

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Tuesday, 23rd May, 2023 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Mr J.H. Marsh (Chairman))
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr C.P. Grattan (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr Abe Allen
Cllr Jessica Auton
Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr D.E. Clifford
Cllr K. Dibble
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr M.L. Sheehan
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Becky Williams

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford
Cllr J.B. Canty
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Michael Hope
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr Marina Munro
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr Calum Stewart
Cllr Nem Thapa
Cllr Jacqui Vosper
Cllr Gareth Williams

Honorary Alderman Sue Dibble
Honorary Alderman A.E.A. Gardiner
Honorary Alderman D.M. Welch

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr A. Adeola, Cllr Jules Crossley, Cllr T.W. Mitchell and Cllr M.J. Tennant.

Before the start of the Meeting, the Mayor's Chaplain (Major Ted Benneyworth) led Members in prayer.

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

Nominations were invited for the election of the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2023/24. It was **MOVED** by Cllr Christine Guinness; **SECONDED** by Cllr Diane Bedford - That Cllr Clive Patrick Grattan be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2024.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **CLIVE PATRICK GRATTAN** be elected Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2024.

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

THE MAYOR (CLLR C.P. GRATTAN) IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor expressed his pride at the honour of being elected Mayor and first citizen of the Borough of Rushmoor. He thanked his proposer and seconder for their kind words and the Council for supporting his nomination. The Mayor signified the appointment of Mrs June Smith as his Mayoress and Mr David Betts as the Mayor's Chaplain.

The Mayor announced that he would be supporting Oak Farm Pre-School and Crohn's and Colitis UK as his charities for the year ahead.

2. VOTE OF THANKS

It was MOVED by Cllr S.J. Masterson; SECONDED by Cllr K. Dibble and

RESOLVED: That the Council place on record its appreciation of the excellent service rendered by Councillor John Henry Marsh as Mayor of the Borough during the Municipal Year 2022/23.

The Mayor congratulated Mr Marsh and presented him with a framed, illuminated scroll, together with a Past Mayor's Badge. The Mayor also presented Mr Marsh with a long service badge to mark 42 years' service in local government.

Other Councillors paid tribute to Mr Marsh's successful Mayoral Year.

In response, Mr Marsh 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 an absolute honour for him. Mr Marsh referred to some particular highlights of the Mayoral Year and was pleased to report that £7,000 had been raised for his charities (Phyllis Tuckwell and Parity for Disability). He thanked Mr Terry Owens for Chairing his Charity Fundraising Committee and the members of the Committee for all their work during the year.

Mr Marsh thanked his Chaplain, Major Ted Benneyworth, who had been a great support 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 P.G. Taylor; SECONDED by Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo – That Cllr Mara Makunura be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2024.

RESOLVED: That Councillor **MARA MAKUNURA** be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2024.

Cllr Mara Makunura then made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Deputy Mayor thanked her proposer and seconder for their kind words and the Council for the confidence placed in her and then proceeded to signify the appointment of her daughter, Miss Salwexeya Makunura, as her Deputy Mayoress. She pledged her support to the Mayor in the coming year.

4. **MINUTES**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr M.L. Sheehan; **SECONDED** by Cllr P.G. Taylor and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 20th April 2023 (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, 4th May 2023 (appended to these minutes).

The Mayor congratulated all Members who had been re-elected and extended a warm welcome to the new councillors: Cllrs Abe Allen, Halleh Koohestani, Gareth Lyon, Dhan Sarki, Becky Williams and Gareth Williams. The Mayor also extended the Council's thanks and appreciation for the service given to the Council and the Borough by Cllrs Peter Crerar (who had served for 20 years) and Adrian Newell (who had served for eight years) who had been unsuccessful in being re-elected.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

6. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

(1) The Mayor reported that he was proposing to hold a number of fundraising events during his Mayoral Year for his charities – Oak Farm Pre-School and Crohn's and Colitis UK. These events would include quiz nights, a barbecue and a barn dance. Further information on a series of fundraising events would be circulated in due course.

