

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 11.00 am on Thursday, 21 May 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor R Bailey (Chair)

Councillor N Akhtar	Councillor J Innes
Councillor P Akhtar	Councillor T Jewell
Councillor S Akhter	Councillor S Jobbar
Councillor A Albert	Councillor J Jones
Councillor F Beechey	Councillor A Kaur
Councillor L Bigham	Councillor L Kelly
Councillor J Blundell	Councillor S Keough
Councillor L Boyle	Councillor AS Khan
Councillor R Brown	Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor A Bryant	Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor A Bullock	Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor K Caan	Councillor B Mosterman
Councillor D Clark	Councillor M Mutton
Councillor A Cole	Councillor S Nazir
Councillor P Cowley	Councillor J Odje
Councillor G Duggins	Councillor C Phillips
Councillor J Fearn	Councillor P Reddy
Councillor M Fogden	Councillor E M Reeves
Councillor J Gardiner	Councillor H Rehman
Councillor S Gray	Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor M Greenhalgh	Councillor R Singh
Councillor M Gregory	Councillor D Stainton
Councillor G Hayre	Councillor A Tucker
Councillor M Heaven	Councillor J Wells
Councillor P Hetherton	
Councillor A Hopkins	

Honorary Alderman: T Skipper

Apologies: Councillors W Davies and E Ruane

Public Business

PART 1

1. Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor

There were no announcements of the Lord Mayor.

2. Election of the Chair of the Council (being the Lord Mayor of the City)

It was moved by Councillor J Blundell, seconded by Councillor B Mosterman and supported by Councillors G Duggins, J Gardiner and E Reeves, that Councillor Roger Bailey be elected as Chair of the Council (being the Lord Mayor of the City) for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Councillor Roger Bailey be elected as Chair of the Council for the 2026/27 Municipal Year, having made the declaration of office prescribed by the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having been invested with the Lord Mayor's Chain of Office.

3. Vote of thanks to the retiring Lord Mayor

A vote of thanks for the retiring Lord Mayor, Rachel Lancaster, was moved by Councillor L Kelly, seconded by Councillor J McNicholas and supported by Councillors J Gardiner, Blundell and Reeves.

Rachel Lancaster responded to the vote of thanks.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the warmest thanks of the Council are due and are thereby given to Rachel Lancaster for the zeal and impartiality with which she has discharged the arduous duties of the office of Lord Mayor during the year 2025/26; and

(2) That a copy of this resolution, under the Common Seal, be presented to Rachel Lancaster and consorts Lawrie Womble-Lancaster and Meredith Womble-Lancaster.

4. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Council (being the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City)

It was moved by Councillor J Blundell, seconded by Councillor M Heaven and supported by Councillors G Duggins, J Gardiner and E Reeves that Councillor Julia Lepoidevin be elected as Vice Chair of the Council (being the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City) for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Councillor Julia Lepoidevin be elected as Vice Chair of the Council for the 2026/27 Municipal Year, having made the declaration of office prescribed by the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having been invested with the Deputy Lord Mayor's Badge.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rul 1.4, (Part 3A of the Constitution, Part 1 of the Annual Meeting adjourned at 12 noon)

(Meeting reconvened at 3:00 pm)

PART 2

5. Election of the Leader of the Council

A nomination was moved by Councillor A Tucker and seconded by Councillor M Mutton that Councillor George Duggins be elected as the Leader of the Council.

A nomination was moved by Councillor M Lapsa and seconded by Councillor F Beechey that Councillor Jackie Gardiner be elected as the Leader of the Council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.5 (Part 3A of the Constitution), it was moved by Councillor S Gray and seconded by Councillor A Hopkins that the question “now be put” and following this it was moved by Councillor J Gardiner and seconded by Councillor F Beechey that a named vote be taken on this Motion as indicated below. Following a named vote that the question “now be put”, the Motion was carried.

As two nominations had been received for the election of Leader of the Council, a named vote was taken as indicated below. Councillor Duggins received the highest number of votes.

RESOLVED that Councillor George Duggins be duly elected as Leader of the Council.

