

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

18 May 2011 at 7.30pm

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs M Roberts, Retiring Mayor), in the Chair

Members of the
Council present:

Councillors A Alderson, J R Ashmore, Mrs F J Barden, Mrs P I Broadhead, J Broadhead, H A Butterfield, Mrs D V Clarke, D A Cotty, T Dicks, R J Edis, J M Edwards, P A Francis, J R Furey, Mrs C E Gant, Mrs E Gill, Mrs L M Gillham, Mrs M T Harnden, Mrs G M Kingerley, Mrs Y P Lay, S M Mackay, H W V Meares, Prof A M Moore, C J Norman, D W Parr, N Prescott, Mrs M Roberts, P I Roberts, P M Sohi, D Sorgiovanni, P Taylor, A P Tollett, P B Tuley, Mrs G Warner, J J Wilson and G B Woodger

Members of the
Committee absent:

Councillors M J Brown, C Chapman, Mrs R M Denby, Miss M N Heath, R N Jones, M T Kusneraitis and P J Waddell

1. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Mayor read out the Fire Procedure.

2. RETIRING MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed Members and guests. The Mayor reported that she had enjoyed her Mayoral year where she had attended more than 250 engagements.

The Mayor's Charity had raised around £30,000 so far through a series of fundraising activities. The Mayor thanked those persons who had donated, raised funds for her Charity, and her Fund Raising Committee, in particular Dr Brian Perry.

The Mayor mentioned some highlights of her year, in particular the launch of the Magna Carta 2015 celebrations.

The Mayor thanked all her fellow Councillors, the press for their cooperation, the many Officers of the Borough, and paid special thanks to the Mayor's Secretary, Mandy Smith. The Mayor was pleased to present Mrs Smith with a token of appreciation for her excellent support during the Mayoral Year. Finally, the Mayor paid particular thanks to her husband for his support during the year.

3. MAYOR – ELECTION OF

RESOLVED that –

Councillor David William Parr be Mayor of Runnymede for the Municipal Year 2011/2012.

4. DECLARATION BY MAYOR OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The statutory declaration of acceptance of office was made and signed by Councillor Parr who thanked the Council for his election and took the Chair.

(The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Parr, in the Chair).

5. DEPUTY MAYOR – APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RESOLVED that –

Councillor Linda Mary Gillham be Deputy Mayor of Runnymede for the Municipal Year 2011/2012.

6. DECLARATION BY DEPUTY MAYOR OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The statutory declaration of acceptance of office was made and signed by Councillor Mrs Gillham who thanked the Council for her appointment.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Mayor announced that the Reverend Ben Beecroft, Vicar of St Paul's Addlestone, would be his Chaplain for the Municipal Year.

8. PRAYERS

The Reverend Ben Beecroft led the Council in prayers.

9. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 April 2011 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Brown, Mrs Denby, Jones, Kusneraitis and Waddell.

11. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new Mayor thanked the Council for the honour of serving in this office and was looking forward to his Mayoral Year where he would be proud to represent the Borough.

His Mayoress would be Emma Bancroft. His charities for the Mayoral Year would be One to One (NW Surrey), Scouts for the Runnymede District, and St Peter's Hospital Diabetes Unit and Cardiology Unit.

The Mayor was pleased to present Freedom of the Borough badges to the following persons:-

- Mr and Mrs Brian Blowers, who received the badge on behalf of Mr Tony Blowers, Brian Blowers' father. Tony Blowers had been a Councillor for New Haw Ward from 1973 – 1984 and Chairman of Runnymede District Council for the year 1973/74. Tony Blowers had been awarded Freedom of the Borough in 1985, but was too poorly to collect the badge himself.
- Mrs Fiona Gill and Mrs Geraldine Eves, who received the badge on behalf of Mr Ray Lowther, their father. Ray Lowther had been a Councillor for Chertsey Meads from 1956 – 1996). Ray Lowther had been awarded Freedom of the Borough in 1996, but had sadly passed away earlier this year.
- Mrs Eiry Price, who had been Councillor for Thorpe Ward from 1976 – 2004, Mayor for the year 1989/90 and Leader of the Independent Group for the year 2001/02. Eiry Price had been awarded Freedom of the Borough in 2005.
- Mr Howard Langley, who had been a Councillor for New Haw Ward from 1984 – 2000 and Leader of the Conservative Group in the 90's. Howard had also been awarded Freedom of the Borough in 2005.
- Captain and Mrs Paul Samways, who received the badge on behalf of the 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, who had been awarded Freedom of Entry to the Borough in 2008.

