

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

13th February, 2023

The meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 13th February 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, T. Cooper, J. Coventry-Moreton S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, K. Evans, C. Golby, M. Green, J. Gutteridge, B. Hammersley, 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, K. Wilson and M. Wright

Apologies were received for Councillors L. Downs, S. Harbison, N. Phillips and T. Sheppard

A minute silence was held for former Councillor Danny Aldington and Cabinet Member, who had passed away recently.

CL52 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 14th December 2022, and the two Extraordinary Meetings held on 12th January 2023 were confirmed, and signed by the Mayor

CL53 **Declarations of Interests**

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

CL54 **Announcements**

Councillor K. Wilson announced that the Abbey Street development name unveiling would be live streamed tomorrow (14th February) and details placed on Facebook and other social media channels for any members of the public to watch online.

CL55 **Public Participation**

Question 1 – Alan Baxter asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate:

Could the Council update us as to the value of the monetary “Reserves” held by the Borough Council.?

I also think the General Public and even some of the Councillors present would benefit from being told what the spending criteria are for the financial “Reserves” and how they may be used to fund projects and activities within the Borough.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, gave the following written response:

I refer you to my budget speech that I made at the meeting which can be viewed via YouTube and include the relevant part of my speech below:

The Risk to Reserves

More than this, as the report details at 6.3 and 7.3, our medium-term financial position and our reserve balances are in grave peril unless we change course.

On our current trajectory, the £3k surplus we have achieved this year will become a deficit of £2.6m in 2024-25, and eventually increase to £6.2m over the course of the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

If this happens, this will have a catastrophic effect on our reserve position.

At the end of the last financial year, NBBC held £14.2m in earmarked reserves, that is, those reserves which have been allocated against specific projects (a full list was included in Item 11 of the October cabinet report, and an updated list will be published after financial year end in July).

These reserves are not, contrary to popular belief, held as a kind of general saving into which we can dip to fund new policies.

There are no spare reserves, if we liquidate them to close deficits that means that we have to review and potentially cancel projects.

Should the deficits in the MTFP be allowed to happen, reserves will diminish from £9.4m in March 2023 to £3.5m in March of 2027.

Question 2 – Mr Peter Smith asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities

Given that the current local housing allowance rate for a single room with shared facilities is £112.77.

How can the housing benefit team justify awarding £469 to NABCEL for this service. Claimants have no part in this process nor can they question the amount or the service given for such a large amount of money claimed in their name. With the cabinet proposing to raise this charge by 37% in the new budget?. This is a clear case of benefit fraud by NBBC and NABCEL. This

has been reported to the Nuneaton and Bedworth fraud team and we await their findings.

Councillor C. Golby, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, responded as follows:

The proposal to increase Homelessness Temporary Accommodation charges relates solely to the accommodation provided by the Council.

It does not apply to any other temporary accommodation that is utilised by the Council and therefore does not apply to NABCEL.

The increase in the charge reflects the increased operational costs associated with providing this accommodation including but not limited to: salaries, utilities costs and maintenance costs.

Question 3 – Mrs Michele Kondakor asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

I regularly see in Council papers that there is ‘anti-social behaviour’ in this place or that. No-one in our Borough wants to see or be subject to anti-social behaviour but I am alarmed at the reduction in activities for young people, notably the recent demolition of the skate-park in the Miner’s Welfare Park in Bedworth. You seem to be anti-skate-boarding, anti-cycling, anti-watersports..... Will the leader of the Council commit to producing an action plan for increasing responsible, constructive activities for the young people across the Borough?

The Leader of the Council, Councillor K. Wilson, gave the following response:

I am delighted to reply to Mrs Kondakor’s question as it gives me a great opportunity to highlight all of the wonderful work we have been doing in our Borough to enhance our offer to our young people. And as can clearly be demonstrated, Mrs Kondakor is – as usual – wide of the mark.

Our commitment can be evidenced from day 1 of this Conservative administration.

I gave a clear instruction as soon as we took control that we would bid for the Levelling Up Fund and that it had to be for Bedworth. We all know that the Leisure Centre there is well past it’s best and we need to replace it as soon as we can.