Note 1): In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.2, a named vote being required by Councillors J Gardiner and F Beechey the Councillors voting for or against the Motion in relation to Council Procedure Rule 15.5 “that the question now be put”, were as follows:

For		Against	Abstain
Councillors:		Councillors:	
N Akhtar	J Lepoidevin	A Albert	
P Akhtar	J McNicholas	F Beechey	
S Akhter	B Mosterman	L Boyle	
L Bigham	M Mutton	A Bryant	
J Blundell	S Nazir	A Bullock	
R Brown	P Reddy	D Clark	
K Caan	E Reeves	A Cole	
G Duggins	H Rehman	P Cowley	
S Gray	K Sandhu	J Fearn	
M Greenhalgh	R Singh	M Fogden	
G Hayre	A Tucker	J Gardiner	
M Heaven	Lord Mayor	M Gregory	
P Hetherton		S Keough	
A Hopkins		M Lapsa	
J Innes		D McCann	
S Jobbar		J Odje	
J Jones		C Phillips	
A Kaur		D Stainton	
L Kelly		J Wells	
A Khan			

For: 32

Against: 19

Abstain: 0

Note: Councillor T Jewell was absent for this vote

2) Voting for the nominated Councillors for election of the Leader was as follows:

Nominated Councillor:		Nominated Councillor:		Abstained
G Duggins		J Gardiner		-
Councillors voting for:		Councillors voting for:		Councillors:
N Akhtar	J Jones	A Albert	D McCann	J Blundell
P Akhtar	S Kaur	F Beechey	J Odje	M Heaven
S Akhter	L Kelly	L Boyle	C Phillips	J Lepoidevin
L Bigham	A Khan	A Bryant	D Stainton	B Mosterman
R Brown	J McNicholas	A Bullock	J Wells	P Reddy
K Caan	M Mutton	D Clark		Lord Mayor
G Duggins	S Nazir	A Cole		
S Gray	E Reeves	P Cowley		
M Greenhalgh	H Rehman	J Fearn		
G Hayre	K Sandhu	M Fogden		
P Hetherton	R Singh	J Gardiner		
A Hopkins	A Tucker	M Gregory		
J Innes		S Keough		
S Jobbar		M Lapsa		

Totals

For Councillor G Duggins: 26

For Councillor J Gardiner: 19

Abstained: 6

(Note: Councillor T Jewell was absent for this vote)

6. **To receive a report of the Leader of the Council on the composition of the Cabinet, the allocation of Executive Function within the Cabinet and the membership of the Coventry Shareholder Committee**

The City Council received a report of the Leader, Councillor G Duggins, on the composition of the Cabinet, the allocation of executive functions within the Cabinet and the membership of the Coventry Shareholder Committee as set out below.

Member	Portfolio
The Leader, Cabinet Member Policy and Leadership Councillor G Duggins	One Coventry Council Plan Scrutiny External relations / public relations Chair of Cabinet / Management Board meetings Emergency Planning Regional Matters West Midlands Combined Authority Corporate Governance Information Management and Governance Risk Management Political Management Job Shop
The Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member Jobs,	Economic Development City Centre (Regeneration) International Trade and Inward Investment

<p>Regeneration and Climate Change</p> <p>Councillor L Kelly</p>	<p>Commercial and Operational Property Growth Company Urban Regeneration Transportation Tourism and Marketing Sustainability and climate change Social Enterprise Strategy Local and Regional Policing Deputising on Leader Items Lord Mayor's International Liaison and Diplomacy Peace, Reconciliation and Twinning</p>
<p>Cabinet Member Community Safety and Cohesion</p> <p>Councillor J McNicholas</p>	<p>Community Safety Community Cohesion Public Protection and Licensing Prosecution and Enforcement Democratic Services Electoral Services Legal Services Training (Members) Constitutional Matters Domestic Violence and Sexual Exploitation Media Strategy Events</p>
<p>Cabinet Member Strategic Finance and Resources</p> <p>Councillor R Brown</p>	<p>Strategic Finance Medium Term Financial Strategy Budget Setting / Transformation External Resources Operational Finance incl. Revenues and Benefits Service Transformation and value for money Procurement Human Resources Organisational Development Key Staff Recruitment and Retention Customer Services Health and Safety Pensions Digital Strategy Information Technology</p>
<p>Cabinet Member Children and Young People</p> <p>Councillor M Mutton</p>	<p>Children and Families (Early Help) Children and Young People's Social Care Child Exploitation Young People Youth Offending Service Safeguarding *S19 Children Act 2004 Lead Member Fostering, Adoption, Special Guardianship Orders and</p>