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

- welcoming some citizens of Oberursel to the Borough on 25th May;
- the Faith, Country and Nation event at the Mubarak Mosque in Tilford on 26th May;
- Gurkha Cup on 28th May;
- Farnborough Donkey Derby on 29th May;
- Garrison and Community Health Fair on 31st May; and
- Sounding Retreat event organised by HQ Aldershot Garrison on 14th June

7. **APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE HEAD OF FINANCE AS SECTION 151 OFFICER**

The Mayor advised Members that the Council had a statutory requirement to appoint a Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) with responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council. Under the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the designation of an officer as the Council's Section 151 Officer was made by the Council and approval was sought to designate a new Executive Head of Finance as the Section 151 Officer following the departure of the current Interim Executive Head of Finance.

It was MOVED by Cllr P.G. Taylor; SECONDED by Cllr Christine Guinness – That the Executive Head of Finance, Mr Peter Vickers, be approved as the Council's Section 151 Officer from the commencement of his employment in September 2023. There voted FOR: 33; AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was MOVED by Cllr M.L. Sheehan; SECONDED by Cllr G.B. Lyon - That Cllr D.E. Clifford be appointed Leader of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2024.

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

9. **APPOINTMENTS**

It was MOVED by Cllr M.L. Sheehan and SECONDED by Cllr D.E. Clifford – That

(1) **Cabinet**

It be noted that the following appointments of Cabinet Portfolio Holders and the Deputy Leaders of the Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24 had been made by the Leader of the Council:

Cllr M.L. Sheehan	Deputy Leader and Operational Services
Cllr M.J. Tennant	Deputy Leader and Major Projects and Property
Cllr J.B. Canty	Customer Experience, Transformation and Corporate
Cllr Sue Carter	Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships
Cllr G.B. Lyon	Planning and Economy
Cllr P.G. Taylor	Finance

(2) **Committees**

The Appointments to Committees for the Municipal Year 2023/24 be approved as follows in accordance with the allocations to achieve political balance:

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Conservative: 7

Labour: 4

Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Michael Hope
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Marina Munro
Cllr Calum Stewart

Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr Dhan Sarki

Standing Deputies:

Conservative:

Cllr Mrs D.B. Bedford
Cllr S. Trussler

Labour:

Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Gareth Williams

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

Conservative: 6

Labour: 4

Liberal Democrat: 1

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Nem Thapa
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr C.W. Card

Standing Deputies:

Conservative:

Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Peace Essien-Igodifo

Labour:

Cllr Keith Dibble
Cllr C.P. Grattan

Liberal Democrat:

Cllr T.W. Mitchell

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Conservative: 7

Labour: 4

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Jessica Auton
Cllr D.B. Bedford
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr S. Trussler

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr Keith Dibble
Cllr Sophie Porter

Standing Deputies:

Conservative:
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Nem Thapa

Labour:
Cllr Abe Allen
Cllr Gareth Williams

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Voting Members

Conservative: 6

Labour: 4

Liberal Democrat: 1

Cllr Jessica Auton
Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr Michael Hope
Cllr Marina Munro
Cllr Calum Stewart

Cllr Abe Allen
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Becky Williams
Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr T.W. Mitchell

Standing Deputies:

Conservative:
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Labour:
Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Halleh Koohestani

Liberal Democrat:
Cllr C.W. 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 S.J. Masterson
Vice-Chairman - Cllr Marina Munro

Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards

Chairman - Cllr P.J. Cullum
Vice-Chairman - Cllr S. Trussler

(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 M.D. Smith

Policy and Project Advisory Board

Chairman - Cllr Marina Munro

(5) Management Boards

The appointments to the Management Boards for the Municipal Year 2023/24, as follows, be approved:

The Aldershot Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Mrs D.B. Bedford Cllr K. Dibble Cllr S. Trussler
Standing Deputy: Cllr Nadia Martin

King George’s Field, Farnborough Trust

Cllr Calum Stewart Cllr Gareth Williams Cllr P.J. Taylor
Standing Deputy: Cllr Mara Makunura

The Alfred Henry Goode Will Trust

Cllr D.E. Clifford Cllr Nadia Martin Cllr Sophie Porter

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

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.
