

Minutes of a meeting of Council on Wednesday 20 May 2026

www.oxford.gov.uk



Council members present:

Councillor Altaf-Khan

Councillor Azad

Councillor Brown

Councillor Clarkson

Councillor Davis

Councillor Diggins

Councillor Fouweather

Councillor Gant (Sheriff)

Councillor Harley

Councillor Jarvis

Councillor Kerr

Councillor Lygo

Councillor Miles

Councillor Muddiman

Councillor Munkonge

Councillor Powell

Councillor Qayyum

Councillor Rawle

Councillor Robinson

Councillor Stares

Councillor Roz Smith

Councillor Taylor

Councillor Wood

Councillor Upton (Lord Mayor)

Councillor Arshad

Councillor Bala

Councillor Chapman

Councillor Corais

Councillor Dhall

Councillor Elphinstone

Councillor Fry

Councillor Goddard

Councillor Henwood

Councillor Jupp

Councillor Lancaster

Councillor Malik

Councillor Max Morris

Councillor Mundy

Councillor Ottino

Councillor Pressel

Councillor Railton

Councillor Regisford

Councillor Rowley (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor Linda Smith

Councillor Smowton

Councillor Thorniley

Councillor Turner

Also present for all or part of the meeting:

Caroline Green, Chief Executive

Tom Hook, Deputy Chief Executive - Citizen and City Services

Emma Jackman, Director of Law, Governance and Strategy

Mish Tullar, Transition Director

Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager

Uswah Khan, Committee and Member Services Officer

Hannah Carmody-Brown, Committee and Member Services Officer

Brenda McCollum, Committee and Member Services Officer

Apologies:

Councillor(s) Yeatman sent apologies.

The minutes show when Councillors who were absent for part of the meeting arrived and left.

1. Election of Lord Mayor for the Council Year 2026/2027

Councillor Upton, outgoing Lord Mayor, invited nominations for the office of Lord Mayor.

Councillor Fry moved, and Councillor Lancaster seconded, that Councillor Chewe Munkonge be elected Lord Mayor for the 2026/27 Council Year. There being no other nominations or dissent, Councillor Munkonge was duly declared elected Lord Mayor.

Council resolved that Councillor Chewe Munkonge be elected Lord Mayor for the 2026/27 Council Year.

2. Appointment of Deputy Lord Mayor for the Council Year 2026/2027

The Lord Mayor invited nominations for the office of Deputy Lord Mayor.

Councillor Rowley moved, and Councillor Kerr seconded, that Councillor Louise Upton be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2026/27 Council Year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Upton was duly declared appointed.

Council resolved that Councillor Louise Upton be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2026/27 Council Year.

3. Appointment of Sheriff for the Council Year 2026/2027

The Lord Mayor invited nominations for the office of Sheriff.

Councillor Lygo moved, and Councillor Taylor seconded, that Councillor Linda Smith be appointed Sheriff for the 2026/27 Council Year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Linda Smith was duly declared elected.

Council resolved that Councillor Linda Smith be elected Sheriff for the 2026/27 Council Year.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

5. Announcements

Councillor Mundy arrived at the meeting.

The Lord Mayor announced his chosen charity for the 2026/2027 Civic Year was Sobell House Hospice.

There were no announcements from the Sheriff, Leader of the Council or the Chief Executive.

The City Rector announced that it was the anniversary of the first colour photographs and said that he hoped the council would continue to bring colour into people's lives.

6. Appointment of the Leader of the Council

The Lord Mayor invited nominations for Leader of Council.

Councillor Turner moved, and Councillor Railton seconded, that Councillor Susan Brown be appointed Leader of Council.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Susan Brown was duly declared elected.

7. Report of the Leader of the Council

Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council moved the report which set out the appointment and responsibilities of the Deputy Leader, Cabinet portfolio holders and other executive appointments. They were as follow:

Deputy Leader and Cabinet appointments and responsibilities

Role	Member	Portfolio
Leader	Cllr Susan Brown	Partnership Working, Inclusive Economic Growth and Culture
Deputy Leader (Statutory)	Cllr Ed Turner	Finance and Asset Management
Deputy Leader	Cllr Anna Railton	Planning and Zero Carbon Oxford
Cabinet Member	Cllr Lubna Arshad	A Safer Oxford
Cabinet Member	Cllr Nigel Chapman	Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mike Rowley	Regulation of the Private Rented Sector and Preventing Homelessness
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mark Lygo	A Healthy, Fairer Oxford
Cabinet Member	Cllr Linda Smith	Housing and Communities

Shareholder Joint Ventures Group Appointments

Body	Member
Housing Companies	Cllr Susan Brown Cllr Nigel Chapman Cllr Mike Rowley Cllr Linda Smith Cllr Ed Turner
ODS	Cllr Susan Brown Cllr Nigel Chapman

	Cllr Mark Lygo Cllr Anna Railton Cllr Ed Turner
--	---

8. Appointment to Council Committees 2026/2027

Council had before it a report from the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) asking Council to appoint committees and the members serving on those committees for the Council year 2026-2027 in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Section 15) and other relevant legislation.

On being moved by Councillor Brown, and seconded by Muddiman, the recommendation was put to the vote. Council approved the recommendations and nominations to committee places, with no member voting against the amendment.

Council resolved to:

1. **Approve** the structure of the Council committees, as defined within the Council's Constitution and set out in Appendix 1: Committee Structure 2026-2027;
2. **Approve** the methods, calculations and conventions used in determining political representation on the Council's committees as outlined in the report and shown in Appendix 2: Political Proportionalities on Council Committees 2026-2027;
3. **Appoint** to committee seats in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality and the nominations made by political groups, as shown in Appendix 3: Committee Nominations 2026-2027;
4. **Agree** to appoint Councillor David Newman of Blackbird Leys Parish Council as the co-opted, non-voting member of the Standards Committee representing the four Parish Councils in Oxford until May 2027;
5. **Agree** that all members of the Council will form the pool of members able to observe on appeals and some grievances panels in accordance with the Council's policies; and
6. **Appoint** one non-executive member to the Joint Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as shown in Appendix 3: Committee Nominations 2026-2027.

9. Constitution Update - May 2026

Council had before it a report from the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy submitted a report asking Council to approve amendments to the Constitution, including updated delegations to approve Ward Member Budget spend applications

On being moved by Councillor Brown, and seconded by Muddiman, the recommendation was put to the vote. Council approved the recommendations and nominations to committee places, with no member voting against the amendment.

Council resolved to:

- 1. **Approve** the changes to the Constitution, as listed in Appendix 1; and
- 2. **Delegate authority** to the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) to make any other consequential amendments to the Constitution to reflect the changes in appendix 1 to the extent that they have not been identified in the above, provided such changes are purely required as a direct consequence.

The meeting started at 5:00pm and ended at 5:18pm.

Lord Mayor

Date: Monday 13 July 2026

*Decisions on items of business take effect immediately:
Motions may be implemented immediately or may require further budget provision and/or reports to Cabinet before implementation.
Details are in the Council’s Constitution.*