The Mayor was presented with a Bible by Mr Malcolm Hickford of the North West Surrey Gideon Society.

Finally, the Mayor congratulated former Mayor, Councillor Mrs Roberts, on her Mayoral Year and Councillor Mrs Gillham, on her appointment as Deputy Mayor.

12. CONSTITUTION FOR 2011/12

Council was informed that the Constitution for 2011/12, as agreed at the meeting of the Council on 10 March 2011, was now fully in force.

13. COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENT OF

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive, which set out the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Members received information as to the wishes of the various Political Groups as to Committee appointments. The Council noted that the allocation of an additional seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee for the Runnymede Independent Group resulted in a seat allocation not quite in accordance with the relevant regulations. Resolution (i) below was passed with no Member voting against, as required by the regulations, and accordingly the distribution of seats would be valid until a review was necessary.

Accordingly the Council

RESOLVED that –

i) the allocation of seats be as follows:-

	<u>Political Groups</u>		
	Con	R Ind	Total
Corporate Management	8	2	10
Environment and Sustainability	8	2	10
Housing	9	1	10
Community Services	9	1	10
Planning	13	2	15
Regulatory Committee	4	1	5
Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee/Crime and Disorder Committee	7	2	9
TOTALS	58	11	69

ii) the allocation of Committee seats to Members of Political Groups as at the commencement of the Municipal Year 2011/2012, as requested by those Groups and as laid before the Council, be approved; and

iii) any Member of the Council be eligible for appointment to any Committee or Sub-Committee.

14. STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that –

the Standards and Audit Committee be established for the year 2011/12 as required by Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000, that the five elected Members for the Municipal Year 2011/12 be Councillors Alderson, J Broadhead, Dicks, Edis and Tollett, and that Mrs C A Spurling and Mr S Tully continue as the non-elected 'independent' Members.

15. LICENSING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that –

the Members of the Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2011/2012 be Councillors Mrs Barden, Mrs Broadhead, Mrs Clarke, Edis, Francis, Mrs Gill, Mrs Harnden, Jones, Knight and Sohi.

16. ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that –

the Englefield Green Committee (as required by the Crown Lease) for the year 2011/12 be established and constituted as follows:

- i) Councillors Miss Heath, Kusneraitis, Meares, Prescott, P I Roberts and Taylor; and**
- ii) Mr M Spear and Mr A E Panter (appointed from the qualifying householders).**

(Mr Band received 6 votes, Mr Panter received 27 votes, Mr Spear received 25 votes and Mr Telford received 4 votes).

17. CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN – APPOINTMENT OF

RESOLVED that –

the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen be appointed for the Committees specified:-

Corporate Management Committee

Chairman : Councillor P Roberts
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Meares

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Chairman : Councillor Brown
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Cotty

Housing Committee

Chairman : Councillor Furey
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Taylor

Community Services Committee

Chairman : Councillor Waddell
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Wilson

Planning Committee

Chairman : Councillor Woodger
Vice-Chairmen : Councillors Edwards and Mrs Kingerey

Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee/Crime and Disorder Committee

Chairman : Councillor Tuley
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Edwards

Licensing Committee

Chairman : Councillor Mrs Broadhead
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Jones

Regulatory Committee

Chairman : Councillor Mrs Barden
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Edis

Standards and Audit Committee

Chairman :) To be elected at

Vice-Chairman) first meeting

18. SURREY FIRST JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that –

Councillor Furey be the Council's representative to serve on the Surrey First Joint Committee and Councillor P Roberts be deputy.

