

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 May 2026 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 11.50 am

Present:

Councillor Ted Fenton – in the Chair

Councillors:

Roz Smith (Vice-Chair)	James Fry	Saj Malik
Thomas Ashby	Andrew Gant	Kieron Mallon
Brad Baines	Emma Garnett	Emma Markham
James Barlow	Sean Gaul	Gavin McLauchlan
Ron Batstone	Stefan Gawrysiak	Lesley McLean
Tim Bearder	Laura Gordon	Ian Middleton
Chris Brant	Andy Graham	Toyah Overton
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Tom Greenaway	Glynis Phillips
Mark Cherry	Kate Gregory	James Plumb
Andrew Coles	Jane Hanna OBE	Susanna Pressel
Dr Izzy Creed	Jenny Hannaby	Leigh Rawlins
Andrew Crichton	David Henwood	Judy Roberts
Hao Du	Georgina Heritage	James Robertshaw
Imade Edosomwan	David Hingley	Paul-Austin Sargent
Judith Edwards	Johnny Hope-Smith	Geoff Saul
Gareth Epps	Robin Jones	John Shiri
Lee Evans	Emily Kerr	Ian Snowdon
Neil Fawcett	Liz Leffman	Peter Stevens
Nick Field-Johnson	Dr Nathan Ley	Bethia Thomas
Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Diana Lugova	Liam Walker
Rebekah Fletcher	Mark Lygo	Tony Worgan

The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

24/26 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE 2026/27 COUNCIL YEAR

(Agenda Item 1)

Councillor Mark Lygo, the retiring Chair, welcomed the Honorary Aldermen, Deputy Lieutenant and High Sheriff and invited The Reverend Anthony Buckley, Vicar of St Michael at the North Gate, City Rector, to open the meeting with a prayer.

Councillor Lygo thanked his wife and Consort, Louise Lygo, and his family for their support during the year. He also thanked the Democratic Services and Facilities Management Teams. It was noted that over £10,500 had been

raised for the Chair's chosen charities, OXSRAD, Oxford United in the Community and Abingdon Riding for the Disabled, and the retiring Chair thanked all for their support.

The Monitoring Officer invited nominations for the office of Chair of the Council for the 2026/27 Council Year. Councillor Walker moved, and Councillor Leffman seconded, that Councillor Ted Fenton be elected as Chair of the Council for the 2026/27 Council Year. There being no other nominations and no dissent, Councillor Fenton was duly declared elected.

RESOLVED: (unanimously) that Councillor Ted Fenton be elected as Chair for the 2026/27 Council Year.

(Councillor Fenton in the Chair).

25/26 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE 2026/27 COUNCIL YEAR

(Agenda Item 2)

The Chair invited nominations for the office of Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2026/27 Council Year. Councillor Leffman moved, and Councillor McLauchlan seconded, that Councillor Roz Smith be elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2026/27 Council Year. There being no other nominations and no dissent, Councillor Smith was duly declared elected.

RESOLVED: (unanimously) that Councillor Roz Smith be elected as Vice-Chair for the 2026/27 Council Year.

26/26 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2026 be approved and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

27/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 4)

Apologies were received from Councillors Cotter, Higgins, Levy and Webb.

28/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda Item 5)

There were no declarations of interest.

29/26 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 6)

The Chair announced that for the 12th year in a row, Oxfordshire residents were the best in England for recycling, reusing and composting. Oxfordshire County Council had again been named the top performing waste disposal authority in the two-tier system in figures published last month. In 2024-25,

residents recycled, reused or composted 56.6 per cent of their household waste.

The Chair congratulated Oxfordshire Shared Lives carer Jawaid Malik on his appointment as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in recognition of decades of public service and commitment to supporting people across the county. Jawaid, who lives in Oxford, had spent many years serving others through both his professional and voluntary roles, including his long-standing work as a [Shared Lives carer](#) alongside his wife, Rahat.

The Chair noted that a list of the events attended by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council since the last Council meeting in March was in Annex 1 to the Schedule of Business.

