Minutes of: **COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 15 July 2026

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor T Rafiq, in the Chair)
Councillors A Arif, S Arif, N Bayley, C Birchmore, C Boles, A Booth, A Chaudhry, P Davies, D Duncalfe, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, I Gartside, R Gold, D Green, S Haroon, M Hayes, D Hill, J Hook, C Hunt, K Hussain, B Ibrahim, G Martin, G McGill, C Morris, E O'Brien, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, M Rahimov, I Rizvi, J Roith, M Rubinstein, J Rydeheard, S Shamim, J Sheppard, K Simpson, L Smith, M Smith, J Southworth, J Southworth, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, S Thorpe, D Vernon, M Walsh, Y Wright and S Zaman

Apologies for Absence J Lancaster, L Ryder and S Walmsley

Public Attendance: 7 members of the public attended the meeting.

C. 78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Lancaster, Ryder and Walmsley

C. 79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

C. 80 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor as Bury's first citizen updated Members of the Council on work undertaken since the last meeting.

C. 81 MINUTES

The minutes of the two meetings held on 20 May 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C. 82 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of the following questions:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Andy Hay	Prestwich regeneration	Councillor E O'Brien
Nicholas Rose	Footways and Hamilton Road	Councillor L Smith
Jonathan Moss	Barriers in Ramsbottom	Councillor L Smith
Emma Baxter	Bury New Road	Councillor L Smith

Rebecca Ogujor	SEND	Councillor Pilkington
Sunil Bhardwaj	Trees	Councillor L Smith
John Martins	Bins	Councillor L Smith
Sofia Constantnou	Indoor market	Councillor McGill
Susan Hargreaves	Indoor market	Councillor McGill
Jennifer Eagle-Cooper	Indoor market	Councillor McGill
Tracey Howarth	Indoor market	Councillor McGill
Mark Diggle	Indoor market	Councillor McGill
Chelsea Noone	Indoor market	Councillor McGill

C. 83 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Monitoring Officer advised members that the Democratic Arrangements Forum met to discuss the matter of opposition parties. Leaders agreed that Radcliffe First would remain the official Opposition Party and that Reform would have a member attend opposition briefings. The matter of motions will be discussed at a future Democratic Arrangements Forum

Councillor O'Brien moved the motion, Councillor Birchmore seconded the motion and Councillor Rydeheard confirmed his agreement to the motion.

There were no further recommendations of Cabinet or Council Committees

C. 84 CONSTITUTION REPORT UPDATE

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien, and seconded by Councillor Birchmore and Council agreed to:

Note the updated Members appointments and accept the proposed amendments to Bury Council's Constitution as set out in the report:

C. 85 ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS REPORT

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien, and seconded by Councillor L Smith and Council agreed to:

Note the appointments and amendments to appointments made since the Annual Meeting of Council.

C. 86 LEADER STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written questions (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E O'Brien, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting.

The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

	Questioner	**Cabinet member**	**Topic**
1	Cllr M Smith	Cllr Thorpe	Councillor casework system
2	Cllr Roith	Cllr McGill	Market traders
3	Cllr Gartside	Cllr L Smith	
4	Cllr Ibrahim	Cllr Gold	Antisocial behaviour awareness week
5	Cllr Hayes	Cllr Morris	Inclusive growth

6	Cllr Vernon	Cllr Gold	Pilot scheme to encourage resident participation
7	Cllr Sheppard	Cllr L Smith	Green space
8	Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr O'Brien	Scrutiny committee papers
9	Cllr S Arif	Cllr L Smith	Puffin crossing on Ainsworth road
10	Cllr Bayley	Cllr L Smith	Fly tipping

The remaining questions submitted by elected members will receive written responses.

(b) Verbal questions

The Leader received verbal questions from the following Councillors:

	Questioner	**Cabinet member**	**Topic**
1	Cllr Birchmore	Cllr O'Brien	Development frameworks
2	Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr O'Brien	Cost of Number 10 North and raising taxes
3	Cllr Vernon	Cllr O'Brien	Funding and financial support for Bury
4	Cllr Wright	Cllr L Smith	Drain cover on Market Street
5	Cllr Duncalfe	Cllr O'Brien	Bridge over River Irwell
6	Cllr Martin	Cllr O'Brien	Turton Road
7	Cllr Simpson	Cllr Gold	Funding for centre for armed forces veterans

C. 87 QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure rules

	Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1	Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr Gold	FTE Police Officers
2	Cllr Zaman	Cllr Gold	Review of GMP guidelines and policies
3	Cllr Davies	Cllr L Smith	Public services
4	Cllr Roith	Cllr Tariq	Health related incidents during recent hot weather

C. 88 NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Zero Tolerance on Dodgy Shops

Council considered a motion in the names of A Arif, N Bayley, C Boles, A Chaudhry, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, R Gold, D Green, S Haroon, M Hayes, J Hook, C Hunt, B Ibrahim, G McGill, C Morris, E O'Brien, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, M Rahimov, I Rizvi, M Rubinstein, L Ryder, L Smith, J A Southworth, J Southworth, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, S Thorpe, S Walmsley

The motion was moved by Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Rubinstein and on being put to members with 47 members voting for; the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(ii) Endometriosis friendly employer status

Council considered a motion in the names of Councillors Carol Birchmore, Des Duncalfe, Judi Sheppard, Ken Simpson, Mike Smith and Mary Walsh

The motion was moved by Councillor Birchmore and seconded by Councillor Walsh and on being put to members with 47 members voting for; the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(iii) Castle Armoury

Council considered a motion in the names of Councillors P Davies, D Hill, G Martin, J Roith, J Rydeheard and S Zaman.

An amended version of this motion was circulated with the council papers that has been agreed with the Leader of Reform. This now forms the substantive motion.

The motion was moved by Councillor Rydeheard and seconded by Councillor Gold and on being put to members with 47 members voting for; the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

C. 89 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships.

C. 90 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: the meeting started at 5.30pm and ended at 8.00 pm