The new Physical Activity Hub will deliver a range of indoor and outdoor facilities for young people, including new planned facilities for cycling, skate park/pump track, all weather football, and many other outdoor opportunities.

Furthermore, we delivered mountain bike trails, County standards floodlit netball courts have and improvements to tennis, bowls and cricket facilities in the Miners Welfare Park. All of which are being enjoyed by thousands of people – young and old – from across our Borough.

And that's not all, Mr Mayor.

Over the last 12 months we have installed, or are about to install, brand new play equipment in the following areas:

- Bulkington Recreation Ground
- Keresley
- Stockingford Recreation Ground
- Marston Lane in Wem Brook
- Bedworth Miners' Park
- Montana Walk
- Riversley Park
- Newdigate Park

This has been possible because of this Conservative administration investing in our parks and young people. We spent money that was squirrelled away by the last administration that should have been spent for the benefit of the residents. And we invested £50,000 extra into our parks and open spaces last year.

And tonight, we go further.

Not only will we make the £50,000 extra spending towards our parks and open spaces a permanent part of the budget rather than the one off spend we did last year. We will now expand that to £75,000. This means that more parks and open spaces that were neglected by Labour for decades will now have the opportunity to some much-needed upgrades.

In the last month Cabinet have agreed the complete replacement and upgrade of Buttermere Park. This is funded by the contributions that developers have had to pay from their extensive developments in St Nicolas ward. This ensures that the areas that have taken significant housing and paid the price for Labour's Borough Plan will finally get something to improve the area for existing residents.

Mr Mayor, I think all of the above goes to show how seriously this Conservative administration takes improving the availability of decent and safe play equipment for the young people of Nuneaton and Bedworth. But above all, this Conservative administration takes safety seriously. Cllr Gutteridge will respond in more detail later. But, I cannot emphasise enough that the decision to remove the Skate Park in Bedworth was made because an independent report was categorically clear – it was unsafe, at the end of its useful life, and had to be removed immediately. That was their recommendation, not ours.

If we had have tried to ignore that recommendation – not that officers could have allowed me to legally – I would have been guilty of negligence and putting the safety of our youngsters in danger. There was a real possibility that serious injury could be caused by continued use of the park. I am not prepared to risk a child being injured, and I would hope that Mrs Kondakor would agree with that.

And I can confirm, Mr Mayor, that this safety first policy applies equally to use of our water courses and spaces.

Anyone who wishes to engage in water sports is welcome to partake in what is a greatly enjoyable sport. But, water sports should always be undertaken in safe spaces and not put someone at risk. We cannot make that guarantee at any of our sites. The tragedy that we saw in Solihull over Christmas clearly illustrates these dangers. When you go in the water you never know what is there – a dangerous under current could take you in seconds. The temperature could overwhelm you at any moment. When you start panicking this makes an already dangerous situation worse. Unfortunately, this can – and does – lead to fatalities.

Not on our watch, Mr Mayor. Enjoy yourselves in accredited and designated facilities. Not in our rivers or open water bodies.

As for a plan – we have been working on one for months. The parks team has been working on a Play and Open Space Strategy which will be coming forward in the near future. This was yet another neglected area which we inherited from the Labour Party. There were no plans for the future of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

And, Mr. Mayor, I believe that sums it up perfectly.

Under Labour there was no plan for Nuneaton and Bedworth and the young people of our Borough. Under this Conservative administration we have been working tirelessly to put right the decades of neglect that we inherited and put forward the vision, ambition and aspiration that our residents rightly deserve.

CL56 **Member Questions**

Question 1 - Councillor Colin Cape asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities:

NBBC have a long history of affiliation with the local Armed Forces. The Veterans Contact Point led the way in the county, Royal British Legion support our remembrance parade along with many others and of course there is the world famous Bedworth Armistice.

We as a council achieved have Armed Forces Covenant Gold status. But let us not rest on our laurels, what are the council doing to build upon this long

relationship and what can we do in this centenary year to celebrate veterans and serving personnel in our region?

Councillor C. Golby, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, responded as follows:

We are hugely proud of our Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) gold status and in line with the continued commitment in supporting our Armed Forces Community we are going to be arranging Armed Forces Community Champions training for staff and members for the first time since 2019, which we are hoping can take place during Armed Forces week.

We are working closely with the Veterans Contact Point about offering Nuneaton and Bedworth staff and volunteers access to additional development opportunities which will benefit individuals and families. Staff from housing and communities regularly attend the WCC AFC meetings and we also continue to contribute to the work program aimed at engaging and supporting the armed forces in the community.

We are exploring funding opportunities that will allow us to deliver community events alongside relevant organisations and plans for celebrating the coronation are in the early stages of planning.

Question 2 - Councillor Kyle Evans asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

At the last Full Council meeting, Council resolved that the Leader of the Opposition should, within ten working days, present his alternative funding model to confirm how the Labour Group would fund the immediate re-opening of the Bedworth Civic Hall. Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether any such proposal has been received from the Leader of the Opposition?

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

Quite simply Mr Mayor not to my knowledge.

Councillor K. Evans asked the following supplementary question:

In light of the leader of the council's response, would he therefore, agree with me that it was somewhat disingenuous of the Bedworth Labour Party to tell residents that they would indeed reopen the Civic Hall

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

I would indeed agree with Councillor K. Evans that if Bedworth Labour have been going around telling residents that they have a plan to immediately reopen the Civic Hall financially then that is, in my view, misleading them although I do await with baited breath Mr Mayor to see what proposals are put

forward later tonight by the opposition if they do intend to actually reopen the Civic Hall and how they will fund this on a sustainable basis.

Question 3 - Councillor D. Brown asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Health and Environment:

Like many members on this side of the Chamber, I was surprised to hear that the skate park in Bedworth Miner's Welfare Park has had to be closed, and the ramps removed, because they had deteriorated to a point where they had become dangerous.

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide some additional information about the circumstances that led to the closure of the skatepark on the advice of the independent assessment that was carried out on the skatepark equipment?

Councillor J. Gutteridge, Portfolio Holder for Health and Environment, responded as follows:

It should be noted that it was always the intention to replace the skate park facility as part of the Bedworth Physical Activity Hub project. Once it was confirmed that the Bedworth Physical Activity Hub was to be paused the Parks and Green spaces team contacted several metal skate part manufacturers to get quotes for carrying out an inspection of the Miners Welfare Park skatepark. The contractor was chosen and carried out the inspection on the 27th January. The contractor contacted the Council on the 30th January by telephone to inform us that the findings of the inspection would be due as soon as possible and highlighted that the ramps were unsafe and needed to be decommissioned. Officers contacted a contractor to meet out on site on the 31st January to look at the ramps and assess a possible safe way of decommissioning them as soon as possible.

The 1st February, the final report was received from the contractor with a residential risk of 25 or very high. 25 is the top it was very unsafe the main issues were that all the noses of the ramps were sinking or protruding significantly from the tarmac surface creating dangerous trip hazards. In addition to the trip hazards they highlighted other issues with denting on the ramp decks and splitting of the ramps due to corrosion. Taking all these issues into account and the age of the facility (20 years plus) it's been outside all its working life, rain sun, frost and snow, they concluded that the structure that it was not structurally or financially viable to keep the skate park open.

Upon receiving the report Council officers commissioned the contractor to remove the skate park which they did at the earliest time available - Monday 6th February. The ramps were removed in half a day and the site was swept by our colleagues in refuge and cleansing that afternoon and Council officers will ensure that we will tarmac the surface and is filled as soon as possible.

I'd just like to inform people we have met with contractors on site already and are waiting for a price. The report concluded that the safety risk 25, I repeat

25 because it's frightening, 25 was very high it's the highest we can get unfortunately which could lead to accidents and permanent disabilities for our young people which I do not want in this Borough.

Councillor K. Kondakor moved that this matter be referred a subcommittee and to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for discussion on the future of the Bedworth Skate Park

Councillor M. Wright seconded this.

A vote was taken.

The motion was lost.

Question 4 – Councillor Brett Beetham asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities:

At the NBBC audit and standards committee meetings on the on 10th January Councillor Kondakor claimed he has made representations to the auditors over legal expenses for “Councillor Clare Golby’s legal costs for defamation”. At the 31st of January NBBC audit and standards committee meetings, scrutinising the latest audit report, Councillor Kondakor again stated “there are issues like the paying the legal costs of the deputy leader over defamation stuff”

Both of these meeting were public meetings of this council which I attended and were broadcast on the councils YouTube channel.

