BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 8th December, 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (CR. P.I.C. CRERAR, B.A. (Hons.), M.Arch., M.A.)

CR. C.T.J. ALLARD, Ph.D., B.Sc. CR. A.J. MACKIE
CR. MRS. D.B. BEDFORD a CR. M.J. MANNING
CR. SUE CARTER CR. S.J. MASTERSON
CR. A.M.J. CHAINEY CR. P.J. MOYLE
CR. ATTIKA CHOU DHARY CR. K.H. MUSCHAMP
CR. M.S. CHOU DHARY, M.A. CR. E.J. NEAL, C.C.
CR. SOPHIA CHOU DHARY, L.L.B. CR. G. PAPARESTI
CR. D.E. CLIFFORD CR. M.J. ROBERTS, B.Sc., F.R.S.A.
CR. D.R. CORNWELL CR. B.W. PARKER
CR. SUE DIBBLE CR. M.D. SMITH
CR. A.M. FERRIER CR. M. STAPLEHURST
CR. C.D. FRASER-FLEMING CR. P.G. TAYLOR, A.C.I.B.
CR. JACKIE HAMMOND CR. M.J. TENNANT, B.Sc.
CR. R. HUGHES CR. D.J. THOMAS, F.B.I.I.
CR. BARBARA HURST, M.A. CR. JACQUI VOSPER
CR. A. JACKMAN, B.Sc. CR. N.J. WATKIN
CR. G.B. LYON, B.A. (Oxon) CR. D.M. WELCH

a Honorary Alderman A.P. Frost
a Honorary Alderman R.J. Debenham, M.B.E.
a Honorary Alderman G.J. Woolger

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Crs. M.J. Manning.

The Meeting commenced with Prayers led by Reverend Martin James.

33. MINUTES –

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. R. Hughes and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 6th October, 2011 (copy having been circulated previously) be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.
34. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS –

(1) The Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended the Rushmoor Fireworks Spectacular in Manor Park, Aldershot on 5th November which had been a successful evening of entertainment for the thousands of visitors.

(2) The Mayor reported that, on 10th November, he had represented Her Majesty The Queen in welcoming 20 new British citizens to Rushmoor at two ceremonies at the Aldershot Registration Office.

(3) The Mayor advised Members that, on 11th November, he had attended a Memorial Service at the War Memorial in Municipal Gardens, Aldershot, which had been organised by the Royal Naval Association.

(4) The Mayor reported that, also on 11th November at Farnborough Sixth Form College, a Mayor’s Charity Quiz Night had been held, in which nineteen teams had participated. Taking into account donations, the target of raising £1,111.11 for the Mayor’s Charities had been exceeded.

(5) The Mayor advised Members that, on 13th November, he had laid wreaths on behalf of the Borough at the War Memorials at Devereux House, Farnborough and Municipal Gardens and Princes Hall, Aldershot. The Mayor had then attended a Service of Remembrance at the Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot before laying a wreath at the war memorial there on behalf of the Borough. The Deputy Mayor had laid a wreath at Knellwood and at the Service of Remembrance at North Camp Methodist Church on behalf of the Borough.

(6) The Mayor reported that, between 17th and 19th November, Councillors Ferrier, Marsh and he had visited Rushmoor’s twin town of Sulechow in Poland. They had participated in the opening ceremony for a refurbishment of the village hall in Legowo, towards which the local organisation, Stefan’s Aid to Poland, had made a donation of £5,000. The project had also attracted European Union funding.

(7) The Mayor reported that, on 24th November, the Mayoress had held a Christmas Afternoon Tea. Just under £900.00 had been raised for the Mayor’s Charities. The Mayor thanked Members and Officers who had supported the event, including donating raffle prizes.

(8) The Mayor advised Members that, between 1st and 3rd December, both he and the Mayoress, together with the Chief Executive and his wife, had visited Rushmoor’s twin town of Meudon in France at the invitation of the Mayor. Celebrations had been held to mark the Mayor of Meudon’s election to the French Senate. A visit had also been made to the Christmas Market at which the Rushmoor Town Twinning Association had had a stall.
(9) The Mayor advised Members that, on 10th December, the Westy Choir would be performing Christmas Carols at the Wellington Centre, Aldershot, when there would be collections for the Mayor’s Charities. He invited all Members to participate.

(10) The Mayor advised Members that, on 10th February, 2012, he would be holding a Mayoral Dinner and Cabaret at the Holiday Inn, Farnborough in aid of the Mayor’s Charities.

(11) The Mayor advised Members that Councillor Tennant’s wife, Jill, had given birth to a boy on 29th November. On behalf of the Council, he extended congratulations to the Tennant family on the birth of baby Miles.

