

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

12th January, 2023

An Extraordinary Council meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Thursday, 12th 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

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy New Year.

CL43 **Declarations of Interests**

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

CL44 **Announcements**

No announcements were made.

CL45 **Public Participation**

Question 1 – Sam Margrave asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

Thank you, Mr Mayor,

Staff at the Council work incredibly hard and over recent years they've seen their workloads increase massively.

For local people that has meant cuts or a reduction in services, the Town Hall not being open, planning applications delayed, people waiting longer for the council to deal with issues that matter to them and the Council entirely withdrawing from Bedworth shutting the area office, Civic Hall and now toilets.

Despite the leader of the Council previously criticising the Council for having secret meetings, as leader he has likely had more secret meetings than there ever was under any previous administration in the past decade.

Because the item on reorganisation is secret, local people who you are here to serve can't have a say.

We don't know why the management changes are happening, if it's to have a better service or because of financial pressures caused by Councillors pushing the Council on the brink of bankruptcy.

Every member of staff at NBBC, from bin men to the chief executive deliver the council services we all rely on.

Without breaking any confidentiality which may be on pink paper, can you tell the public tonight what management changes you are proposing and the reason for restructuring the management team?

Councillor K. Wilson, Leader of the Council, responded as follows:

Mr Mayor, as a former councillor Mr Margrave should have a greater knowledge of the workings of a council than most people; so, I think it only fair that he is held to a higher standard than an ordinary member of the public. He persists in his warped interpretation of the situation to suit his own ends.

It is a complete fabrication to suggest that all Cabinet members are doing is holding meetings in secret. As he well knows, any and all formal decisions have been made in public meetings – either Cabinet or Council – unless there is a specific legal reason as set out in the Local Government Act 1972. These are usually where there are commercial sensitives where wider publication or knowledge would undermine the Council's ability to conduct negotiations without one hand tied behind our backs. This could prejudice our position financially or enable tenderers access to information that would enable them to submit bids that would not comply with a truly competitive process or get us best value.

Or, as in the case tonight, it deals with the employment matters of individual employees of this Council. I would assume that Mr Margrave would not like his personal contract of employment – if indeed he has one, I don't know – discussed in front of any random person. These are highly personal matters to an individual, Mr Mayor.

But, having said all this, Mr Mayor, ex-Councillor Margrave knows this. When he was a Councillor, he has been in meetings before where the exact same thing has happened in the past and he has put his hand up in favour of a confidential meeting on several occasions. All without objection. Without breaching the confidential nature of the upcoming item, the restructure will focus on modernising our senior management structure to make it fit for purpose and ensure we are focused on service delivery. This is not a cost-cutting exercise.

But what isn't a secret is that local government faces financial challenges. It has always done so – including during ex-Councillor Margrave's terms of office. We are not – repeat NOT – on the brink of bankruptcy. His attempts to do so are a shallow attempt at scaremongering local residents to fit in with his own twisted narrative of this Council.

And doing so is also deeply unfair to the hardworking officers of this Council who are doing their best to deliver services through unprecedented and challenging financial times. We have experienced the shocks of Covid and now the global inflationary pressures that have deeply affected local government finance. Nuneaton and Bedworth is not immune to this.

The legal method for a council to effectively declare bankruptcy is through a section 114 notice. I discussed this with the statutory section 151 officer – who is far better qualified than either Mr Margrave or, indeed, myself – to determine whether we are on the brink of bankruptcy. I am happy to report that she has confirmed that we are not at risk of a s114 notice/bankruptcy. And we are not at risk of this because it is this Conservative administration that is stepping up to the plate, taking the difficult decisions that he and his former Labour colleagues didn't have the backbone to make, and taking the necessary actions to put this council on a sound financial footing. Not just for today, but for the future too.

Because of this we will remain solvent.

CL46 Exclusion of Public and Press

Councillor K. Kondakor moved in accordance with the constitution Part 4A.12 that the meeting be adjourned for the second Extraordinary Council to take place first in public session and that the report for this meeting be prepared suitable for public viewing.

Councillor M. Wright seconded the motion

A vote was taken

The motion was lost.

RESOLVED that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph (i) and (ii) of Part I and II of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CL47 Restructure of Management Team

The Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service submitted a report on the Restructure of Management Team to full council for consideration.

RESOLVED that

- a) a preferred option [as set out in Appendix C of the report] for a revised Senior Management Structure be consulted upon with Management Team and the wider group of Senior Managers for a period of 7 weeks running from 16 January 2023 to 28 February 2023.
- b) the constitutional arrangements in relation to the review of consultation outcomes and implementation, including the setting of remuneration levels for Chief Officers and senior managers by the Employment Committee be noted.
- c) arrangements be put into place to establish a Panel of Independent Persons as detailed in the report.
- d) an Extraordinary Full Council meeting be convened as soon as is practicable to receive feedback from the consultation exercise, the Panel of Independent Persons and recommendations from the Employment Committee.

Councillor K. Kondakor requested that his vote against the recommendations be recorded in the minutes

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"> - Housing matters - Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 - An allowance, payment given to members - An indemnity given to members - Any ceremonial honour given to members - Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - Planning and Licensing matters - Allotments - Local Enterprise Partnership
	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"> • West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee • Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (substitute) 	
	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"> • Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground 	
	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"> • Biodiversity Champion • Exhall Education Foundation • Warwickshire Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee 	
	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"> Armed Forces Covenant Meeting 	
	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"> Nuneaton Festival of Arts 	
	T. Cooper	None	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground 	
	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"> Champion for Safeguarding (Children and Adults) Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board West Midlands Employers 	
	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"> Building Control Partnership Steering Group 	
	L. Downs	River Bars Limited; Coventry Plus Beyond the Plane	Member on the following Outside Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity 	
	K. Evans	Employed by UK Parliament	Sponsorship: Election Expenses – North	

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

	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"> • Friendship Project for Children. 	
	J. Gutteridge		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board • Age UK (Warwickshire Branch) • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground • West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board 	
	B. Hammersley	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity 	
	S. Harbison	Self Employed	Member of Conservative and Unionist Party. Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astley Charity 	
	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"> • EQUiP 	
	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"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum • Warwickshire Direct Partnership 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire Waste Partnership • Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee 	
	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"> • Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee 	
	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"> • Foleshill Charity Trustee – Proffitt's Charity 	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Labour CLP • The Fabian Society • The George Eliot Society • The PCS Union • Central Credit Union • Stockingford Sports and Allotment Club • Haunchwood Sports and Social Club 	
	J. Sheppard		Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local.	Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre
Director of Wembrook Community Centre.				
Member of the Management Committee at the Mental Health Drop in.				
	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"> • A5 Member Partnership; • PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside of London) Joint Committee; • Building Control Partnership Steering Group • Bulkington Village Community and Conference Centre • Representative on the Nuneaton and Bedworth Older Peoples Forum • West Midlands Combined Authority and Land Delivery Board 	
	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"> • Nuneaton Neighbourhood Watch Committee • Hospice Charity 	
	M. Walsh	Employed by MacInnes Tooling Ltd. – UK Sales Manager		

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	C.M. Watkins	Employee of Nutri Pack	Representative on the following outside bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL) 	
	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"> • Director of Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd (NABCEL) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth Joint Committee • District Council Network • Local Government Association • Director of Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd (CWLEP) • West Midlands Combined Authority 				
	M. Wright			