There has also been social media posts by Councillor Kondakor made to the same effect. Can Councillor Golby provide some clarity to members and residents on these claims which have been made?

Councillor C. Golby, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, responded as follows:

Thank you for this question. Yes I’m aware of these comments made by Cllr Kondakor.

This is the next round in what seems like his obsessive and continuing efforts to drag my name through the mud with half-truths and smears. Pravda would be proud of some of the stuff that has been put out recently.

It’s ironic that Councillor Kondakor is the person bringing this up because it was in fact him who was threatening to sue me for defamation.

I wasn’t going to mention this, in fact I’ve kept quiet for a long time but seeing as though this is being publicly spoken about by Councillor Kondakor its only right I should put forward my side of events.

On the 13th January 2022 I received an e-mail from a solicitors explaining they were acting on behalf of Councillor Kondakor who had instructed them to write to me with regards to a claim for libel.

My alleged libellous action had been carried out in March 2021, in the form of a tweet, which did not name anyone, however Councillor Kondakor felt inference alone was sufficient to seek legal recourse, albeit some 310 days or 10 months after the supposed offending tweet was posted.

The letter then went on to issue what I can only call a list of demands that I must comply with in order for Councillor Kondakor not to continue to pursue me in court. The demands were quite honestly ridiculous and included payment for hurt feelings.

I of course spoke to the legal team here at the council and was informed that the given the context of the threatened action I would be covered by the council's insurance, and by extension the excess would also be covered. I must admit that until that point, I wasn't aware of this insurance at all.

A legal representative was engaged, and a response was issued pointing out:

Your client's [Cllr Kondakor] threats of libel action against our client [me] appear to be, with respect, a rather chilling attempt by him to curb free speech and undermine an elected councillor giving her view of a matter, something that will have been all the more relevant given the Tweet was posted on International Women's Day. 10 months on, your client is now threatening our client for telling the truth and speaking her mind on a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

We also note that your client [Cllr Kondakor] is very happy to indulge in incendiary language, some of which could be deemed to be highly defamatory, such as his references to our client [me] as "Nuneaton's most extreme right-wing councillor", likening local Conservatives to Nazis and levelling unfounded allegations that local Conservatives cheat on their expenses and cheat during elections. Put in this wider context, your client [Cllr Kondakor] displays a level of audacity in complaining about the actions of our client and threatening her with legal proceedings.

This was the opportunity for Councillor Kondakor to stop. However, he didn't.

I then received a subsequent legal letter from his solicitors.

Eventually we get to the knub of the issue. Allegedly a tweet I posted resulted in the loss of an election and subsequent loss of prestige and money associated to him holding that seat.

To which another response was sent. To put it simply, it was queried whether the client had suffered serious harm to his reputation as a result of the Tweet.

It's worth noting that there are mechanisms for challenging election results. Councillor Kondakor has not pursued these, but instead waited 10 months after the election to raise the prospect of a defamation claim against me.

It has also worth noting that my colleagues have many times publicly called out Councillor Kondakor behaviour. They have raised his bullying, both in this chamber to his face and on his social media platforms, as have members of the public.

Councillor Kondakor has not attempted to litigate against those who during the election he publicly accused of conducting a smear campaign against him, or indeed he has not had his solicitor send legal letters to the person who actually beat him at the ballot box either, that's Councillor Tromans.

The common theme with these people? They are all men. No wonder my tweet on International Women's Day annoyed him.

He has not pursued these men for 1000's of pounds for hurting his feelings.

My solicitors have queried "*It is unclear why you contend our client, an elected female councillor should be barred from expressing her views on the conduct of another elected councillor*" "*We would welcome further clarity from you on this point*".

Councillor Kondakor however did not have the courage of his convictions. He did not follow through with the legal threats of taking me to court if I didn't cough up the cash.

I've noticed Councillor Kondakor has started posting about legal issues with one recent post stating, "I have had lots of problems with Councillor Golby which has cost me real money in taking legal advice." No, you chose to spend that money on frivolous legal action, trying to sue me over a tweet.

