
AMBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting — 18 February 2026

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Date:	18 February 2026
Municipal Year:	2026
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Attendance

Members Present

Mayor: Councillor Patricia Hendricks (in the Chair)

Councillors: T. Ahmed, F. Blake, S. Collins, P. Davies, R. Evans, A. Forde, D. Green, D. Hughes, P. Jarvis, K. Khan, M. Lee, A. Mills, R. Mwangi, P. Okafor, P. Patel, T. Reeves, P. Sharma, H. Singh, B. Stevens, J. Thompson, L. Forsythe, J. Whitmore, C. Young, and 18 further Members as listed in Appendix A.

Officers Present

Dr. Marion Clarke, Chief Executive

Andrew Osei, Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager

Janet Simmons, Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Michael Brennan, Director of Environment and Communities

Susan Nkrumah, Director of Housing and Planning

Philip Crane, Director of Adults and Children's Services

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors P. Andrews (personal reasons), D. Marshall (illness), and R. Walsh (work commitment).

Minute 2026/FC/21 — Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor T. Ahmed declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute 2026/FC/27 (Community Safety Grant applications) as a trustee of the Ambridge Youth Trust, one of the applicant organisations. He left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote.

Councillor P. Okafor declared an other registrable interest in Minute 2026/FC/28 (Adult Social Care Fees and Charges) as a director of a private care company but not one operating within the district. He remained and voted.

Minute 2026/FC/22 — Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Full Council held on 19 November 2025 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minute 2026/FC/23 — Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported on civic engagements undertaken since the November 2025 meeting, including:

Attendance at the Armed Forces Covenant signing ceremony, 14 January 2026

Opening of the new community pavilion at Riverside Recreation Ground, 28 January 2026

Civic reception for Ambridge FC following their promotion to the National League, 3 February 2026

Minute 2026/FC/24 — Public Question Time

Three questions were received from members of the public:

Question 1 (Mr G. Harris)

Mr Harris asked: "What steps is the Council taking to address the closure of the Southgate

Post Office and its impact on elderly residents?"; Cllr Whitmore, Leader, responded that the Council had written to Royal Mail and the Post Office Board seeking an urgent meeting and had raised the matter with the local Member of Parliament.

Question 2 (Ms F. Obasi)

Ms Obasi asked: "When will the Council publish its Affordable Housing Delivery Plan?" Cllr Collins, Portfolio Holder for Housing, confirmed the plan would be presented to Cabinet in April 2026 following the completion of the consultation exercise.

Question 3 (Mr R. Philips)

Mr Philips asked: "Why has the Ambridge Park CCTV system been non-operational since October 2025?" Cllr Ahmed, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, apologised for the extended outage and confirmed that the replacement system had been ordered with an installation date of 28 February 2026.

Minute 2026/FC/25 — 2026/27 Budget and Council Tax Setting

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report on the 2026/27 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme. Following debate:

RESOLVED (36 votes in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention): That Full Council:

Approves the Net Revenue Budget of £24,780,000 for 2026/27 as set out in the report.

Agrees a Council Tax increase of 2.99% for the Ambridge District element, resulting in a Band D charge of £182.34.

Approves the Capital Programme of £6,240,000 as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

Notes the Medium Term Financial Strategy projections to 2029/30.

Minute 2026/FC/26 — Scrutiny Work Programme 2026

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Priya Sharma, presented the proposed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2026. RESOLVED: That the Scrutiny Work Programme 2026 be approved as set out in the report.

(Councillor Ahmed having left the room — see Minute 2026/FC/21 above)

RESOLVED: That grants totalling £87,500 be awarded to community safety organisations as listed in Appendix 5 to the report, subject to the standard grant conditions.

These minutes were confirmed as a correct record at the Full Council Meeting on 15 April 2026.

Signed: Councillor Patricia Hendricks, Mayor and Chairman. Date: 15 April 2026.