	Kinship Care Corporate Parenting
Cabinet Member Education, Skills and Equalities Councillor AS Khan	Post 16 Education and Training Schools Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability Libraries Adult Education Higher and Further Education (incl. Universities) Skills and Employability Equalities
Cabinet Member City Services Councillor P Hetherton	Highways, Drainage and Lighting Licensing Policy (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire) Public Realm Street Services (Ground Maintenance, Refuse (domestic and commercial), Street Cleaning) Waste Management Flood Management Environment Bereavement Services Traffic Management and Road Safety Average Speed Cameras Parking Policy and Operations
Cabinet Member Adult Services Councillor L Bigham	Social Care for Adults and Older People Better Care Fund Transforming Care Carers Adult Safeguarding Adult social care integration with health Loneliness and Isolation Digital Exclusion Armed Forces Champion
Cabinet Member Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing Councillor K Caan	Health Strategy and Policy Integrated Care Systems Health Inequalities and Marmot Air Quality Local Health Economy Public Health Sexual Health Teenage Pregnancies Mental Health Poverty Fuel Poverty Sport, Physical Activity and Parks

Cabinet Member Housing and Communities Councillor N Akhtar	Archives Arts Heritage Museums Conservation Mutuals Community and Voluntary Sector Relations Community Centres Refugees and Asylum Seekers Welfare Advice Services Housing and Homelessness Planning Policy
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*Cabinet Member Children and Young People is designated as the Lead Member for Children’s Services as required by Section 19 of the Children’s Act 2004

Coventry Shareholders Committee 2026/27

Chair: Councillor G Duggins
Deputy Chair: Councillor L Kelly
Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor R Brown
Councillor K Caan
Councillor P Hetherington
Councillor AS Khan
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor M Mutton

7. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

8. Return of Persons Elected as Councillors for the City on 7 May 2026

The Return of Persons elected for the following Wards of the City on 7 May 2026 was noted as follows:

Ward	Name	Political Party	Year of Retirement
Bablake	Lisa Boyle	Reform UK	2030
Bablake	Jamie Fearn	Reform UK	2028
Bablake	Jennifer Wells	Reform UK	2027
Binley and Willenhall	Paul Cowley	Reform UK	2030
Binley and Willenhall	Marcus Fogden	Reform UK	2028
Binley and Willenhall	Jennifer Odje	Reform UK	2027
Cheylesmore	Roger Bailey	Conservative	2030

Cheylesmore	Barbara Mosterman	Conservative	2028
Cheylesmore	Richard Brown	Labour	2027
Earlsdon	Kindy Sandhu	Labour	2030
Earlsdon	Lynnette Kelly	Labour	2028
Earlsdon	Antony Tucker	Labour	2027
Foleshill	Abdul Khan	Labour	2030
Foleshill	Shakila Nazir	Labour	2028
Foleshill	Habib Rehman	Labour	2027
Henley	Mel Gregory	Reform UK	2030
Henley	Alaistair Cole	Reform UK	2028
Henley	Ed Ruane	Labour	2027
Holbrooks	Stephen Gray	Green	2030
Holbrooks	Esther Reeves	Green	2028
Holbrooks	Tom Jewell	Green	2027
Longford	Amor Albert	Reform UK	2030
Longford	Linda Bigham	Labour	2028
Longford	George Duggins	Labour	2027
Lower Stoke	Shahnaz Akhter	Labour	2030
Lower Stoke	Rupinder Singh	Labour	2028
Lower Stoke	John McNicholas	Labour	2027
Radford	Angela Hopkins	Labour	2030
Radford	Patrica Hetherton	Labour	2028
Radford	Mal Mutton	Labour	2027
Sherbourne	Jackie Gardiner	Reform UK	2030
Sherbourne	Charles Phillips	Reform UK	2028
Sherbourne	Daniel Stainton	Reform UK	2027
St Michael's	Naeem Akhtar	Labour	2030
St Michael's	Matt Greenhalgh	Green	2028
St Michael's	Sanjida Jobbar	Labour	2027
Tile Hill & Canley	Marcus Lapsa	Reform UK	2030
Tile Hill & Canley	William Davies	Reform UK	2028
Tile Hill & Canley	Steve Keough	Reform UK	2027
Upper Stoke	Kamran Caan	Labour	2030
Upper Stoke	Amirjit Kaur	Labour	2028
Upper Stoke	Gurdev Hayre	Labour	2027
Wainbody	John Blundell	Conservative	2030
Wainbody	Mattie Heaven	Conservative	2028
Wainbody	Pratibha Reddy	Conservative	2027
Whoberley	Jayne Innes	Labour	2030
Whoberley	Pervez Akhtar	Labour	2028
Whoberley	Judith Jones	Labour	2027
Woodlands	Adrian Bryant	Reform UK	2030
Woodlands	Julia Lepoidevin	Conservative	2028
Woodlands	Duncan Clark	Reform UK	2027