You chose to seek legal advice, you chose to do that, not me. It's astounding how he always paints himself as the victim or the victor but never the villain.

Finally, I'd like to thank Councillor Beetham for this question as it given me the opportunity to speak publicly about some, not all, of the behaviour, I'm having to deal with on an almost weekly basis.

I have been the subject of a more than my fair share of misogynistic behaviour, attempted smears and falsehoods propagated across many platforms by a certain few people both political and not. You may remember at the last full council the police were here to intervene over a similar matter.

No one should have to put up with this but apparently, I do. Again, the common theme I am a woman.

I have not and will not capitulate or be cowed by this sort of commentary and behaviour from these sorts of individuals.

Those who attempt to intimidate or domineer and then feign victimhood to avoid justifiable criticism or those who throw around wild accusations but don't like it when they are challenged to provide evidence and the ones who align with these people making themselves equally as culpable.

So, to be absolutely clear. As councillors we are all covered by insurance policies of this council, including you Councillor Kondakor. One of those policies is for legal cover. Like most insurance cover there is an excess to be paid on any insurance claim and as a financially responsible organisation there is a budget set aside to cover insurance excesses of all kinds, including legal claims.

Councillor Kondakor threatened to sue me, I qualified for this cover. If he doesn't want the council to spend money on legal protection maybe, he should stop sending legal letters.

Question 5 – Councillor Jack Kennaugh asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate

I have been made aware of posts on social media showing a small part of an invoice dated 29th September 2021 for the sum of £11,900 with the line item 'Cllr Golby Complaints'. On one of these posts, it is claimed by Cllr Kondakor that this sum is for "stalled Golby Cases."

Can the Portfolio Holder for Finance please explain what this is in relation to?

Councillor S. Croft, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate, responded as follows:

Mr Mayor, just to give some context to this question, this is not an invoice that has been published by this Council. Just to explain to all members if they are not already aware Councillor Kondakor has a habit of wasting a great deal of my officer's time in the finance department with a large number of audit queries outside of our annual audit each year asking for usually hundreds of audit samples, which he doesn't need to see, as with almost everything this councillor says, the comments he has made are misleading. I can confirm that the invoice that he has published does not relate to any complaints against elected members and was not an investigation undertaken under the code of conduct for elected members. This issue was an operational matter which required external investigation, hence, the external legal firm invoice at the request of the then Executive Director, who is the current CEO. The reference to Councillor Golby is a reference to the fact that Councillor Golby had highlighted the issue involved. It was not a complaint about Councillor Golby, or any other member, and officers have actually apologised to Councillor Golby for the fact that this was published, and it should never have referred to the Deputy Leader in the subject of the invoice.

Councillor Kondakor has once again taken half understood information out of context to impugn the name of the Deputy Leader and, Mr Mayor, let us have no more of this humbug, that this is somehow some kind of non-political

person or, that this is some kind of disinterested community campaigner. His actions in this matter and the way he has behaved reveal him to be just another political common or garden low rent hack and he has attempted to blaggard the name of a decent woman for obviously his own political agenda.

Question 6 – Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities:

At an NBBC audit and standards hearing on the 25th November, which I chaired, Councillor Kondakor made a claim that a complaint he made in March 2021 still has not been investigated as “Certain people have been exempt from the process because they are too busy”

There have also been social media posts made by Cllr Kondakor where again in relation to a complaint from the same time period he stated Cllr Golby claimed to be “too busy to talk to an external independent investigator”?

As the Chair of Audit and Standards I would like to ask Cllr Golby are you too busy to engage in this process?

Councillor C. Golby, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, responded as follows:

Thank you for this question and yes, I’m also aware of these comments too. There’s a theme here isn’t there. I’m getting the impression Councillor Kondakor has got a bit of a thing for me.

So again, for context and those unfamiliar with the background I need to timeline the situation, so it all makes sense.

In September 2021, I was contacted by the Monitoring officer, Director Richardson, who informed me that a complaint had been raised against me. I am waiving my right to any anonymity in this situation. On 24th November I was contacted by the external monitoring officer to which I responded immediately explaining that I now work full time so without this being an absolute priority could the interview wait until the new year? I received a response a few days later saying this would be fine and that in fact the Monitoring Officer was going on holiday, so this worked well for them too.

