

Runnymede Borough Council

Full Council

Wednesday, 15 May 2024 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Council present: Councillors S Saise-Marshall (Mayor), A Berardi, D Clarke, MD Cressey, MK Cressey, V Cunningham, R Davies, J Furey, P Gahir, T Gates, E Gill, L Gillham, T Gracey, K Graham, M Harnden, C Howorth, J Hulley, S Jenkins, E Kettle, A King, R King, K Lee, S Lewis, C Mann, J Mavi, P Mehta, R Milstead, G Moudgil, I Mullens, M Nuti, C Parry, S Ringham, K Rowsell, M Singh, M Smith, P Snow, P. Tucker-Brown, D Whyte, S Whyte, M Williams and J Wilson.

Members of the Council absent: None.

**1 Apologies for Absence**

[Councillor Saise-Marshall in the chair].

There were no apologies for absence.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 Election of Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year**

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Shannon Saise-Marshall, recounted some of the memorable moments of her mayoral year, thanked those who had supported her and her chosen charities, and welcomed the newly-elected councillors to the chamber.

Councillor Saise-Marshall offered her thanks to her consort, Major Rob Marshall MBE, and to Clare Sykes, Executive Officer, for their support.

Councillors from across the chamber expressed their thanks to Councillor Saise-Marshall for her service as Mayor.

It was proposed (by Councillor Gillham), seconded (by Councillor R. King) and **resolved** that Councillor Elaine Gill be elected as Mayor for the 2024/25 municipal year.

**4 Declaration by 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 election.

Councillor Saise-Marshall presented the Chain of Office to Councillor Gill.

[Councillor Gill in the chair].

**5 Appointment of Mayor's Consort**

Councillor Gill announced that her consort would be her husband, Mr Harry Gill.

The Mayor's Consort badge was presented to Mr Harry Gill.

A former consort badge was presented to Major Rob Marshall MBE.

## 6 **Appointment of Mayor's Chaplain**

Owing to a vacancy for a vicar at Councillor Gill's local church, St. Mary's in Thorpe, Councillor Gill decided that she would not appoint a chaplain at the current time.

## 7 **Appointment of Deputy Mayor**

It was proposed (by Councillor Mullens), seconded (by Councillor Clarke) and **resolved** that Councillor Margaret Harnden be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2024/25 municipal year.

## 8 **Declaration by Deputy Mayor of Acceptance of Office**

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

Councillor Gill presented the Badge of Office to Councillor Harnden.

## 9 **Appointment of Deputy Mayor's Consort**

Councillor Harnden said that she would announce her consort at a later date.

## 10 **Mayor's Announcements**

Councillor Gill thanked the outgoing Mayor and her consort for representing the borough admirably over the past 12 months, welcomed newly-elected councillors to the chamber, and promoted a culture of respect, tolerance and kindness to fellow councillors and residents.

The Mayor announced that her chosen charities would be Runnymede Dementia Carers' Support and Egham Band Youth Brass Project.

The Mayor also announced that she hoped to launch a grants programme for environmental projects and civic pride. Further details would follow in due course.

## 11 **Constitution of the Council**

It was proposed by Councillor Gillham and seconded by Councillor Ringham that the Council adopt the recommendations set out in the supplementary summons published on 14 May 2024.

It was further proposed (by Councillor Nuti) and seconded (by Councillor Cunningham) that consideration of the proposed amendments relating to provisions to enable the appointment of Co-Leaders (recommendation 2 of the supplementary summons issued on 14 May 2024) be deferred to such time that they, along with any consequential governance matters, had been reviewed by the Constitution Member Working Party and the Corporate Management Committee.

A named vote was requested on Councillor Nuti's proposal with the voting noted as follows:

For (16):

Councillors Clarke, M.D. Cressey, M.K. Cressey, Cunningham, Furey, Gracey, Howorth, Hulley, Lewis, Mann, Mavi, Nuti, Saise-Marshall, Snow, Tucker-Brown, Wilson.

Against (25):

Councillors Gill, Harnden, Berardi, Davies, Gahir, Gates, Gillham, Graham, Jenkins, Kettle, A. King, R. King, Lee, Mehta, Milstead, Moudgil, Mullens, Parry, Ringham, Rowsell, Singh, Smith, D. Whyte, S. Whyte, Williams.

Abstentions (0):

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The proposal to defer consideration of the proposed amendments relating to provisions to enable the appointment of Co-Leaders therefore FELL.

