

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

27 JANUARY 2026

PRESENT:

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

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Howling, Poole, Russell and Thomas.

74. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2025 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 6(b)(1) of Part 1 – Rugby Borough Local Plan 2025-2042 Regulation 19 Consultation and Submission – Councillor Sandison (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct by virtue of being a member of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust).

Item 6(b)(1) of Part 1 – Rugby Borough Local Plan 2025-2042 Regulation 19 Consultation and Submission – Councillor Willis (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct by virtue of being Chair of Wolston Parish Council).

Item 6(b)(3) of Part 1 – GEC Recreation Ground Changing Rooms development – Councillor New (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct by virtue of being a trustee of Fareham Youth Partnership).

Item 6(b)(3) of Part 1 – GEC Recreation Ground Changing Rooms development – Councillor Roodhouse (pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct by virtue of being Chair of Fareham Youth Partnership and being involved in discussions with architects in relation to the project).

Councillor Roodhouse left the meeting during the item in which he had declared an interest and took no part in the voting and discussion thereon.

76. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no formal announcements.

77. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions.

78. RUGBY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2025-2042 REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION AND SUBMISSION

The Mayor decided that, due to the number of members of the public at the meeting to observe the debate relating to the Local Plan, this item would be considered separately to the remaining reports of Cabinet on 6 January.

Councillor Robinson moved and Councillor Moran seconded the recommendation detailed in the report of Cabinet.

Councillor Ward then proposed and Councillor Simpson-Vince seconded the following amendment:

“Change Recommendation 1 to: “Prior to the beginning of the consultation period, Council recommends to Cabinet that the following matters, relating to a number of sites determined within the Draft Local Plan, be reconsidered at the first appropriate Council.”

The amendment focuses on policies S2, S3, S6 and S7.

Policy S2, Strategy for Homes pg. 13: Small Site Windfalls to be increased from 850 to 1,225. This represents approximately 75 dwellings per year, which remains below the number delivered over previous plan periods and is achievable in line with the Government's changes to planning policy to make small scale, sustainable development easier to deliver. This represents a net increase of 375 units expected across the plan period.

Policy S6 (Residential Allocation).

Site Ref 350, Rounds Gardens Rugby – change from 70 units to 120 units. Development to be delivered in line with Biart Place/Navigation Way.

Remove site Ref 307 North Road, Clifton Upon Dunsmore

Remove site Ref 316, Land at Long Lawford

Remove site Ref 136 North of Warwick Road, Wolston

Allocate 175 units on site ref 96: Land at Coventry Road, Wolvey. This site is to be allocated around the Coventry Road on either side of the road, but not extend beyond the existing building line created by Hollick Way and Brookfield Drive to the west of Coventry Road.

Remove site 315 Land south of Rugby Road, Brinklow

Remove sites 358 and 309, Land North of B4109 Wolvey and Land at Coventry Road, Wolvey

Retain Coton Park East as residential development land. This allocation shall retain the proposed 0.75ha land for Rugby Free Primary School playing fields.

Policy S7 Employment Allocations:

Remove site reference 64 Coton Park East

Remove site reference 121 Land at Walsgrave Hill

Allocate site reference 130 Land North of Houlton”

Following debate, the Mayor put the amendment to the vote. In accordance with Standing Orders, at least three Members requested a recorded vote on the amendment.

For the amendment: Councillors Daly, Garcia, Gillias, Hassell, D Keeling, J Keeling, Lawrence, Maoudis, Parker, Picker, Simpson-Vince, Timms, Ward and Willis – **14 votes**

Against the amendment: Councillors Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Dumbleton, C Edwards, S Edwards, Freeman, Harrington, Henderson, Karadiar, Lewis, Livesey, McKenzie, Mistry, Moran, New, O'Rourke, Robinson, Roodhouse, Sandison, Sayani, Srivastava, Thompson and Trimble – **24 votes**

Absentions: 0 votes

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

Following debate on the substantive motion, the Mayor put the motion to the vote. In accordance with Standing Orders, at least three Members requested a recorded vote on the amendment.

