

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council
held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 23 June 2026

Present:

Members: Councillor R Bailey (Chair)

Councillor N Akhtar	Councillor T Jewell
Councillor P Akhtar	Councillor S Jobbar
Councillor S Akhter	Councillor J Jones
Councillor A Albert	Councillor A Kaur
Councillor F Beechey	Councillor L Kelly
Councillor L Bigham	Councillor S Keough
Councillor J Blundell	Councillor AS Khan
Councillor L Boyle	Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor R Brown	Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor A Bryant	Councillor D McCann
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 W Davies	Councillor C Phillips
Councillor G Duggins	Councillor P Reddy
Councillor J Fearn	Councillor E M Reeves
Councillor M Fogden	Councillor H Rehman
Councillor J Gardiner	Councillor E Ruane
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	
Councillor J Innes	

Honorary Alderman D Batten

Apologies: Honorary Alderman M Hammon

Public Business

12. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

13. Conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City on Coventry City Football Club

The City Council considered a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities recommending that, in accordance with the Section 249 of the

Local Government Act 1972, that Honorary Freedom of the City be conferred on Coventry City Football Club. This was in recognition of their achievement during the 2025/26 football season, culminating in winning the Championship League title and securing promotion to the Premier League and to show the City's appreciation of this achievement, together with recognising the important role the Club has played in the life of the City since 1883.

The Freedom of the City is a rare honour given to those individuals and organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the City of Coventry and the lives of its residents.

It is the highest honour a Local Authority could confer and it was proposed to be given to the Club in its entirety, recognising the players, management, staff, owner and the supporters and communities who have proudly stood behind the Club throughout its history.

The return to the Premier League after 25 years was a truly magnificent achievement. The Club was now on the biggest football stage in the world and bringing recognition to the City.

Beyond the sporting achievement, Premier League status represented a significant opportunity for Coventry. A wider benefit to the City and region was expected to be felt across hospitality, retail, tourism and the visitor economy, with Premier League fixtures placing Coventry on a global stage every week.

The recent sporting achievements of Coventry City Football Club would merit the award by itself, but this award recognises far more. Since 1883, the Club had been a part of Coventry. In recent years, the Club has shown incredible determination and had toiled to bring success back to the Team and the City of Coventry.

The supporters too have played their part. Their support has been unwavering and it was clear how the success of the Club has uplifted the City. Tens of thousands of Coventry residents had flocked to the Coventry Building Society Arena for home games, and the knock-on effect and feel-good factor had been seen across the City. It has been clear how much the Club means to the people of Coventry and how the Football Team has been inspired by that.

Coventry City Football Club was an integral part of the life of the City. The Honorary Freedom of the City recognised all the Club has done for Coventry and its residents, not just this year, but since 1883.

The Motion to award Honorary Freedom of the City was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor G Duggins, seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor L Kelly and supported by Councillors J Gardiner, J Blundell and S Gray on behalf of the other Political Groups.

RESOLVED that the City Council unanimously:

- 1) Confers the Honorary Freedom of the City on Coventry City Football Club and agrees that the following resolution be passed:**

“That the Council of the City of Coventry, being deeply aware of the exceptional and outstanding achievements and the important role it has played in the life of the City since 1883, and being desirous of recognising the commitment and devotion of all those involved, whilst expressing appreciation, support and admiration for its achievements, does confer upon Coventry City Football Club the Honorary Freedom of the City of Coventry.”

- 2) Agrees that an Illuminated Minute under the Common Seal of the Council be presented at a suitable event on a future date for display at Coventry City Football Club as a symbolic gesture of the conferment.**

Note: Mr Doug King, owner and Executive Director of Coventry City Football Club attended the meeting and responded on behalf of the Club, expressing his thanks and appreciation for the honour.

(Meeting closed at 2.25 pm)