Gaynor Austin, Diane Bedford, J.B. Canty, Sophia Choudhary, A.K. Chowdhury, R.M. Cooper, A.H. Crawford, A.S. Dekker, K. Dibble, Veronica Graham-Green, C.P. Grattan, Christine Guinness, A.J. Halstead, L. Jeffers, Prabesh KC, Mara Makunura, J.H. Marsh, Nadia Martin, S.J. Masterson, Marina Munro, K.H. Muschamp, A.R. Newell, Sophie Porter, M.J. Roberts, M.L. Sheehan, M.D. Smith, C.J. Stewart, P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant, B.A. Thomas, J.E. Woolley, Deputy Mayor (Cllr P.F. Rust) (32); AGAINST: 0; and ABSTAINED: The Mayor (Cllr Sue Carter) (1) and the amended Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

(2) Rushmoor Community Contribution Scheme

A Motion had been submitted by Cllr A.S. Dekker in respect of a Rushmoor Community Contribution Scheme. It was MOVED by Cllr A.S. Dekker; SECONDED by Cllr A.K. Chowdhury – That

“This Council introduce a “Community Contribution Scheme”, similar to that run by Westminster Council. Higher value properties, such as Band H, would be asked to make a voluntary contribution of double the normal contribution of Rushmoor’s share of the Council Tax.”

In introducing the Motion, Cllr Dekker said that a community contribution scheme would involve inviting residents of higher value properties to make a voluntary contribution to help pay for local projects, such as helping young people, extra support for the homeless, a graffiti wall for young people and helping to tackle isolation and loneliness across all age groups. Cllr Dekker was of the opinion that such a scheme could be open to anyone in the Borough.

In seconding the Motion, Cllr Chowdhury referred to the current lack of money for many projects for the community. He felt that the proposed scheme could be based on the principle that many people cared about others in their community. He

stressed that the scheme would be voluntary and would not be about giving money to subsidise Council services. He also made the point that the proposed scheme could make a real difference to the lives of the most needy in the Borough and bring hope to people.

During debate, the point was made that Rushmoor was not comparable to the City of Westminster and that there was already provision of £1.2 million in the Council's budget for good causes.

During the discussion it was **MOVED** by Cllr K. Dibble; **SECONDED** by Cllr Sophie Porter that the Motion be referred to the Policy and Project Advisory Board for further investigation. On a recorded vote, there voted **FOR**: Cllrs Gaynor Austin, Sophia Choudhary, A.K. Chowdhury, A.H. Crawford, A.S. Dekker, K. Dibble, C.P. Grattan, Christine Guinness, A.J. Halstead, Nadia Martin, Sophie Porter and M.J. Roberts (12); **AGAINST**: Cllrs J.B. Canty, R.M. Cooper, Veronica Graham-Green, L. Jeffers, Prabesh KC, J.H. Marsh, S.J. Masterson, Marina Munro, K.H. Muschamp, A.R. Newell, M.L. Sheehan, M.D. Smith, C.J. Stewart, P.G. Taylor, B.A. Thomas and J.E. Woolley (16); and, **ABSTAINED**: Cllrs Diane Bedford, Mara Makunura, M.J. Tennant, the Deputy Mayor (Cllr P.F. Rust) and the Mayor (Cllr Sue Carter) (5) and the Amendment was **DECLARED LOST**.

During debate on the substantive Motion, Members referred to existing grants and funding available for community projects, which the community contribution scheme could duplicate. The view was also expressed that, by asking residents from Band H properties to contribute to the scheme, it could result in these people then not donating to charities. It was also noted that the Borough only had 25 Band H properties, most of which were MOD properties.

The substantive Motion was then put to the meeting. There voted **FOR**: 2; **AGAINST**: 17 and the Motion was **DECLARED LOST**.

12. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET**

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted for the Cabinet.

13. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

(1) **Cabinet**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr K.H. Muschamp; **SECONDED** by Cllr P.G. Taylor that the Reports of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 2nd April and 28th May, 2019 be received.

In accordance with Standing Order 10 (2), it was **MOVED** by Cllr. M.J. Roberts and **SECONDED** by Cllr A.S. Dekker that Item No. 12 of the Minutes of 28th May, 2019 (Leasehold Disposal – Aldershot Town Football Club, High Street, Aldershot) be brought forward for discussion at this meeting.

The Portfolio Holder, Cllr M.J. Tennant, referred to the need by Aldershot Town Football Club for an additional lease in order to undertake some development of the

ground to ensure the future of the Club. Members were advised that, in making its decision, the Cabinet had examined ways in which the Council could support the Club. Set out in the report considered by the Cabinet were several caveats to protect the Council's position. Members were also advised that, if the work was not completed within the stipulated timeframe, then the lease would revert back to the original lease. The Club had to try to make itself sustainable in order to protect the land. Cllr Tennant considered that there was no reason to bring the item forward.

On a recorded vote, there voted FOR: Cllrs Gaynor Austin, A.K. Chowdhury, A.H. Crawford, A.S. Dekker, K. Dibble, C.P. Grattan, Christine Guinness, A.J. Halstead, Nadia Martin, Sophie Porter and M.J. Roberts (11); AGAINST: Cllrs Diane Bedford, J.B. Canty, Sophia Choudhary, R.M. Cooper, Veronica Graham-Green, L. Jeffers, Prabesh KC, Mara Makunura, J.H. Marsh, S.J. Masterson, Marina Munro, K.H. Muschamp, A.R. Newell, M.L. Sheehan, M.D. Smith, C.J. Stewart, P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant, B.A. Thomas and J.E. Woolley (20); and ABSTAINED: The Mayor (Cllr Sue Carter) and the Deputy Mayor (Cllr P.F. Rust) and the Motion was **DECLARED LOST**, whereupon it was

RESOLVED: That the Reports of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 2nd April and 28th May, 2019 be received.

(2) Development Management Committee

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

RESOLVED: That the Reports of the meetings of the Development Management Committee held on 10th April and 29th May, 2019 be received.

(3) Licensing, Audit and General Purposes Committee

It was MOVED by Cllr J.E. Woolley; SECONDED by Cllr S.J. Masterson and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the meeting of the Licensing, Audit and General Purposes Committee held on 6th June, 2019 be received.

14. REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

RESOLVED: That the Reports of the undermentioned meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Policy and Project Advisory Board be received:

Meeting	Date
Policy and Project Advisory Board	3rd April 2019
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30th May 2019
Policy and Project Advisory Board	5th June 2019

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.