On the 8th of February I was again contacted by the external monitoring officer asking if I had any availability to speak to them on the 14th Feb 2021. By this time, I had received the legal letter from Councillor Kondakor solicitors which I have just spoken about, explaining they were acting on behalf of Councillor Kondakor who had instructed them to write to me with regards to a claim for libel.

It is because of this I then refused to carry on any conversation relating to the complaint, clearly stating that “Cllr Kondakor is currently threatening to sue me for liable so I will not be engaging further on this matter at the moment.” This is where things become more complicated.

Cllr Kondakor himself who has brought this into the public domain and is making false claims that his outstanding complaint against me is purely because I'm too busy to be interviewed.

He has made these claims in public meetings of this council and on social media. He has brought this matter into the public domain multiple times through various mediums. The truth is I refuse to engage on anything like this while the spectre of legal action still hangs in the air. Which it does.

Although the time is spent for Cllr Kondakor to legally serve me in this matter, it is not for any potential legal action against this council in much the same way.

It is for this reason why again I will not engage on this complaint. So as not to prejudice any potential legal action or risk that something that I say in the standards interview that might inadvertently undermine the Council's position. Councillor Kondakor is very good at pushing half-truths and misdirection to make himself look like a victim. He even sat in a recent council meeting with a placard saying "what about 3/21"

Well, what about is it Councillor Kondakor? You know what "What about 3/21"?

This is another good example of nasty behaviour particularly towards me, from this man.

Let me be clear.

Outside of this chamber I have nothing to do with Councillor Kondakor. He and his acolytes are blocked from my social media. Something else I've been roundly criticised for, however something I'm perfectly entitled to do. I am not deliberately antagonistic, but I will stand up for myself. I believe this is where the problem stems from. A woman who won't be pushed around. He certainly isn't nearly as obsessed with my male colleagues as he is with me. Councillor Kondakor has, over the last few years, made some wildly inaccurate statements about me, which have been presented as fact. He introduces conjecture and fantasy as objective truth, and this is another one of those times.

So, to sum up, out of the nearly two years this complaint has been live I accept there was an initial delay of a few weeks where diaries could not be aligned.

The rest of the time where this complaint has not be progressed, is entirely down to the actions of Cllr Kondakor. He constantly claims there is a smear campaign against him when it is in fact him doing the smearing to appear as if he's the victim with his misleading propaganda.

What is happening, the delay, is a direct result of his own actions and he knows it.

CL57 **Special Urgency Decisions**

None.

CL58 **Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council submitted the Leaders report on behalf of Cabinet. The report highlighted matters considered at the Cabinet meetings held on 11th January, and 1st February 2023 and details of reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority Board, which has a direct impact on NBBC.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CL59 **Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor**

The Council gave consideration to the selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2023/24:

(a) Mayor

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor M. Walsh be invited to accept the office of Mayor.

A vote was taken

The motion was carried

RESOLVED that Councillor M. Walsh be invited to accept the office of Mayor for Municipal Year 2023/24

(b) Deputy Mayor

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor B. Hammersley be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor.

A vote was taken

RESOLVED that Councillor B. Hammersley be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor for Municipal Year 2023/24

CL60 **Recommendations from Cabinet and Other Committees**

i) **Review of Risk Management Policy and Strategy**

At the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on the 10th January 2023 a report on the above was considered and a recommendation then put forward for Council approval. Councillor R. Baxter-Payne proposed the recommendation for approval. This was seconded by Councillor B. Hammersley.

RESOLVED that the constitution be updated accordingly.

ii) Annual Audit Report

At the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 31st January 2023, a report on the above was considered and a recommendation then put forward for Council approval. Councillor R. Baxter-Payne proposed the recommendation for approval. This was seconded by Councillor D. Brown.

RESOLVED that the Annual Audit report be noted

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

iii) General Fund Revenue Budget 2023/24

Councillor K. Wilson moved that section 4.13.4 procedural rule of the constitution be suspended to enable the proposer, seconder and Leader of the Opposition no time limit for speeches on the budget items. This was seconded by Councillor C. Colby.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, presented the recommendations made at Cabinet on the 8th February 2023, in respect of the above, and moved a motion for their approval.

