

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL**

**12<sup>th</sup> January, 2023**

A second Extraordinary Council meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 which was recorded and live streamed.

**Present**

The Mayor (Councillor J. Clarke)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor M. Walsh)

Councillors D. Brown, B. Beetham, C. Cape, J. Coventry-Moreton, S. Croft, K. Evans, C. Golby, M. Green, J. Gutteridge, B. Hammersley, S. Harbison, J. Hartshorn, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, S. Markham, G. Moreton, B. Pandher, R. Baxter-Payne, J. Sheppard, E. Shiers, J. Singh, R. Smith, M. Tromans, R. Tromans, C. Watkins, M. Wright and K. Wilson

Apologies were received for Councillors T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, L. Downs, N. Phillips and T. Sheppard

CL48 **Declarations of Interests**

**RESOLVED** that the Declarations of Interests for this meeting are as set out in the schedule attached to these minutes.

CL49 **Announcements**

No announcements were made.

CL50 **Public Participation**

**Question 1 – Janet Batterbee submitted the following statement:**

I would like to publicly congratulate the Civic Hall action committee on their success in establishing the Bedworth Civic Hall CIC. This is a major milestone. I would also like to thank the several Councillors who have replied to my various emails about the Civic Hall, even if I don't always like your answers.

I hope that all local Councillors and MP's will now recognise that our valued Civic Centre can have a better future, and that you will work with the Action Committee and interested residents to ensure that can happen.

**Question 2 – Sam Margrave asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Public Services**

Now the Council has approved the Civic Hall as an Asset of Community Value will the Council postpone the current expression of interest process (which could see the Civic Hall privatised and taken over by a private business or developer or demolished) and commit to give the building to Bedworth Civic Hall Community Interest Company (which is run by local residents, community leaders, business people and those connected to the arts) and allocate officer time to work with residents to secure funding through the community ownership fund, arts council and others to take over the building and carry out the work needed to reopen?

**Councillor S. Markham, Portfolio Holder for Public Services gave an answer to both Question 2 and Question 3 together.**

**Question 3 - Rachel Hardy submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Public Services**

The Civic Hall has been recognised and listed as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011.

That act allows community groups to bid to run a registered building or piece of land that is used to further the social wellbeing or interests of the local community and economy.

The act also prevents demolition plans from going ahead for at least 7 months.

Demolition would also cost £600,000.

With the Council having to make a decision about financing the Civic Hall and to produce a balanced budget in a matter of months, will the Council scrap any plans that would lead to demolition as outlined by the Bedworth Transforming plans and the drawings that went to OSP; and will you apply for community ownership funding and hand the building over to a community group to get it off the Councils books and to work with residents to get national money into Bedworth to allow residents to take on the ownership of the Civic Hall ensuring the venue can continue in the Town, and the Council is able to focus on its own finances?

**Councillor S. Markham, Portfolio Holder for Public Services, responded as follows:**

Just because the Civic Hall has been approved as an asset of community value, it will not stop the process of Expression of Interest's (EOI), the Council have approved a process and a timescale for the assessment of the submitted EOI's. This ends on 30<sup>th</sup> January and then February / March will be used to assess the submitted EOI forms, consider the next steps and report back to Cabinet.

Anyone interested in running the Civic Hall, will still need to complete and submit an EOI within this timescale, there is guidance on-line of who you can contact to assist you, or any other group.

Officers will not be able to assist individual groups to secure funding, the process has to be fair to all, and neither them nor this council can be seen to favour one application over another by assisting one group.

Just to clarify, when the council made the announcement regarding the Civic Hall, the recommendation was 'to not re-open, at this time' although there is a vision for Bedworth that was put forward, at NO time has the council said that it is being imminently demolished, so the rumours that it is going to be knocked down for a car park or left as a pile of bricks simply isn't true.

**Question 4: - Steve Young submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Public Services**

Last Year Civic Action applied to make the Civic Hall an Asset of Community value.