19. SUB-COMMITTEES

Council received and noted the nominations to existing Sub-Committees from the Conservative and Runnymede Independents Groups. The Sub-Committees would elect Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen at their first meetings in the Municipal Year.

20. SURREY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED that –

- i) Councillor Brown be the Council's representative to serve on the Surrey Waste Partnership for 2011/12;**
- ii) Councillor Brown be the Council's representative to serve on the Surrey Climate Change Partnership Member Group for 2011/12; and**
- iii) the Surrey LGA be advised that Councillor Waddell be nominated for appointment to the Supporting People Commissioning Body.**

21. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council noted that the External Appointments Sub-Committee would meet on 25 May 2011 in order to make these appointments.

The Mayor agreed that the following reports be considered as a matter of urgency owing to the need to make decisions thereon prior to the next Council meeting.

22. SURREY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Council considered a proposal to dissolve the Surrey Local Government Association and transfer the assets and monies of the SLGA to a Surrey Leaders' Group on its formation.

The Association comprised all twelve principal authorities in Surrey and had twenty-two members – one member from each borough and district and eleven County Councillors.

There had been many changes in the political environment since the SLGA was formed in 1997. In the light of the current climate, the Association debated at its meeting on 3 March 2011 whether there was indeed a future role for the SLGA and what that might be.

SLGA were unanimous that there remained a clear need for a strong representative body for local Government in Surrey, to act as a forum for discussion of strategic issues, for relationship building and as a lobbying voice.

They did agree, however, that the time was right to change the nature of the SLGA and replace it with a new group better suited to fulfil this role. The group would comprise the Leaders (or equivalent) of all borough and district Councils and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the County Council, which would meet approximately monthly. It would be called the *Surrey Leader's Group*. A draft constitution was noted.

The constitution of the SLGA required the approval of all its constituent authorities for any change to its Purpose, Objectives, Membership, Powers, Administrative and Technical Support, and Finance and Subscriptions. The approval of Council to the dissolution of the SLGA was therefore sought. Subject to the necessary agreements, the SLGA would be formally wound up on 30 June 2011 and assets and monies of the Association would be transferred to the Surrey Leaders' Group on 1 July 2011 or as soon as practicable thereafter.

At the end of the financial year 2010-11, there was a balance of some £52,329.27 uncommitted funds in the SLGA accounts. It was proposed that this should be transferred to the Surrey Leaders' Group together with any balances accrued after 31 March 2011. Closing accounts of the SLGA would be submitted to each of its constituent authorities.

With regard to the draft Constitution, it was considered important that the new Group protected and promoted the interests of the people of Surrey. Councillor Furey would suggest this at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that –

- i) the dissolution of the Surrey Local Government Association be approved;**
- ii) the intention to establish a Surrey Leaders' Group in accordance with the draft constitution be endorsed;**
- iii) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to agree any minor amendments to the constitution of the Surrey Leaders' Group that may arise following consideration by all Councils; and**
- iv) the transfer of the assets and monies of the SLGA to the Surrey Leaders' Group be approved.**

23. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON BANK HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Council was informed that the Government, as part of its Tourism Strategy, published in March 2011, had included a commitment to consult about possibly moving the May Day Bank Holiday to a new date at some other point in the year.

The Government had invited suggestions for alternatives for a new date and occasion to possibly replace the May Day Bank Holiday.

The 800th Anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta would take place on 15 June 2015. The Trustees of the Magna Carta Trust supported this date being a special international holiday and the support of this Council to this suggestion was requested.

Council duly endorsed this request

RESOLVED that –

Council suggest to the Government that the 800th Anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta be designated a special international holiday.

24. LEADER'S STATEMENT

Councillor Furey announced his intention to stand down as Leader of the Council at the end of the meeting.

Councillor P Roberts would be the new Leader, with Councillor Furey, Deputy Leader.

Councillor Furey fully endorsed Councillor Roberts and thanked Officers and Members for their support over the past five years of his leadership.

In reply, Councillor Roberts thanked Councillor Furey for his support and also thanked his wife, Sheenagh, for her support.

(The meeting ended at 8.40pm)