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the motion.

Councillor E. Shiers put forward an amendment to present the alternative budget proposal on behalf of the Labour Group which was seconded by Councillor C. Watkins as follows:

LABOUR BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the General Fund draft revenue budget 2023/24, attached as Appendix B, be recommended to the Council for approval.
- (b) That the Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 is determined as £9,943,904 and the District Council Tax for 2023/24 be increased by £5 for a Band D property.
- (c) To note the initial budget changes approved by NBBC Cabinet on 7th December 2022 and those included within 8th February 2023 NBBC Cabinet report are agreed, other than the amendments detailed below.
- (d) That the following budget changes are included as detailed below:

General Fund

Savings Identified	£
Reduce King's Coronation fund from £20,000 to £10,000	(£10,000)
Reduce number of Cabinet members by one	(£5,950)
Reduce mobile phone spend and usage with a commitment to review use of mobile phones/asset register	(£15,000)
Reduce Shopmobility grant to £10,000	(£2,500)
Reduce Harriers grant to £15,000	(£4,000)
Bulkington Village Centre grant – reduce by 10%	(£272)
Car park season tickets: Additional £5 for monthly basis Additional £5 for 6 months Additional £10 for yearly	(£3,485)
Fees and charges: Cricket pitches outside of borough – increase by 5% Gaming and casinos: Existing casinos – increase by 5% Adult gaming centre new application – increase by 5% Change of circumstances – increase by 5% Betting premises new application – increase by 5% Licensed premises gaming machine annual fee – increase by 5% Sale of overseas register – increase from £22 to £30 and £15 to £22 Mobile plant charges – increase by 5% Borough plan for non-residents – increase by 5% Housing mobile homes (Caldwell and Exhale) – increase by 5% Commission on caravan sales – 12%	(£100) (£650) (£400) (£75) (£145) (£1,850) (£300)
Car parks cost of collection of cash – reduce from £50,000 to £40,000	(£10,000)
Total Savings	(£54,727)

Additional Spend Items	£
Council Tax increase set at £5 rather than 2.99%	£95,317
Reduce fees and charges on cemeteries by half on first page of appendix 4	£53,357
Legal services electoral registration – reduce proposed fees by half	£1,025
Rents on garages - £9 for residents, £18 for non-residents	£404
Total Additional Spend	£150,103

Additional Growth Items	£
Civic Hall: if any General Fund land is sold, use part of the sales receipts towards cost of improvement and repairs of Civic Hall (providing these costs meet the conditions of flexible use of capital receipts).	£300,000 (net effect nil)

Offer services to other local authorities for riverbank clearance	(£5,000)
Advertising of car park season tickets and hire of Town Hall	£5,000
Check with DLUHC whether the £40,000 funding for demolition of the Lily Pad fountain can be used for other purposes.	£0
Total Additional Growth (net spend)	£0

Housing Revenue Account

Savings and Spend Pressure Items	£
Increase in Housing Rents set at 5.75% instead of 6.75%	£381,985
Increase replacement of fleet to 9 years	(£200,000)
Fund deficit through use of HRA Earmarked Reserves	(£181,985)
Total Additional Cost/Income	£0

- (e) With the above budgetary growth and savings initiatives, the net revenue expenditure of the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023/24 of £16,906,523 as detailed at Appendix B.
- (f) The revised budget position is a deficit of £95,376 on the General Fund to be funded from the General Fund Earmarked Reserve Balances and deficit of £181,985 on the HRA to be funded from the HRA Earmarked Reserve Balances.
- (g) Where there are any potential staffing implications of the savings above, the Council's Management of Change policy will be followed.
- (h) That the Labour General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023/24 of 16,906,523 be recommended to Council for approval.
- (i) That the Head of Financial Services assurance statements on reserves and base budget proposals as included in Appendix A be noted.
- (j) Because of the timescales involved, the General Fund Revenue Budget 2023/24 was considered as an urgent item and not subject to call-in as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

APPENDIX A

ROBUSTNESS OF BUDGET ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF THE RESERVES

1.) Introduction

The 2003 Local Government Act places specific responsibilities on the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of proposed financial reserves when the authority is setting its budget for the forthcoming year. These principles are embedded throughout the Council's budget setting and medium-term financial planning processes.