The Council has now given its approval for the Civic Hall to be registered as an asset of Community Value.

Since the Application members of Civic Action and our community have formed Bedworth Civic Action Community Interest Company.

Will the Cabinet member meet with us to discuss a bid to take over the building under the localism act 2011?

**Councillor S. Markham, Portfolio Holder for Public Services, gave the following written response:**

I'm pleased that this work has been completed by community members, but as was said earlier regarding Officers, as the Cabinet Member I will not be able to assist individual groups to secure funding or bids to take over the Civic Hall, it has to be fair to all and neither I nor this council can be seen to favour one application over another by assisting one group.

**Question 5: - Ian Calvert asked the following question to Councillor Kyle Evans who submitted the motion to council:**

Where has Councillors Evans, Walsh, Moreton, Coventry-Moreton and Singh seen that Labour has stated Labour have said the Civic Hall should immediately reopen?

As at the last Council Meeting, the elected group of Labour Councillors stated that they had not put any leaflets or statements out about Bedworth Civic Hall – therefore, will these Councillors explain why the money has come from for this Extraordinary Council Meeting has come from?

Will these Councillors also be asking North Warwickshire and Bedworth Labour who don't have any Councillors to attend a meeting and answer these questions

**Councillor K. Evans, responded as follows:**

Thank you, Mr Mayor, and I thank Mr Calvert for his question.

There are three parts to his question, I'll take those in turn. So, the first question is where we have effectively seen that Labour have said, 'There will be re-opening the Civic Hall' three points to that question, a leaflet as I understand it was delivered to every property in Bedworth.

I have the leaflet here and it says, 'What are we demanding, 1) the Civic Hall must be reopened as soon as possible.'

In addition to that at the last full council meeting when Mr Margrave submitted his petition to us the Labour Group asked that, we as a council endorse all the recommendations on that petition and one of the recommendations was that the Civic Hall is re-opened immediately.

In addition, the final point I would make is that the Bedworth Labour Party has put a number of banners around the vicinity of the Town Centre quote "Save the Civic Hall" if you intend to Save the Civic Hall you probably don't intend to close it.

The second part to your question, in terms of the funding for this extraordinary council meeting, an extraordinary council meeting was being called anyway to discuss the management restructure so I envisaged that the only cost to taxpayers will probably be half an hour's worth of utility bills.

The final point to your question, will these councillors also be asking North Warwickshire in Bedworth Labour who don't have any councillors to attend a meeting and answer these questions? With respect it's not really my job as a conservative councillor to ask labour members to attend meetings, of course, if they wish to attend and speak, they're always more than welcome and I'd love to hear their views.

CL51 **Notice of Motion - Bedworth Civic Hall and Spending Commitments made by the Labour Group**

A notice of motion request on the above was received by Councillors K. Evans, M. Walsh, G. Moreton, J. Coventry-Moreton, and J. Singh.

Councillor K. Evans moved the motion as follows:

"In light of the Commitment from the Labour Group that this Council should immediately re-open the Bedworth Civic Hall, and that under a future Labour administration this Council will re-open the Bedworth Civic Hall as a tax payer funded asset. This Council requests the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor

Christopher Watkins, to provide details on the Labour Group's proposed funding model within ten working days. The Labour Group's proposed funding model is to be presented to all Councillors by the Committee Services Team upon receipt."