For the motion: Councillors Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Daly, Dumbleton, C Edwards, S Edwards, Freeman, Harrington, Henderson, Karadiar, D Keeling, J Keeling, Lawrence, Lewis, Livesey, McKenzie, Mistry, Moran, New, O'Rourke, Parker, Picker, Robinson, Roodhouse, Sandison, Sayani, Simposn-Vince, Srivastava, Thompson and Trimble – **31 votes**

Against the motion: Councillors Garcia, Hassell, Maoudis, Timms and Ward – **5 votes**

Absentions: Councillors Gillias and Willis – **2 votes**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the proposed submission draft Local Plan (appendix 1) together with the proposed submission policies map (appendix 2), Sustainability Appraisal report (appendix 3), Habitats Regulation Assessment (appendix 4), Consultation Statement (appendix 5), and Equalities Impact Assessment (appendix 6) and the supporting evidence base (together the “proposed submission documents”) are approved for a six week public consultation in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulation 2012;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make minor amendments and corrections as necessary to the proposed submission documents prior to the commencement of the public consultation;

- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth & Investment and Digital & Communications, agree a list of locations for in-person consultation events;
- (4) following close of the Regulation 19 consultation, delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth & Investment and Digital & Communication to submit to the Secretary of State for independent examination the Proposed Submission Local Plan and the other proposed submission documents, together with the Regulation 19 representations and a summary of the main issues raised in those representations;
- (5) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to (if required) prepare a list of proposed changes to the plan needed to address issues raised in the Regulation 19 consultation responses and submit the same to the Secretary of State;
- (6) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth & Investment and Digital and Communications to:
 - a. produce supplementary information that may be required as part of the examination process to address issues of soundness or legal compliance, including agreeing statements of common ground with other organisations;
 - b. correspond with the Planning Inspector(s) on behalf of the council for the purposes of conducting the examination and addressing issues of legal compliance and soundness;
 - c. propose additional (minor) modifications to the Proposed Submission Local Plan to address issues raised during the examination;
 - d. if necessary, request under s20(7C) that the inspector(s) examining the plan recommend main modifications to the plan necessary to resolve issues of soundness or legal compliance, and (where appropriate) suggest main modification needed to address those issues.
 - e. agree any main modifications recommended by the Inspector(s) and undertake a six-week public consultation on those modifications.; and
- (7) the amended Statement of Community Involvement 2026 (Appendix 7) be adopted.

79. REPORT OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF CABINET – 17 DECEMBER 2025

RESOLVED THAT – the report of the extraordinary meeting of Cabinet be confirmed and adopted.

80. REPORT OF CABINET – 6 JANUARY 2026

RESOLVED THAT – paragraphs 2-4 of the report of Cabinet be confirmed and adopted.

81. REPORT OF AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLVED THAT – the report of Audit and Ethics Committee be confirmed and adopted.

82. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

(a) Councillor Garcia proposed and Councillor O'Rourke seconded the following motion, notice of which had been given in accordance with Standing Order 11.

“This Council recognises that:

- *Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is a progressive, life-limiting neurological condition that places significant physical, emotional and financial strain on individuals, their families and carers.*
- *Early diagnosis and coordinated support can significantly improve quality of life for people living with MND, even though there is currently no cure.*
- *People diagnosed with MND, and other life limiting conditions often require support that goes beyond healthcare alone, including help with housing and home adaptations, benefits, community access, mobility, social connection and carer support.*
- *The Heart Partnership plays an important role in bringing together the Councils in Warwickshire, voluntary, community and health organisations to support residents with complex needs through collaborative and person-centred approaches.*

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Strengthen partnership working

o Work through the Heart Partnership to ensure people diagnosed with MND, and other life limiting conditions in the borough are able to access timely, coordinated and compassionate support across health, social care, housing and home adaptation, and the voluntary and community sector.