Wyken	Frank Beechey	Reform UK	2030
Wyken	Dawn McCann	Reform UK	2028
Wyken	Andrew Bullock	Reform UK	2027

9. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

10. **Matters Left for Determination by the City Council**

The City Council considered the following documents which were tabled at the meeting:

- (i) Political Proportionality 2026/27
- (ii) Amendments to the Constitution in relation to quorums for Scrutiny Boards
- (iii) Appointment of Council Bodies and Outside Bodies
- (iv) Approval of the Scheme of Delegation as set out in the Constitution
- (v) A programme of meetings for Council and Cabinet

Arising from discussion and concerns raised on the proposal to reduce the size of the Scrutiny Boards from 9 Members to 6 Members and consequently, the size of quorums for those Scrutiny Boards to 3 Members, the Leader indicated that the position would be reviewed in October 2026. In addition it was noted that Scrutiny Members can attend all meetings of Scrutiny.

RESOLVED that the City Council:

1. Approve the allocation of seats on Council bodies in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, the establishment of those Council bodies and the terms of reference for those bodies as set out in the Constitution.
2. **Approve that the quorum of the Scrutiny Boards now be amended to three Members, following a change to the size of Scrutiny Boards in line with the requirements of political proportionality, and that authority to amend the Constitution accordingly be delegated to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities.**
3. **Approve that in respect of 1 and 2 above, the size of Scrutiny Boards, together with the amended quorum, be reviewed in October 2026.**
4. **Approve that the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities be delegated authority to appoint to those Council bodies, referred to in Recommendations 1 above, including the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair (where appropriate), and Outside Bodies in accordance with the proportionality as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, following consultation with the Leader and the Group Leaders and that all of the appointments to Council Bodies and Outside Bodies be submitted to the next meeting of the City Council.**

(Note: the following appendices are attached to these Minutes:

**Appendix 1 – Appointment to Council Bodies
Appendix 2 – Appointment to Outside Bodies)**

5. Approve the Scheme of Delegation as set out in the Constitution.
6. Approve the dates for Council meetings 2026/27, including the date of the Annual General Meeting, 2027/28, and dates for Cabinet meetings 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.
7. Delegate authority to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities to set the dates for all other meetings for the municipal year, following consultation with the relevant Chairs of the relevant bodies.

Note: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.2, a named vote being required by Councillors J Gardiner and F Beechey, the Councillors voting For and Against the Recommendations were as follows:

For		Against	Abstain
Councillors:		Councillors:	
N Akhtar	J Lepoidevin	A Albert	
P Akhtar	J McNicholas	F Beechey	
S Akhter	B Mosterman	L Boyle	
L Bigham	M Mutton	A Bryant	
J Blundell	S Nazir	A Bullock	
R Brown	P Reddy	D Clark	
K Caan	E Reeves	A Cole	
G Duggins	H Rehman	P Cowley	
S Gray	K Sandhu	J Fearn	
M Greenhalgh	R Singh	M Fogden	
G Hayre	A Tucker	J Gardiner	
M Heaven	Lord Mayor	M Gregory	
P Hetherton		S Keough	
A Hopkins		M Lapsa	
T Jewell		D McCann	
S Jobbar		J Odje	
J Jones		C Phillips	
A Kaur		D Stainton	
L Kelly		J Wells	
A Khan			

For: 32

Against: 19

Abstain: 0

(Note: Councillor J Innes was absent for this vote)

11. **If required, to consider any further amendments to the Constitution or any other matters arising from the Annual Meeting decisions and appointments**

This item was not required.

(Meeting closed at 5.00 pm)