

# MINUTES OF COUNCIL

17 JUNE 2026

## PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Sayani), Councillors Bainbridge, Barnett, Brown, Bennett, Daly, Davis, Dumbleton, C Edwards, S Edwards, Freeman, Garcia, Gillias, Glowacki, Harrington, Hassell, Henderson, Howling, Karadiar, Kedward, McKenzie, I Mistry, U Mistry, New, O'Rourke, Pimm, Poole, Robinson, Roodhouse, Russell, Sandison, Simpson-Vince, Stewart, Thomas, Thompson, Timms, Ward and Willis.

## 10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors D Keeling, J Keeling, Pullin and Trimble.

## 11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2026 and the annual meeting held on 21 May 2026 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

## 12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 13. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week marks the tenth anniversary of the murder of Jo Cox MP. In her memory, the Mayor asked all Members to engage in respectful debate during the meeting and reminded everyone of the Local Government Association's longstanding 'Debate Not Hate' campaign, which promotes healthy democratic debate free from abuse and intimidation.

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Rotary Club of Rugby Dunsmore and the Rugby Rokeby Lions Club have teamed up with Councillors Roodhouse and O'Rourke to organise a charity quiz night on 31 July at the Rugby Indian Community Centre to raise funds for Prostate Cancer Research and the Rokeby Lions' local testing events as well as awareness of the disease in Rugby.

Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, with drinks and samosas on sale at the bar. Tickets are £5 per person with a maximum of six people per team. Members and residents of the borough were asked to contact Councillor Roodhouse or O'Rourke if they wished to purchase tickets and register a team. This is a topic which impacts many men and their families in the borough so the Mayor encouraged everyone to support this event.

The next Rokeby Lions testing session is on 19 September at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre.

#### **14. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

The Chief Executive informed Members that the question from Councillor Garcia which had been previously circulated and published on the Council's website had been withdrawn. There were, therefore, no questions.

#### **15. REPORT OF CABINET – 2 JUNE 2026**

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report of Cabinet dated 2 June 2026 be approved and adopted.

#### **16. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

##### **(a) Adoption of the Clifton upon Dunsmore Neighbourhood Plan**

Council considered the report of the Strategic Director for Place (Part 1 - agenda item 7(a)) concerning the proposed adoption of the Clifton upon Dunsmore Neighbourhood Plan.

**RESOLVED THAT** –

- (1) the Clifton upon Dunsmore Neighbourhood Plan be adopted (made);
- (2) factual updates relating to the completion of the referendum and adoption of the neighbourhood plan be made to a) front cover and b) paragraph 1.6 of the introduction; and
- (3) a decision statement be published pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 setting out the decision and the reasons for it.

##### **(b) Cycling Prohibition Byelaw - update**

Council considered the report of the Strategic Director for Place (Part 1 - agenda item 7(b)) concerning approval for the revocation byelaw prohibiting use of persons riding bicycles, tricycles or other similar vehicles of certain footpaths.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the revocation byelaw (appendix 2) be approved and approval of the application to be submitted to the Secretary of State to confirm the byelaw be given.

##### **(c) Annual report of urgent decisions**

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (Part 1 - agenda item 7(c)) concerning the annual report on decisions taken using the emergency decision powers process outlined in the Constitution.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the summary of urgent decisions taken during 2025 - 2026, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

### **(d) Constitutional Amendment: Establishment of the Rugby Future Governance Committee**

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (Part 1 - agenda item 7(d)) concerning the proposed establishment of a Rugby Future Governance Committee and its terms of reference and political composition.

#### **RESOLVED THAT – Full Council:**

- (1) approves the amendment of the Constitution by inserting the Rugby Future Governance Committee (with its Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 1 to this report) as a new section in Part 2A of the Constitution, following the existing section on the Audit and Ethics Committee;
- (2) fixes the size of the Committee at nine voting members, comprising two councillors nominated by each of the four political groups (eight seats in total) and the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council (or a Cabinet member nominated in their absence) as the executive link;
- (3) notes that the allocation of two seats to each political group satisfies the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 on the basis of equal group representation, and instructs the Monitoring Officer to confirm the proportionality calculation following confirmation of post-election group sizes;
- (4) receives and notes that the nominations of two councillors from each political group to serve on the Committee will be sent to the Monitoring Officer following this meeting;
- (5) instructs the Monitoring Officer to update Part 2A of the Constitution accordingly and to publish the revised Part 2A in accordance with the indexing convention of the Constitution; and
- (6) instructs Democratic Services to convene the first meeting of the Committee within six weeks of this resolution.