Annual Council observed a minute's silence to mark the first anniversary of the tragic fire that took place at Bicester Motion on 15 May 2025. Members remembered Firefighter Jennie Logan, Firefighter Martyn Sadler and Dave Chester, and expressed sympathy with their families, friends, and all those affected. Council also sincerely thanked the emergency service responders who attended the scene for their professionalism and care in such difficult circumstances.

30/26 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 8)

Council received the Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee setting out the role and summarising the work that has been undertaken both as a Committee and through the support of the Audit Working Group in 2025/26.

The report was proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Shiri, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee for the 2025/26 Council Year.

Following discussion, Council noted the report.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2025/26 be noted.

31/26 CABINET MEMBERSHIP AND DELEGATION OF CABINET FUNCTIONS

(Agenda Item 7)

Council noted the Leader's Cabinet appointments. The detailed portfolios were circulated to Members and published online in the Schedule of Business.

Resources and Deputy Leader: Cllr Neil Fawcett
Future Economy and Innovation: Cllr Laura Gordon

Children and Young People: Cllr Sean Gaul
Place, Environment and Climate Action: Cllr Gareth Epps
Finance, Property and Transformation: Cllr Dan Levy
Transport Management: Cllr Rebekah Fletcher
Adults: Cllr Tim Bearder
Public Health and Inequalities: Cllr Kate Gregory
Community Wellbeing and Safety: Cllr Judith Edwards

32/26 COMMITTEES AND REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

(Agenda Item 9)

The Council is required by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 to review the political balance on its committees on an annual basis.

There was a correction to the list in Annex 2 for the Remuneration Committee. The Liberal Democrat members will be Councillors Leffman, Fawcett and Graham.

The Chair moved recommendation a), to decommission the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Horton HOSC), and it was seconded by the Vice-Chair.

Following discussion, the motion was put. Councillor Mallon requested a named vote and this was supported by at least seven members standing.

The motion was lost.

The result of the roll call vote was as follows:

Councillors voting in favour (9): Bearder, Filipova Rivers, Gaul, Greenaway, Hanna, Hope-Smith, Leffman, Ley and Rawlins

Councillors voting against (38): Ashby, Baines, Barlow, Brant, Brighthouse, Cherry, Coles, Creed, Crichton, Du, Edosomwan, Epps, Evans, Field-Johnson, Fry, Garnett, Gawrysiak, Gordon, Gregory, Henwood, Hingley, Jones, Lygo, Malik, Mallon, Markham, McLauchlan, McLean, Middleton, Phillips, Plumb, Pressel, Robertshaw, Sargent, Saul, Snowdon, Walker and Worgan.

Councillors abstaining (16): Batstone, Edwards, Fawcett, Fenton, Fletcher, Graham, Hannaby, Heritage, Kerr, Lugova, Overton, Roberts, Shiri, Smith, Stevens and Thomas.

The Chair moved recommendations d) e), and f), which were seconded by the Vice-Chair. Recommendations d), e) and f) were approved unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- d) That the committees and committee positions, including Horton HOSC, listed in Schedule 2 in Annex 1 be appointed, continuing with the existing terms of reference; and
- e) That members to the committees of the Council be appointed as listed at Schedule 2 in Annex 2 as amended.
- f) That the review of political balance of committees to reflect the current formation of the political groups be noted.

33/26 SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

(Agenda Item 10)

At its Annual Meeting, Council is required to agree the officer scheme of delegation within the Council's Constitution. Council received a report noting that the Scheme was being reviewed by the Constitution Working Group and a revised scheme will be taken to the Council meeting on 30 June 2026.

The recommendation was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that the Scheme of Delegation to Officers was being considered by the Constitution Working Group and that the Council meeting on 30 June 2026 will receive their report.

34/26 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026/27

(Agenda Item 11)

Council considered a report proposing a change to a meeting date of the Education and Young People Overview of Scrutiny Committee.

The recommendations were moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Council approves moving the meeting of the Education and Young People Overview of Scrutiny Committee, originally scheduled for 30 June 2026, to Friday 26 June 2026 with a 10:30 am start; and
- b) That the Calendar of Meetings in Annex 1 be noted.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing