

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Tuesday, 21st May, 2024 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura (Chairman))
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Leola Card
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Keith Dibble
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Ivan Whitmee
Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr Abe Allen
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Julie Hall
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr S. J. Masterson
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr Jacqui Vosper
Cllr Becky Williams

Honorary Alderman Terry Bridgeman
Honorary Alderman John Debenham
Honorary Alderman Sue Dibble
Honorary Alderman Tony Gardiner
Honorary Alderman John Marsh
Honorary Alderman David Welch

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo and Cllr M.D. Smith.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain, Mr David Betts, led the meeting in prayers.

1. **ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH**

Nominations were invited for the election of the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2024/5. It was **MOVED** by Cllr P.G. Taylor; **SECONDED** by Cllr A. Adeola - That Cllr Mara Makunura be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **MARA MAKUNURA** be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

The Mayor then made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office in accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1972 and took the Chair.

THE MAYOR (CLLR MARA MAKUNURA) IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor expressed her pride at the honour of being elected Mayor and first citizen of the Borough of Rushmoor. Her appointment as The Mayor marked a significant milestone as the first African to hold the position. During her speech to the Council, she described being a proud parent and a community leader with a strong interest in fostering a cohesive and inclusive community and with a desire to help those facing challenges. Her mayoral year would build on the many years she had served the community both as a councillor and as a volunteer for various local organisations, and she was looking forward to supporting many community events and making a positive impact.

The Mayor thanked her proposer and seconder for their kind words and the Council for supporting her nomination. She then signified the appointment of her daughter Ms Salwexeya Makunura as her Mayoress and Reverend Coleen Kusi-Agyapong as the Mayor's Chaplain.

The Mayor announced that she would be seeking to support a number of charities during the year. Her four primary charities would be West Farnborough Men's Shed, PAG (Parent Action Group), Hart and Rushmoor Young Carers Charity, and Salvation Clinic International Ministries, and additionally supporting The Lighthouse, and Kerith Church Community Pantry.

2. VOTE OF THANKS

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan; SECONDED by Cllr Calum Stewart and

RESOLVED: That the Council place on record its appreciation of the excellent service rendered by Councillor Clive Patrick Grattan as Mayor of the Borough and Mrs June Smith as Mayoress during the Municipal Year 2023/24.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Grattan and presented him with a framed, illuminated scroll, together with a Past Mayor's Badge and a Past Mayoress's Badge for Mrs June Smith.

In response, Cllr Grattan thanked the proposer and seconder for their kind words. He referred to the memorable year that he had experienced as Mayor and said that it had been both an honour and a privilege for him. Cllr Grattan referred to some particular highlights of the Mayoral Year and was pleased to report that £8,000 had been raised for his charities (Oak Farm Pre-School and Crohn's and Colitis UK). He thanked his Mayoress Mrs June Smith, for her unwavering support throughout the year and Mrs Amanda Hanson for the administrative support provided. Cllr Grattan also thanked Mr and Mrs Terry and Rak Owens for Chairing his Charity Fundraising Committee and the members of the Committee for all their work during the year.

Cllr Grattan thanked his Chaplain, Mr David Betts, who had been a great support and inspiration to him.

3. **ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Mayor invited nominations for the election of the Deputy Mayor of the Borough. It was **MOVED** by Cllr Sophie Porter; **SECONDED** by Cllr G.B. Lyon – That Cllr Calum Stewart be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **CALUM STEWART** be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

Cllr Calum Stewart then made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Deputy Mayor thanked his proposer and seconder for their kind words and the Council for the confidence placed in him. He pledged his support to the Mayor in the coming year.

4. **MINUTES**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Christine Guinness; **SECONDED** by Cllr P.G. Taylor and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 22nd February 2024 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

5. **RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Returning Officer, Mr. P. Shackley, submitted his report on the results of the Borough Council Elections held on Thursday, 2nd May 2024 (appended to these minutes).

The Mayor congratulated all Members who had been re-elected and extended a warm welcome to the new councillors: Cllrs Leola Card, Alex Crawford, Thomas Day, Julie Hall, Steve Harden, Rhian Jones, Lisa Greenway, Bill O'Donovan and Ivan Whitmee. The Mayor also extended the Council's thanks and appreciation for the service given to the Council and the Borough by Cllrs D.E. Clifford, J.B. Canty and Jess Auton who had not sought re-election and Cllrs D.B. Bedford, Jib Belbase, Michael Hope, Marina Munro, M.L. Sheehan and Nem Thapa who had been unsuccessful in being re-elected.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

6. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

- (1) The Mayor reported that she was proposing to hold a number of fundraising events during her Mayoral Year for her charities including a cycling event, a fashion show, a walking event and a banquet and ball. Further information on fundraising events would be circulated in due course.