### **17. NOTICE OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11**

Councillor Kedward moved and Councillor Daly seconded the following motion on notice, as set out at agenda item 8(a), which had been submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

*(a) "Council notes that:*

- 1. Rugby town centre is a vital economic, social and cultural asset for the Borough.*
- 2. Local businesses continue to face significant challenges from changing consumer habits, competition from online retail and wider economic pressures.*
- 3. Many neighbouring towns and shopping destinations use free parking incentives to attract visitors and increase footfall.*
- 4. Convenient and affordable parking plays an important role in supporting local shops, markets, hospitality venues and town centre events.*

*Council believes that:*

- 1. Supporting a thriving town centre should be a key priority for Rugby Borough Council.*
- 2. Residents should be encouraged to shop locally and spend more time in Rugby town centre.*
- 3. Introducing a period of free parking in Council-owned town centre car parks would provide a practical and visible boost to local businesses and the wider town centre economy.*

*Council resolves that:*

- (1) Rugby Borough Council supports in principle the introduction of up to two hours' free parking every day in Council-owned town centre car parks;*
- (2) Council requests Cabinet to commission the Chief Executive and relevant officers to prepare a fully costed implementation plan, to be presented to Cabinet within six months, identifying:*
  - The car parks to which the scheme would apply*
  - The financial implications of the proposal*
  - Any operational, legal and enforcement requirements*
  - Options for funding or mitigating any loss of parking income**and requests that Cabinet report the outcome of that process to a subsequent meeting of Full Council; and*
- (3) Cabinet be requested to bring forward the necessary budgetary and operational arrangements to implement the scheme at the earliest practicable opportunity”.*

Further to debate, Councillor C Edwards proposed and Councillor McKenzie seconded the following amendment. Councillor Kedward, as proposer of the original motion, did not accept the amendment.

*“Council notes that:*

- 1. Rugby town centre is a vital economic, social and cultural asset for the Borough.*
- 2. Local businesses in line with the national picture continue to face significant challenges from changing consumer habits, competition from online retail and wider economic pressures.*
- 3. Recognises initiatives that have already been introduced on Rugby Borough Council car parks including a pilot for free all day parking at Westway in the pre-Christmas period and later opening hours at John Barford Multi Storey Car Park.*
- 4. Convenient, disability and mobility aware and affordable parking plays an important role in supporting local shops, markets, hospitality venues and town centre events.*

*Council believes that:*

- 1. Supporting a thriving town centre is a key priority for Rugby Borough Council.*
- 2. Residents should be encouraged to shop locally and spend more time in Rugby town centre.*

*Full Council:*

- (1) welcomes the work already underway as part of the agreed work programme for town centre regeneration to undertake a car parking strategy. The strategy will inform future decisions on Council assets along with a review of town centre parking and related measures to support town centre vitality and regeneration and accessibility;*
- (2) notes that this work is currently underway and will report within approximately six months to Cabinet to inform the Council's budget-setting process for 2027/28, considering the available evidence, financial implications, operational requirements and best value options for supporting Rugby town centre, including the consideration of an appropriate element of parking without fees, alongside any other measures identified through the review;*
- (3) requests that Cabinet considers the outcome of the review and any recommendations arising and that any resulting matters requiring approval of Full Council, in particular changes to the budget or policy framework be brought to Full Council for decision."*

Further to debate, the Mayor put the amendment to the vote. Three Members requested, in accordance with Council Standing Orders, that a recorded vote be taken on the amendment.

**For the motion:** Councillors Bainbridge, Barnett, Brown, Davis, Dumbleton, C Edwards, S Edwards, Freeman, Harrington, Henderson, Karadiar, McKenzie, I Mistry, U Mistry, New, O'Rourke, Pimm, Robinson, Roodhouse, Sandison, Sayani, Thomas, Thompson – **23 votes**

**Against the motion:** Councillors Daly, Downes, Garcia, Gillias, Glowacki, Hassell, Howling, Kedward, Poole, Russell, Simpson-Vince, Stewart, Timms, Ward and Willis – **15 votes**

The Mayor declared the amendment carried.

The Mayor then took a vote on the substantive motion and declared it carried.

**RESOLVED THAT** - Full Council:

- (1) welcomes the work already underway as part of the agreed work programme for town centre regeneration to undertake a car parking strategy. The strategy will inform future decisions on Council assets along with a review of town centre parking and related measures to support town centre vitality and regeneration and accessibility;
- (2) notes that this work is currently underway and will report within approximately six months to Cabinet to inform the Council's budget-setting process for 2027/28, considering the available evidence, financial implications, operational requirements and best value options for supporting Rugby town centre, including the consideration of an appropriate element of parking without fees, alongside any other measures identified through the review;

(3) requests that Cabinet considers the outcome of the review and any recommendations arising and that any resulting matters requiring approval of Full Council, in particular changes to the budget or policy framework be brought to Full Council for decision.

**18. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED THAT** - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**19. PRIVATE REPORT OF CABINET – 2 JUNE 2026**

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report of Cabinet dated 2 June 2026 be confirmed and adopted.

**MAYOR**