

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

15 May 2019 at 7.30 pm

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor D V Clarke) retiring Mayor in the chair.

Members of the Council present Councillors M Adams, A Alderson, M R Brierley, J Broadhead, T Burton, I A Chaudhri, B A Clarke, D V Clarke, D A Cotty, M D Cressey, S L Dennett, R J Edis, J R Furey, E Gill, L M Gillham, J Gracey, T Gracey, M T Harnden, M N Heath, C Howorth, J Hulley, N M King, R King, M T Kusneraitis, S Lewis, S M Mackay, M J Maddox, I A Mullens, A Neathey, M Nuti, J Olorenshaw, N Prescott, P Snow, Miss J K Sohi, P S Sohi, D Whyte, S Whyte and J Wilson.

Members of the Council absent: Councillors D Anderson–Bassey, S Walsh and M L Willingale

1. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Mayor read out the Fire Precautions.

2. RETIRING MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed Members and Guests. The Mayor reported that she had had a memorable Mayoral year and had attended hundreds of events and mentioned particular highlights.

The Mayor thanked her Consort for his commitment and support during the year. A gift was presented by the Mayor to Dr Perry.

During her year the following Charities had benefitted:

St Peter's Hospital Portable Hearing Loops for A & E

Chertsey Scouts for a new Scout hut

Together We Care

Finally, the Mayor thanked all those persons who had helped her during her Mayoral year. A floral tribute was presented by the Mayor to Katie Edmond (Mayoral Assistant) for her valuable support during the Mayoral Year.

Many Councillors expressed their appreciation of the service and commitment given by the Mayor and her Consort Dr Brian Perry .

3. MAYOR – ELECTION OF

RESOLVED that –

Councillor Parshotam Singh Sohi be Mayor of Runnymede for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

4. DECLARATION BY MAYOR OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

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

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

5. DEPUTY MAYOR – APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RESOLVED that –

Councillor Elaine Gill be Deputy Mayor of Runnymede for the Municipal Year 2019/20

6. DECLARATION BY DEPUTY MAYOR OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

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

7. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 April 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Anderson-Bassey, Walsh and Willingale.

9. 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 his wife, Davinder Sohi.

The Mayor congratulated former Mayor, Dolsie Clarke, on her commitment and outstanding Mayoral Year and Councillor Elaine Gill on her appointment as Deputy Mayor. The Mayor thanked the former Consort for his hard work and support to the Mayor during the year.

The Mayoral Charities would be:

1st Virginia Water Scout Group

Sight for Surrey

Combat Stress

10. CONSTITUTION FOR 2019/20

Council was informed that the Constitution, as agreed at the meeting of the Council on 24 April 2019, would apply for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

11. COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENT OF

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Head of Law and Governance, 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 Leader of the Council moved, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, that the named committees in para 12.3 of the report be established and that the number of seats be confirmed as set out in para 12.3 apart from a reduction in the number of seats which would constitute the Planning Committee from 15 to 13. The net effect of the motion would be to reduce the total number of seats to be apportioned from 81 to 79, and reduce the number of Conservative seats on Planning Committee from 10 to 8 and increase the number of Conservative seats on Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee/Crime and Disorder Committee from 5 to 6 and reduce the number of RIRG seats on Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee/Crime and Disorder Committee from 2 to 1. The reasoning put forward by the Leader was that this would be more in line with other committee sizes, reflected the recommendations of the PAS review of the Planning Service, greater opportunity would be given to Members to be involved in planning issues via the relevant Member Working Group, and there was no need for individual ward representation as any Member of the Council could attend Planning Committee and speak on any planning issue irrespective of membership of that Committee.

During the debate on the reduction in size of the Planning Committee, Councillor Kusneraitis expressed his concern over the proposed reduction as he felt the Committee required a broader membership in terms of ward representation, and Councillor Kusneraitis requested a named vote on the Motion to reduce the size of Planning Committee. In making these points, Councillor Kusneraitis announced that he was leaving the Conservative group and would now act as an independent Councillor.

The RIRG considered that there was no justification for the reduction, that it would not be in the interests of Runnymede and its residents and would reduce ward representation. RIRG considered that any proposal to change the size of the Planning Committee should be deferred to allow due consideration to be given by the Constitution Member Working Group and then by Corporate Management Committee and Full Council in July 2019 and a Motion to this effect was moved, seconded and put to the vote with the names of those voting recorded as follow:

For Deferral :20 (Councillors Gill, Alderson, Brierley, Broadhead, Burton, B Clarke, D Clarke, Cressey, Edis, Gillham, Harnden, R King, Kusneraitis, Mackay, Mullens, Neathey, Olorenshaw, Snow, D Whyte and S Whyte.)

Against:18 (Councillors Adams, Chaudhri, Cotty, Dennett, Furey, J Gracey, T Gracey, Heath, Howorth, Hulley, N King, Lewis, Maddox, Nuti, Prescott, J Sohi, P Sohi and Wilson.

The Motion to defer reduction in the size of the membership of the Planning Committee in order to allow consideration by the Constitution Member Working Group, and subsequently by Corporate Management Committee and Full Council in July was passed. The size of the Planning Committee would remain at 15 and the composition of the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee/Crime and Disorder Committee would remain unchanged. The Leader of the Conservative group would notify Officers after the meeting of the names of the two additional Members of his group to be appointed on Planning Committee.