35. **STANDING ORDER 8 – QUESTIONS –**

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

36. **NOTICES OF MOTION –**

(1) **Community Integration Standing Committee –**

The Council was asked to consider the following Motion, which had been submitted by Cr. K. Dibble in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9(1). It was MOVED by Cr. K. Dibble; SECONDED by Cr. M.J. Roberts:

“Rushmoor Borough Council acknowledges, without prejudice, the growth of the Nepali community in Aldershot and Farnborough.

Council understands that community integration is a long-term issue that will require strategic planning, adequate resources, community engagement and input from elected Members.

Council therefore agrees to form from January, 2012 a Community Integration Standing Committee. The Community Integration Standing Committee would report to Cabinet with membership of the Committee reflecting the political balance of the Council.”

Speaking in support of his Motion, Cr. Dibble referred to a recent Members’ Seminar where Members wanted an opportunity to debate the issues created in Aldershot and Farnborough by the sudden growth of the Nepali community. A number of Members had expressed a wish for more opportunities to participate in the debate.

Cr. Dibble stated that the issues created by the growth in the Nepali community would be a long term problem for the area and would require strategic planning to deal with the issues involved and to manage the problem, involving working in partnership with a number of agencies. He felt it was important that there should be input from Members and proposed the establishment of a Community Integration Standing Committee, to create the mechanism and structure to deal with the issues involved.
During discussion, it was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle and SECONDED by Cr. J.H. Marsh – that the third paragraph of the Motion be amended as follows:

“The Council therefore requests the Cabinet to set up from January, 2012 a Community Integration Task and Finish Group with membership reflecting the political balance of the Council in order to assist in developing the Council’s strategic and practical approach to promoting cohesion and integration for all our residents.”

With the agreement of his Seconder, Cr. Dibble stated that he accepted the amendment. The Council then proceeded to debate the amended Motion. Members expressed the view that it was important to work together on the issue of social cohesion and this should include other agencies being invited to take part in the work of the task and finish group. It was also felt important that the cohesion work should apply across the community.

The Motion was put to the Meeting. There voted FOR: 37; AGAINST: 0 and the Motion was DECLARED CARRIED.

(2) Gurkha Pensions –

The Council was asked to consider the following Motion, which had been submitted by Cr. C.T.J. Allard in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9 (1). It was MOVED by Cr. C.T.J. Allard; SECONDED by Cr. A.J. Mackie:

“This Council believes that raising Gurkha pensions would:

- enable retired Gurkhas and their families to enjoy an excellent standard of living in Nepal
- lead to fewer retired Gurkhas wishing to settle with their families in Rushmoor, whilst enabling those who wish to return to Nepal to do so
- put more money in the pockets of retired Gurkhas who decide to live in Rushmoor, thus benefitting the local economy
- be a fair and just thing to do.

This Council calls on the Government to raise the pensions of all retired Gurkhas to that enjoyed by other British Army veterans.”
Speaking in support of the Motion, Cr. Allard referred to pensions of retired Gurkha soldiers and how small these pensions were in comparison to other British Army veterans. Raising the Gurkha pensions would enable retired Gurkhas and their families to enjoy a better standard of living in Nepal. Increased pensions was also an economically effective way of distributing wealth. In respect of the financial issues involved in the current level of Gurkha pensions, it was noted that the current level of pensions cost £50 million per year. Cr. Allard felt that the Government needed to take into account the whole picture of the current situation. Increased pensions would encourage Gurkhas to stay in Nepal and, therefore, would lead to a decreased spend by the Government on benefits. It was also felt that increasing the level of pension would have a positive impact for those who wished to remain in the United Kingdom.

During discussion, it was mentioned that there were complex and technical issues involved in increasing the level of pensions for Gurkhas.

It was MOVED by Cr. K. Dibble and SECONDED by Cr. M.J. Roberts: That the Motion be referred to the Community Integration Task and Finish Group for further consideration.

The Amendment was put to the Meeting. There voted FOR: 5; AGAINST: 27 and the Amendment was DECLARED LOST.

In debating the proposals set out in the Motion, Members expressed their strong support for the Gurkhas and their service to the country, but felt that the pension issue was not a matter over which the Council had any direct influence or should become involved. It was noted that the issue had been debated in Parliament and had been through judicial processes and might still be subject to an appeal to the European Court and, therefore, in these circumstances most Members felt unable to support the Motion.