Separate named votes were requested on each element of the substantive proposed motion. The voting was noted as follows:

**Recommendation 1:**

**To note that the Constitution, approved at Council on 25 April 2024, would apply for the 2024/25 municipal year (subject to any in-year amendments).**

For (37):

Councillors Gill, Harnden, Berardi, Clarke, Davies, Gahir, Gates, Gillham, Gracey, Graham, Howorth, Hulley, Jenkins, Kettle, A. King, R. King, Lee, Lewis, Mann, Mavi, Mehta, Milstead, Moudgil, Mullens, Nuti, Parry, Ringham, Rowsell, Saise-Marshall, Singh, Smith, Snow, Tucker-Brown, D. Whyte, S. Whyte, Williams, Wilson.

Against (4):

Councillors M.D. Cressey, M.K. Cressey, Cunningham, Furey.

Abstentions (0):

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It was resolved that it be noted that the Constitution, approved at Council on 25 April 2024, would apply for the 2024/25 municipal year (subject to any in-year amendments).

**Recommendation 2:**

**To consider whether an amendment to standing orders to provide a mechanism to appoint Co-Leaders should be approved.**

For (25):

Councillors Gill, Harnden, Berardi, Davies, Gahir, Gates, Gillham, Graham, Jenkins, Kettle, A. King, R. King, Lee, Mehta, Milstead, Moudgil, Mullens, Parry, Ringham, Rowsell, Singh, Smith, D. Whyte, S. Whyte, Williams.

Against (16):

Councillors Clarke, M.D. Cressey, M.K. Cressey, Cunningham, Furey, Gracey, Howorth, Hulley, Lewis, Mann, Mavi, Nuti, Saise-Marshall, Snow, Tucker-Brown, Wilson.

Abstentions (0):

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It was **resolved** that the proposed amendments, as set out in the supplementary summons of 14 May 2024, to enable the appointment of Co-Leaders, be approved.

## 12 Appointment of Leader of the Council

It was proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Jenkins that:

- 1) Councillors Gillham, R. King, Ringham and D. Whyte be appointed as Co-Leaders, in accordance with amended Standing Order 6.

- 2) Officers be asked to consult the Independent Remuneration Panel about the structure of the special responsibility allowances for the Leader and Deputy Leader and make recommendations to the Corporate Management Committee and the Council.
- 3) Payment of the Leader and Deputy Leader special responsibility allowances be delayed until directed otherwise by the Council.

It was further proposed by Councillor Snow and seconded by Councillor Gracey that Councillor Gillham be appointed as the sole Leader of the Council.

Following the debate a named vote was requested on the proposal to appoint Councillor Gillham as the sole Leader of the Council. The voting was noted as follows:

For (16):

Councillors Clarke, M.D. Cressey, M.K. Cressey, Cunningham, Furey, Gracey, Howorth, Hulley, Lewis, Mann, Mavi, Nuti, Saise-Marshall, Snow, Tucker-Brown, Wilson.

Against (25):

Councillors Gill, Harnden, Berardi, Davies, Gahir, Gates, Gillham, Graham, Jenkins, Kettle, A. King, R. King, Lee, Mehta, Milstead, Moudgil, Mullens, Parry, Ringham, Rowsell, Singh, Smith, D. Whyte, S. Whyte, Williams.

Abstentions (0):

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The proposal to appoint Councillor Gillham as the sole Leader of the Council FELL.

The substantive motion, to appoint Councillors Gillham, R. King, Ringham and D. Whyte as Co-Leaders, was therefore put to the vote.

It was **resolved** that:

- 1) Councillors Gillham, R. King, Ringham and D. Whyte be appointed as Co-Leaders in accordance with amended Standing Order 6.
- 2) Officers be asked to consult the Independent Remuneration Panel about the structure of the special responsibility allowances for the Leader and Deputy Leader and make recommendations to the Corporate Management Committee and the Council.
- 3) Payment of the Leader and Deputy Leader special responsibility allowances be delayed until directed otherwise by the Council.

### 13 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2024 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### 14 **Speaking or Questions from Members of the Public under Standing Order 12**

In pursuance of Standing Order 12.1, public questions or speaking was not permitted at the meeting.

### 15 **Petitions**

There were no petitions.

## 16 **Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 13**

In pursuance of Standing Order 13.1 v), questions from members of the council were not permitted at the meeting.

