

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

18 MARCH 2026

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Brown), Councillors Barnett, Bennett, Daly, Dumbleton, C Edwards, S Edwards, Garcia, Gillias, Harrington, Hassell, Henderson, Howling, Karadiar, D Keeling, J Keeling, Lawrence, Lewis, Livesey, McKenzie, Mistry, Moran, New, O'Rourke, Robinson, Roodhouse, Russell, Sandison, Sayani, Simpson-Vince, Srivastava, Thomas, Thompson, Timms, Trimble, Ward and Willis.

94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Freeman, Maoudis, Picker and Poole.

95. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2026 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 7(a) of Part 1 – Councillor Sandison – Rugby Central Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document - Adoption (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being an Eastlands Ward Councillor).

Item 7(c) of Part 1 – Councillor Gillias – Decisions taken in exceptional circumstances (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a Parish Councillor for Pailton).

Item 7(b) of Part 1 – Councillor Daly – Appointments to Outside Bodies – Miscellaneous Appointments (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a trustee of Hillmorton Charities).

97. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since the last Council meeting, Rugby celebrated the Chinese New Year in style with an event held in the town centre featuring a traditional parade, food and dance as well as lantern making and face painting. It is the Year of the Fire Horse, a rare, 60 year cycle event which represents forward motion.

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum is proudly displaying 80 Years of the Rugby Collection. It is a remarkable art collection of great variety and shows that the original curators had a real vision and ambition that we should be proud of. The Mayor encouraged everyone in the borough to visit the exhibition.

The Mayor's charity quiz night on 23 February 2026 was a great success with a number of teams joining in the fun. If anyone still wishes to donate to the mayoral charities, please contact the Mayor's office.

The Mayor has a number of groups visiting the Mayor's Parlour including Rugby Male Voice Choir, the Badgers and Cadets of St John's Ambulance Service. The family of Rob Hughes, former caretaker of the Claremont Centre, visited recently. Rob was volunteering in the town well into his 90s. There is a special sculpture at the Claremont Centre in his memory.

The Mayor would be meeting young women from local secondary schools this week as part of International Women's Day events. Portfolio Holders, spokespersons and shadow Portfolio Holders would also be attending.

98. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions.

99. REPORT OF AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED THAT – the report of Audit and Ethics Committee dated 23 February 2026 be approved and adopted.

100. REPORT OF OFFICERS

(a) Rugby Central Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document – Adoption

Council considered the report of the Strategic Director for Place (Part 1 - agenda item 7(a)) concerning the proposed adoption of the Rugby Central Development Brief SPD following consultation.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Rugby Central Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix 1 to this report) be adopted (see appendices 2 & 3 for adoption documents); and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director for Place to make minor amendments, as necessary following adoption and prior to it being published.

(b) Appointments to Outside Bodies – Miscellaneous Appointments

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 - agenda item 7(b)) concerning appointments of trustees to Hillmorton Charities.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) Miss Lawrence and Mrs Cameron be re-appointed to the Trustees of Hillmorton Charities for a term of office expiring 18 March 2030; and
- (2) Mr Was be appointed to fill the vacancy for a term of office expiring 18 March 2030.

(c) Decisions taken in exceptional circumstances

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (Part 1 - agenda item 7(c)) concerning two decisions taken in accordance with the urgency procedures within the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

(d) Community Governance Review of Rugby Town Council

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (Part 1 - agenda item 7(d)) concerning a proposed Community Governance Review to determine whether to create a Town Council for Rugby in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) a Community Governance Review, in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to consider whether to create a Town Council for Rugby, be conducted;
- (2) the timetable and Terms of Reference for the Review, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved;
- (3) the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance be authorised to take all necessary steps in relation to the Review;
- (4) a Working Group be appointed to consider the Review and make recommendations to the Council;
- (5) Full Council have the vote on the final recommendation to create a Town Council.

101. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, there were no motions on notice to be considered.

102. 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.

103. PRIVATE REPORT OF CABINET – 3 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED THAT – the report of Cabinet dated 3 March 2026 be confirmed and adopted.

104. PRIVATE REPORT OF OFFICERS

(a) Elections Fees and Charges 2026

Council considered the private report of the Chief Executive (Part 2 - agenda item 2(a)) concerning proposed fees to be paid to the Returning Officer and his staff employed to undertake duties from April 2026.

RESOLVED THAT – the scale of fees and charges, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

MAYOR