The motion was seconded by Councillor M. Walsh.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors R. Baxter – Payne, B. Beetham, D. Brown, C. Cape, J. Clarke, J. Coventry-Moreton, S. Croft, K. Evans, C. Golby, M. Green, J. Gutteridge, B. Hammersley, S. Harbison, J. Hartshorn, J. Kennaugh, S. Markham, G. Moreton, B. Pandher, J. Singh, R. Smith, M. Tromans, R. Tromans, M. Walsh, and K. Wilson

AGAINST: Councillors K. Kondakor J. Sheppard, E. Shiers, C. Watkins and M. Wright

ABSENCES: None

The motion was carried

**RESOLVED** that in light of the Commitment from the Labour Group that this Council should immediately re-open the Bedworth Civic Hall, and that under a future Labour administration this Council will re-open the Bedworth Civic Hall as a tax payer funded asset. This Council requests the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Christopher Watkins, to provide details on the Labour Group's proposed funding model within ten working days. The Labour Group's proposed funding model is to be presented to all Councillors by the Committee Services Team upon receipt.

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Mayor

## Council - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2022/2023

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011			Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing matters</li> <li>- Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992</li> <li>- An allowance, payment given to members</li> <li>- An indemnity given to members</li> <li>- Any ceremonial honour given to members</li> <li>- Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992</li> <li>- Planning and Licensing matters</li> <li>- Allotments</li> <li>- Local Enterprise Partnership</li> </ul>
	R. Baxter-Payne	Manager Brinklow Quarry Ltd, Brinklow; County Councillor - WCC	Spouse: Self-employed childminder  Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee</li> <li>• Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (substitute)</li> </ul>	
	B. Beetham	Employed at The George Eliot Hospital; Warwickshire County Council – Camp Hill	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board</li> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</li> </ul>	
	D. Brown	Employed by H.M Land Registry	Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity.  Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity Champion</li> <li>• Exhall Education Foundation</li> <li>• Warwickshire Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	
	C. Cape	Director of Capability	Member of the following	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		Coaching and Consultancy Ltd.	Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armed Forces Covenant Meeting</li> </ul>	
	J. Clarke	Employed by Marcus Jones MP	County Councillor W.C.C.  Nuneaton Conservative Association; Deputy Chairman  Officer of the Abbey Preceptory No.541 - Nuneaton  Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton Festival of Arts</li> </ul>	
	T. Cooper	None	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board</li> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</li> </ul>	
	J. Coventry-Moreton	School Receptionist – St Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Bedworth	Share in rental dwelling at Sealand Drive, Bedworth and Tresilian Road, Bedworth.	
	S. Croft	Employed at Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd	Treasurer of the Conservative Association Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Champion for Safeguarding (Children and Adults)</li> <li>• Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board</li> <li>• West Midlands Employers</li> </ul>	
	L. Cvetkovic	Head of Geography (Teacher), Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry	The Bulkington Volunteers (Founder); Bulkington Sports and Social Club (Trustee)  Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Control Partnership Steering Group</li> </ul>	
	L. Downs	River Bars Limited; Coventry Plus Beyond the Plane	Member on the following Outside Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity</li> </ul>	
	K. Evans	Employed by UK Parliament	Sponsorship: Election Expenses – North	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<p>Warwickshire Conservative Association</p> <p>Membership of Other Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (substitute)</li> </ul> <p>Executive Officer – North Warwickshire Conservative Association; Member of the Conservative and Unionist Party.</p>	
	C. Golby		<p>Member of Warwickshire County Council</p> <p>Membership of Other Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership</li> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd.</li> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Home Improvement Agency</li> <li>• Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board</li> <li>• Warwickshire Housing and Support Partnership</li> <li>• Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel</li> <li>• George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust – Public/User Board</li> <li>• George Eliot Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governors</li> <li>• District Leaders (substitute)</li> <li>• Local Enterprise Partnership (substitute)</li> <li>• Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee (substitute)</li> </ul>	
	M. Green	Employed by Horiba Mira – Calibration Technician	<p>Chair of Education Standards Committee – St Thomas Moore School</p> <p>Executive Member – Nuneaton Conservatives.</p> <p>Secretary – St Vincent De Paul Society at Our Lady of the Angels Church.</p> <p>Our Lady of the Angels Church.</p> <p>Member of the George Eliot Fellowship</p>	