In response to the decision by Councillor Kusneraitis to leave the Conservative group, a recalculation of the allocation of seats on Committees would be required. However, as this process would be time consuming and cause delay to the evening's proceedings, the Leader of the Council was agreeable to allowing Councillor Kusneraitis to remain, for the short term, in the seat on Community Services Committee to which he had been allocated on the basis of being a member of the Conservative group. However, Officers were instructed to undertake a recalculation of seat allocations to take account of Councillor Kusneraitis' new status and bring a report to Full Council on 18 July so that a proper allocation of seats could be agreed.

Council then voted on the substantive Motion for which a recorded vote was taken with all Members voting in favour, and it was

RESOLVED that –

- i) reduction in size of the Planning Committee be deferred in order to allow consideration by the Constitution Member Working Group, and subsequently by Corporate Management Committee and Full Council in July 2019;**
- ii) the allocation of seats on the Committees shown in attached Appendix 'A' be as set out therein.**
- iii) the allocation of Committee seats to Members of Political Groups as at commencement of the Municipal Year 2019/20, as requested by those Groups and as laid before Council, be approved with two additional Members for Planning Committee to be provided in due course by the Conservative Group Leader;**
- iv) Councillor S Mackay (Independent) and M Brierley (Green) be appointed to Committees as set out in Appendix 'A'; and**
- v) any other Member of the Council from the five political groups be eligible for appointment to any Committee or Sub-Committee.**

12. LICENSING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that –

the Members of the Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/2020 be Councillors Broadhead, Burton, Chaudhri, D Clarke, Cotty, Gill, Furey, J Gracey, R King, Olorenshaw and Snow.

13. ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that –

the Englefield Green Committee (as required by the Crown Lease) for the year 2019/20 be established and constituted as follows:

- i) Councillors Heath, N. King, Kusneraitis, Prescott, J K Sohi; and**
- ii) Two representatives appointed from the qualifying householders, namely Mr A E Panter and Mr N Bromilow.**

14. CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN – APPOINTMENT OF

Nominations for Chairmen and Vice Chairmen were moved and seconded as tabled, with the addition of Councillor Gill being proposed as Vice –Chairman of Licensing and Regulatory Committees.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the nominations for Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees be as moved, subject to Councillor Gillham being nominated to the office of Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee/Crime and Disorder Committee. The nominations of Councillors Furey and Gillham were put to the vote and Councillor Furey received the greater number of votes, and upon the substantive Motion being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED that –

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

Corporate Management Committee

Chairman : Councillor Prescott
Vice-Chairman : Councillor J Gracey

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Chairman : Councillor Heath
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Wilson

Housing Committee

Chairman : Councillor J Gracey
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Chaudhri

Community Services Committee

Chairman : Councillor King
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Lewis

Planning Committee

Chairman : Councillor Willingale
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Anderson-Bassey

Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee / Crime and Disorder Committee

Chairman : Councillor Furey
Vice-Chairman : Councillor T Gracey

Licensing Committee

Chairman : Councillor Cotty
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Gill

Regulatory Committee

Chairman : Councillor Cotty
Vice-Chairman : Councillor Gill

Standards and Audit Committee

Chairman : Councillor Nuti
Vice-Chairman : Councillor J Sohi

15. SUB-COMMITTEES

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

16. RUNNYMEDE JOINT COMMITTEE

The membership of the Joint Committee, as tabled, was moved subject to the replacement of Councillor Kusneraitis with Councillor N King, as Councillor Kusneraitis was no longer a member of the Conservative group to whom the seat was allocated.

RESOLVED that –

Councillors Alderson, Anderson-Bassey, N King, M Maddox (Chairman), Prescott and D Whyte be appointed as the Council's Members on the Runnymede Joint Committee.

17. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL JOINT COMMITTEE**RESOLVED that**

Councillor Furey be appointed as the Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel Joint Committee

18. SURREY ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP APPOINTMENT AND SURREY LEADERS' GROUP NOMINATIONS**RESOLVED that –**

- i) **Councillor Nuti be the Council's representative to serve on the Surrey Environment Partnership for 2019/20 with Councillor Mrs Gillham attending in an observer capacity;**

(Councillor Gillham was also nominated as the Council's representative on this Partnership. The nominations of Cllrs Gillham and Nuti were put to the vote and Cllr Nuti received the greater number of votes, and was duly appointed)

- ii) **Councillor Howorth be nominated to the SCC Wellbeing and Healthbeing Board; and**
- ii) **Councillor N King be nominated to the Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health Foundation Trust).**

(Councillor R King was also nominated to the Trust. The nominations of Councillors N King and R King were put to the vote and Cllr N King received the greater number of votes and was duly nominated)

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 9.00 pm)

Committee	Con	RIRG	Lib	Labour	Ind	S.Mackay	Green
Corporate Management (12)	8	2	1	1			
Environment and Sustainability (10)	6	1	1		1		1
Housing (10)	6	1	1	1		1	
Community Services (10)	6	1	1	1	1		
Planning (15)	10	2	1	1	1		
Regulatory (5)	3	1	1				
Crime & Disorder/Overview & Scrutiny (9)	5	2				1	1
Standards and Audit (10)	7	2			1		
(81)	51	12	6	4	4	2	2