2. Improve awareness and signposting

- *Support improved awareness among council officers, partners and the wider community of MND and the specific challenges faced by those living with the condition.*
- *Ensure clear and accessible signposting to local and national MND support organisations is available through relevant council and partnership channels.*

3. Support carers and families

- *Recognise the vital role of families and unpaid carers of people living with MND, and other life limiting conditions and work with the Heart*
- *Partnership to ensure they are connected into appropriate advice, wellbeing and respite support.*

4. Promote inclusive services and environments

- *Use the Council's influence as a place-shaper to encourage inclusive design, accessibility and flexibility in council services, housing and community facilities for people with rapidly changing and complex physical needs.*

5. Engage with specialist organisations

- *Where appropriate, encourage engagement between the Heart Partnership and specialist MND organisations to share expertise, improve local pathways and identify opportunities for improved support or innovation.*

6. Report and review

- *Request the Chief Officer for Communities and Homes bring a report to Cabinet outlining how support for people diagnosed with MND is being progressed through the Heart Partnership, including any identified gaps or opportunities for improvement.*

This motion affirms Rugby Borough Council's commitment to partnership-led, compassionate and inclusive support for residents living with Motor Neurone Disease and other life limiting conditions, ensuring that no one faces diagnosis and progression of the condition without coordinated local help and understanding."

Further to debate, the Mayor took a vote and declared the motion carried.

(b) Councillor McKenzie moved and Councillor Bennett seconded the following motion, notice of which had been given in accordance with Standing Order 11.

"This Council welcomes the investment by Severn Trent water in the Rugby Borough area: namely the increase in capacity at Draycote water; the upgrade of the pumping station by Cawston Spinney; and the planned increase in capacity at Rugby sewage treatment works.

However, following a review with parish councils in the Dunsmore & Leam Valley division, Cllr Isabelle McKenzie, on behalf of the Lib Dem Group wrote to Severn Trent on 26th November detailing a catalogue of infrastructure failures including:

- *Repeated sewage spills into local water courses, ditches, gardens and roads;*
- *Undersized pumping stations with repeated, and in some cases, continuous tanker activity to remove excess sewage;*
- *Inadequately sized pipes from pumping stations meaning that any excess, especially in wet weather, results in discharges into water courses, ditches, gardens and roads;*
- *In one village, repeated low and no potable water supplies.*

In addition, we highlighted a 5,000 home urban extension with (potentially) new commercial premises are about to be built. This development was approved in 2019 but no substantial infrastructure works have been put in place to meet this massive increase in demand. Although we note the long overdue increase in pumping station capacity at Cawston Spinney.

To date, Severn Trent has only acknowledged the letter and has not provided any kind of response to the issues raised in the letter.

This Council requests the Chief Executive of Rugby Borough Council to write to:

- 1. the Chief Executive of Severn Trent to ask for answers to the letter of 26th November and to also remind Severn Trent that further infrastructure requirements will be needed from the new Local Plan process (for which they have been consulted on).*
- 2. Ofwat to highlight the lack of infrastructure planning for the massive increase in housing in the area despite it being approved in 2019 Local Plan.”*

Further to debate, the Mayor took a vote and declared the motion carried.

(c) Councillor Sandison moved and Councillor Trimble seconded the following motion, notice of which had been given in accordance with Standing Order 11.

“This Council recognises the significant issue of pavement parking and the obstruction of dropped kerbs. Council also recognises the increasing road safety concerns for children, push/wheel / chair users pedestrians and access issues for those with mobility and disability issues due to inconsiderate parking and the blocking of dropped kerbs.

This Council requests that the Chief Executive formally writes to Warwickshire County Council Highways authority, the MP for Rugby and Bulkington, John Slinger, and the Minister for Transport with responsibilities for highway and public safety seeking greater enforcement powers for local councils to stop the obstruction of the shared highway and an urgent review of such anti-social practices, and introduce a nationwide scheme to ensure consistency of implementation across England and Wales.”

Further to debate, the Mayor took a vote and declared the motion carried.

83. 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 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

84. PRIVATE REPORT OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF CABINET – 17 DECEMBER 2025

RESOLVED THAT – the private report of the extraordinary meeting of Cabinet be confirmed and adopted.

85. PRIVATE REPORT OF CABINET – 6 JANUARY 2026

Note: Councillors Sandison and Sayani left the meeting for item (1) of the private report.

RESOLVED THAT – the private report of Cabinet be confirmed and adopted.

MAYOR