## 17 **Appointment of Committees**

### 17a **Establishment of committees and sub-committees**

It was proposed by Councillor Gillham, seconded by Councillor Ringham and **resolved** that the Council establish the committees and sub-committees in accordance with the arrangements set out in the summons.

### 17b **Allocation of seats to political groups**

It was proposed by Councillor Gillham, seconded by Councillor Ringham and **resolved** that the allocation of seats to political groups, as set out in the supplementary summons published on 14 May 2024, be approved.

### 17c **Appointment of members to committees and sub-committees**

It was proposed by Councillor Gillham, seconded by Councillor Ringham and **resolved** that the Council note that group leaders could make appointments to committees in accordance with Standing Order 22.8.

### 17d **Englefield Green Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Gates, seconded by Councillor Gahir and resolved that the councillors representing the wards of Englefield Green East and Englefield Green West, along with local residents' representatives Mr Nigel Bromilow and Mr Richard McGregor-Johnson, be appointed to the Englefield Green Committee.

### 17e **Appointment of chairs and vice-chairs of Committees**

It was proposed by Councillor R. King, seconded by Councillor D. Whyte and **resolved** that the appointment of chairs and vice-chairs to the Council's committees, as set out in the supplementary summons issued on 15 May 2024, be agreed.

## 18 **Designation of minority groups**

Consideration of this item was not required because one group had a majority of the seats on the Council.

## 19 **Appointment to the Surrey Environment Partnership 2024/25**

It was proposed by Councillor Gillham, seconded by Councillor Ringham and **resolved** that Councillor D. Whyte be appointed to the Surrey Environment Partnership for 2024/25.

## 20 **Appointment to the Surrey Police and Crime Panel**

It was proposed by Councillor R. King, seconded by Councillor D. Whyte and **resolved** that:

- 1) Councillor Smith be appointed to the Surrey Police and Crime Panel for 2024/25.
- 2) That a one year term of office be agreed.

## 21 **Nominations to Surrey Leaders' Group (SLG)**

It was proposed by Councillor R. King, seconded by Councillor D. Whyte and resolved that Councillor Gillham be Runnymede Borough Council's appointed Co-Leader to the Surrey Leaders' Group for 2024/25.

### 21a **Adults and Health Select Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor R. King, seconded by Councillor D. Whyte and **resolved** that Councillor A. King be nominated to the Adult and Health Select Committee for 2024/25, subject to the requisite application form being returned to Democratic Services by the deadline listed in the summons.

### 21b **High Sheriff Award**

It was proposed by Councillor R. King and seconded by Councillor D. Whyte that councillor Harnden be nominated to the High Sheriff Award for 2024/25.

It was proposed by Councillor Snow and seconded by Councillor Gracey that councillor Saise-Marshall be nominated to the High Sheriff Award for 2024/25.

It was **resolved** that Councillor Harnden be nominated as the Council's representative to the High Sheriff Award for 2024/25, subject to the requisite application form being returned to Democratic Services by the deadline listed in the summons.

### 21c **Surrey County Council Pension Fund Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor R. King, seconded by Councillor D. Whyte and **resolved** that Councillor R. King be nominated to the Surrey County Council Pension Fund Committee for 2024/25, subject to the requisite application form being returned to Democratic Services by the deadline listed in the summons.

### 21d **Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust**

It was proposed by Councillor R. King, seconded by Councillor D. Whyte and **resolved** that Councillor Howorth be nominated to the Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust for 2024/25, subject to the requisite application form being returned to Democratic Services by the deadline listed in the summons.

### 21e **Active Surrey Sports Partners Forum**

It was proposed by Councillor R. King, seconded by Councillor D. Whyte and **resolved** that Councillor Ringham be nominated to the Adult and Health Select Committee for 2024/25, subject to the requisite application form being returned to Democratic Services by the deadline listed in the summons.

### 21f **Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Partnership**

It was proposed by Councillor R. King, seconded by Councillor Ringham and resolved that Councillor Williams be nominated to the Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Partnership for 2024/25, subject to the requisite application form being returned to Democratic Services by the deadline listed in the summons.

## 22 **Notices of Motion from Members of the Council under Standing Order 15**

There were no notices of motion.

23 **Minority Group Priority Business**

There was no minority group priority business.

24 **Press and Public to be Excluded by Resolution**

There was no exempt business.

(The meeting ended at 9.37 pm.)

Mayor