	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Member of the Nuneaton Education Strategy Board  Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendship Project for Children.</li> </ul>	
	J. Gutteridge		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>• Age UK (Warwickshire Branch)</li> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</li> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board</li> </ul>	
	B. Hammersley	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity</li> </ul>	
	S. Harbison	Self Employed	Member of Conservative and Unionist Party. Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Astley Charity</li> </ul>	
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Asda Nuneaton	Member of Nuneaton Conservatives	
	J. Kennaugh	County Councillor W.C.C.  Employed by FedEx Express UK Ltd	Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative Party Member of UNITE the Union  Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EQUiP</li> </ul>	
	K.A. Kondakor	Electronic Design Engineer (self-employed semi-retired); Statistical data analyst and expert witness (self employed)	Unpaid director of 100PERCENTRENEWABLEUK LTD	
	S. Markham	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Governor at Ash Green School  Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum</li> <li>• Warwickshire Direct Partnership</li> </ul>	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warwickshire Waste Partnership</li> <li>• Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee</li> </ul>	
	G. Moreton	Member of School Appeals Panels at Warwickshire County Council	Share in rental dwellings at Sealand Drive, Bedworth and Tresillian Road, Exhall.  Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee</li> </ul>	
	B. Pandher		Member of Warwickshire County Council  Treasurer & Trustee of Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple; Coordinator of Council of Sikh Temples in Coventry; Secretary of Coventry Indian Community; Trustee of Sikh Monument Trust Vice Chair Exhall Multicultural Group  Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foleshill Charity Trustee – Proffitt's Charity</li> </ul>	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton Labour CLP</li> <li>• The Fabian Society</li> <li>• The George Eliot Society</li> <li>• The PCS Union</li> <li>• Central Credit Union</li> <li>• Stockingford Sports and Allotment Club</li> <li>• Haunchwood Sports and Social Club</li> </ul>	
	J. Sheppard		Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local.  Director of Wembrook Community Centre.  Member of the Management Committee at the Mental Health Drop in.	Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre
	T. Sheppard	Employee of Dairy Crest		
	E. Shiers	Employed by and Director of Cannon	The Labour Party Coventry East Credit Union	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		Enterprise Ltd. Director of The Fresh Dessert Company	Member of the Pride in Camp Hill Board.  Member of the governing board for Camp Hill Primary School.  Member of the Board of Trustees of Camp Hill Community Association.  Volunteer for the Coventry and Warwickshire district RSPCA	
	J. Singh			
	R. Smith		Chairman of Volunteer Friends, Bulkington; Trustee of Bulkington Sports and Social Club;  Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A5 Member Partnership;</li> <li>• PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside of London) Joint Committee;</li> <li>• Building Control Partnership Steering Group</li> <li>• Bulkington Village Community and Conference Centre</li> <li>• Representative on the Nuneaton and Bedworth Older Peoples Forum</li> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority and Land Delivery Board</li> </ul>	
	M. Tromans	RTC Ltd, Nuneaton; WCC, Warwick	Nuneaton Acorns WI	
	R. Tromans	RTC, Nuneaton AFL, Wellingborough	W.C.C. Warwick  Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton Neighbourhood Watch Committee</li> <li>• Hospice Charity</li> </ul>	
	M. Walsh	Employed by MacInnes Tooling Ltd. – UK Sales Manager		

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
	C.M. Watkins	Employee of Nutri Pack	Representative on the following outside bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL)</li> </ul>	
	K.D. Wilson	Acting Delivery Manager, Nuneaton and Warwick County Courts, HMCTS, Warwickshire Justice Centre, Nuneaton	Deputy Chairman – Nuneaton Conservative Association  Corporate Tenancies: properties are leased by NBBC to Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd, of which I am a Council appointed Director.  Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd (NABCEL)</li> <li>• Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley &amp; Bosworth Joint Committee</li> <li>• District Council Network</li> <li>• Local Government Association</li> <li>• Director of Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd (CWLEP)</li> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority</li> </ul>	
	M. Wright			