

COUNCILLOR MICHELLE SMITH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO CONFER THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

DATE OF MEETING: 22nd May 2026

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor M. Smith (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Bauld, Bleakley, Cheetham, Diamond, Driver, Eaton, Gill, Hancock, Harris, Hodgkiss, Holland, Kenyon, Looker, McInnes, Neal, Norton, Payne, Procter, S.Smith and Walmsley.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/Monitoring Officer
Stephanie Carroll, Civic Services Officer and Leader's PA
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant
Darren Kershaw, Mayor's Attendant**

**ALSO PRESENT: 45 guests
1 member of the public**

CIVIC MATTERS

1. Election of the Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27. Councillor Liz McInnes was proposed by Councillor Alyson Barnes and seconded by Councillor Alan Neal.

Resolved:

That Councillor Liz McInnes be appointed as the Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

NB: The New Mayor, Councillor Liz McInnes, chaired the meeting from this point forward.

2. Election of the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27. Councillor Samara Barnes was proposed as Deputy Mayor for external engagements only by Councillor Marilyn Procter and seconded by Councillor Ann Hodgkiss.

Resolved:

That Councillor Samara Barnes be appointed as the Deputy Mayor for external engagements only for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

3. Presentation and Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Consort

Councillor Andrew Walmsley moved the vote of thanks and spoke in relation to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, seconded by Councillor Scott Smith, to which Councillor Michelle Smith responded.

Resolved:

That the grateful thanks of this Council be offered to Councillor Michelle Smith for the excellent manner in which she has fulfilled her duties as Mayor.

BUSINESS MATTERS

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Harrison, Lythgoe, McMahon, Ritson, and Woods.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2026 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

6. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

7. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

8. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications.

9. Political Balance, Committees and Outside Bodies 2026/2027

The Council considered the Political Balance, Committees and Outside Bodies report.

Resolved:

That the Council confirm appointments proposed by the various political groups as set out in the following appendices:

- Appendix A - Draft political balance calculation
- Appendix B - Draft committees of the Council, working groups, member champions and other meetings.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS

10. Honorary Aldermen

In accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council considered nominations to receive the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of eminent service to the Borough.

Councillor Scott Smith proposed Granville Morris, seconded by Councillor Marilyn Procter.

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on the following individuals in recognition of their service and dedication to the local community as a councillor for the borough of Rossendale:

- Granville Morris

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.30pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date