(2) The Mayor referred to her first engagements as Mayor, which included:

- Celebrating Africa Day at Farnborough Football Club on 25th May;
- The Gurkha Cup on 26th May
- Farnborough Donkey Derby on 27th May;
- Rotary's Kids Day Out on 19th June; and
- The Lord Lieutenant's Reception for New Mayors and Council Chairmen at Serles House in June.

(3) The Mayor took great pleasure in announcing a long-service milestone that had been achieved by one of the Council's longest ever serving councillors. She congratulated Cllr Keith Dibble on 40 years of continuous service to local Government. Councillor Dibble had been a Member for North Town Ward (formerly Belle Vue Ward) since May 1984 and had served on a very wide range of the Council's committees, panels, and outside bodies over many years. Acknowledging this achievement, the Mayor presented Cllr Dibble with a long service badge to mark 40 years of service.

Cllr Dibble thanked the Mayor and expressed the gratitude he felt in representing his ward residents and championing his community.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was MOVED by Cllr Keith Dibble; SECONDED by Cllr Sophie Porter - That Cllr Gareth Williams be appointed Leader of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

There voted FOR: 21; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

8. **APPOINTMENTS 2024/25**

It was MOVED by Cllr Gareth Williams and SECONDED by Cllr Sophie Porter – That

(1) **Cabinet**

It be noted that the following appointments of Cabinet Portfolio Holders and the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2024/25 had been proposed by the Leader of the Council:

Cllr Sophie Porter	Deputy Leader and Community and Residents
Cllr Keith Dibble	Development and Economic Growth
Cllr Abe Allen	Enabling Services
Cllr Jules Crossley	Policy, Climate and Sustainability
Cllr Becky Williams	Neighbourhood Services
Cllr Christine Guinness	Regeneration and Property

(2) Committees

The Appointments to Committees for the Municipal Year 2024/25 be approved as follows in accordance with the allocations to achieve political balance:

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Labour: 6

Conservative: 4

Independent: 1

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Julie Hall
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Calum Stewart

Cllr Dhan Sarki

Standing Deputies:

Labour:

Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Nadia Martin

Conservative:

Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr P.G. Taylor

NOTE: The Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning matters is to be an ex officio non-voting member of the Development Management Committee.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Labour: 6

Conservative: 4

Liberal Democrat: 1

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr M.J. Roberts

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Cllr C.W. Card

Standing Deputies:

Labour:

Cllr Lisa Greenway
Julie Hall

Conservative:

Cllr S. J. Masterson
Cllr M.J. Tennant

Liberal Democrat:

Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr Leola Card

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Labour: 6

Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr S. Trussler

Conservative: 4

Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr S. Trussler

Liberal Democrat: 1

Cllr Leola Card

Standing Deputies:

Labour:

Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Conservative:

Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Liberal Democrat:

Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr T.W. Mitchell

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Voting Members

Labour: 6

Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Julie Hall
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Conservative: 4

Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Steve Harden

Liberal Democrat: 1

Cllr T.W. Mitchell

Standing Deputies:

Labour:

Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr C.P. Grattan

Conservative:

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr G.B. Lyon

Liberal Democrat:

Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Leola Card

(3) Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees

The appointment of the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees, as set out below, be approved:

Development Management

Chairman	-	Cllr Gaynor Austin
Vice-Chairman	-	Cllr C.P. Grattan

Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards

Chairman - Cllr A.H. Crawford
Vice-Chairman - Cllr Bill O'Donovan

(4) Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Project Advisory Board

The appointment of the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Project Advisory Board as set out below, be approved:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chairman - Cllr Halleh Koohestani

Policy and Project Advisory Board

Chairman - Cllr M.J. Roberts

(5) Management Boards

The appointments to the Management Boards for the Municipal Year 2024/25, as follows, be approved:

The Aldershot Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Lisa Greenway	Cllr Keith Dibble	Cllr S. Trussler
Standing Deputy:	Cllr Nadia Martin	Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo

King George's Field, Farnborough Trust

Cllr Rhian Jones	Cllr Gareth Williams	Cllr P.G. Taylor
Standing Deputy:	Cllr Calum Stewart	Cllr Mara Makunura

The Alfred Henry Goode Will Trust

Cllr G.B. Lyon	Cllr Keith Dibble	Cllr Sophie Porter
Standing Deputies:	Cllr P.J. Cullum	Cllr A. Adeola

There voted FOR: 22; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.