Following further discussion on the issues raised, the Motion was put to the Meeting. On a Recorded Vote there voted FOR: Crs. C.T.J. Allard, C.D. Fraser-Fleming and A.J. Mackie (3); AGAINST: Crs. Mrs. D.B. Bedford, Sue Carter, A.M.J. Chainey, Attika Choudhary, M.S. Choudhary, Sophia Choudhary, D.E. Clifford, R.L.G. Dibbs, A.M. Ferrier, Jackie Hammond, R. Hughes, Barbara Hurst, A. Jackman, G.B. Lyon, J.H. Marsh, S.J. Masterson, P.J. Moyle, K.H. Muschamp, E.J. Neal, G. Paparesti, B.W. Parker, M.D. Smith, P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant, D.J. Thomas, Jacqui Vosper, N.J. Watkin and D.M. Welch (28); ABSTAINED: Crs. D. Cappleman, D. Cornwell, Keith Dibble, Sue Dibble, M.J. Roberts, P.F. Rust, S. Smith, M.J. Staplehurst, the Deputy Mayor (Cr. P.I.C. Crerar) and the Mayor (Cr. A.H. Crawford J.P.) (10) and the Motion was DECLARED LOST.

37. QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET –

The Mayor reported that four questions had been submitted to the Cabinet in accordance with the procedure note for a “Cabinet Question Time”:

- 33 -
(1) Cr. M.J. Roberts asked a question of the Leader of the Council about the allocation of Government cohesion funding.

In response, Cr. Moyle stated that a letter had been received from the Government regarding funding to support Nepalese integration. Cr. Moyle confirmed that discussions were taking place between the Council’s officers and senior civil servants. Cr. Moyle confirmed that he would keep Members apprised of progress.

(2) Cr. E.J. Neal asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Health and Housing about homelessness issues in the Borough.

In response, Cr. Welch reported that between January and December, 2011 a total of 324 households had approached the Council for advice on finding accommodation. Of these, 63 households had made an application under the homelessness legislation, but only 35 had been accepted as being homeless.

Cr. Welch also reported that 30 households had been helped with immediate accommodation. Cr. Welch confirmed that the Council currently did not have a waiting list. This reflected the work the Council had carried out over the past couple of years to anticipate issues, ensure effective working arrangements with partners and to improve the service through systems thinking intervention. The review work had resulted in the establishment of the housing allocations pool, which prioritised applicants in bands on the basis of the Council taking responsibility for those with a housing need and not a housing want. It was confirmed that, since the housing allocation pool had taken effect in May, 2011, 127 households had been added to the pool of which 37 had been considered to have little or no housing need.

(3) Cr. Roberts asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Safety and Regulation about budget reductions in the Police.

Cr. S.J. Masterson undertook to provide a written response to this question.

(4) Cr. Roberts asked a question of the Leader of the Council about the impact of the change in benefit support in respect of women and children.

In response, Cr. Moyle spoke of the evidence of the impact of economic pressures on all parts of the Borough’s community. The Council would do what it could to advise people in need. The Council had an excellent reputation in handling benefits enquiries.

38. REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES –

(1) Cabinet –

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. R.L.G. Dibbs and

(2) Cabinet –

It was MOVED by Cr. R.L.G. Dibbs; SECONDED by Cr. D.M. Welch and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 18th October, 2011 (Para. Nos. 174 – 177) be received.

(3) Cabinet –

It was MOVED by Cr. P.J. Moyle; SECONDED by Cr. R.L.G. Dibbs and


(4) Development Control Committee –

It was MOVED by Cr. G.B. Lyon; SECONDED by Cr. J.H. Marsh and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 20th July, 2011 (Para. Nos. 184 – 190) be received.

(5) Licensing and General Purposes Committee –

It was MOVED by Cr. M.J. Tennant; SECONDED by Cr. R. Hughes and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee (Para. Nos. 191 – 197) be received.

(6) Standards and Audit Committee –

It was MOVED by Cr. A.M. Ferrier; SECONDED by Cr. D. Cappleman and

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Meeting of the Standards and Audit Committee held on 10th October, 2011 (Para. Nos. 198 – 201) be received.

(7) Development Control Committee –

It was MOVED by Cr. A. Jackman; SECONDED by Cr. G.B. Lyon and


(8) Development Control Committee –

It was MOVED by Cr. A. Jackman; SECONDED by Cr. G.B. Lyon and

39. REPORTS OF POLICY AND REVIEW PANELS –

RESOLVED: That the Reports of the undermentioned meetings of the Policy and Review Panels be received:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL</th>
<th>DATE OF MEETING</th>
<th>PARA. NOS. RECEIVED</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leisure and Youth</td>
<td>14th November, 2011</td>
<td>219 – 223</td>
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<td>Corporate Services</td>
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<td>Borough Services</td>
<td>21st November, 2011</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
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The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.