2.) Robustness of Estimates

The budget estimates include assumptions on spend pressures, inflationary pressures, interest rate forecasts and current trends on demand for services. The latter is kept under constant review, especially for the income generating services. The estimates also reflect the Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24 as well as the most up to date forecast of business rates income. Savings targets have also been assessed to ensure that they are realistic and achievable.

3.) Adequacy of Reserves

The minimum prudent level of reserves that the Council should maintain is a matter of judgement, taking into account a number of factors. This includes an assessment of current and future risks that the Council faces, but these can and will change over time and so this cannot be the only factor. Reserve levels are ultimately the Council's safety net against unforeseen or unexpected circumstances and risks. Failure to maintain a minimum prudent level of reserves could lead to the Council being forced to cut spending during the year in an arbitrary way leading to loss of services and reputational damage.

Reserves are established and maintained in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and are reviewed annually by the S151 and also the Council's external auditors as part of the Value for Money Conclusion.

The main categories of reserves to be considered:

a) Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked reserves are those which the Council builds up over a period of time to fund known or predicted liabilities. Earmarked reserves may also contain funding for specific projects to be completed in the future, often by external contributions. The Council reviews the levels, contributions and appropriateness of these reserves annually as part of the budget setting process and when preparing the longer-term financial strategy.

It is estimated that the General Fund will have revenue reserves of £7.85m and capital reserves of £1.61m as at 31st March 2023, and £5.08m and £1.29m respectively as at 31st March 2024.

b) Unallocated General Reserves (General Fund)

The Council has determined a minimum working balance of £1m for the general fund balance over the medium term to deal with timing issues and uneven cash-flows and avoid unnecessary borrowing.

Business Rates Retention has brought about much greater risk and uncertainty to local government finance. The level of reserves that are held by the General Fund are prudent and continue to reflect this on-going risk and uncertainty.

In line with established accounting practice, part of the Council's financial strategy is to ensure that funding for future spending is not dependent on the use of reserves so as to demonstrate long-term sustainability.

4.) Deputy Section 151 Officer's Statement

Taking into account the above, together with all the proposals within the budget report, it is the Head of Financial Services' view that the estimates for 2023/24 are robust and the proposed level of reserves is adequate, although they are only just above that considered the minimum acceptable level. A risk assessment of the assumptions within the budget are accepted as being achievable.

Appendix B

Opposition General Fund Budget Summary

	Current Budget 2022/23	Proposed Budget 2023/24
	£	£
Business & Regeneration	1,373,400	1,897,175
Finance & Corporate	4,076,860	4,521,614
Health & Environment	3,030,560	3,206,894
Housing & Communities	1,217,850	1,554,232
Planning & Regulation	(391,180)	(224,449)
Public Services	8,098,230	7,640,218
Portfolio Total	17,405,720	18,595,684
Central Provisions	334,500	1,220,500
Depreciation and Impairment	(3,096,530)	(3,096,530)
Transfers To/ (From) Corporate Reserves	(3,268,230)	(1,000,173)
Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,258,700	470,000
PWLB Premiums	21,120	21,120
Interest and Investment Income	(460,000)	(460,000)
Minimum Revenue Provision	536,000	654,000
Debt Interest	438,000	438,000
Total Council Net Expenditure	13,169,280	16,906,523
Funded by:		
Net Retained Business Rates	(4,077,300)	(5,124,733)
NDR Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	1,723,300	(159,299)
Council Tax Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	(18,010)	(81,868)
New Homes Bonus	(644,430)	(1,361,266)
Other Government Grants (one off funding)	(420,100)	(143,405)
Transfer Deficit from General Fund Reserves	10,964	(92,048)
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	9,743,704	9,943,904*

**Note that the reduction in Council Tax Requirement above is due to the proposal of a £5 increase in Council Tax rather than 2.99%, hence reducing Council Tax income. The total net deficit as a result of the proposals in the body of this report has been funded by transfers from corporate reserves.*

Appendix B

Opposition HRA Budget Summary

Service	2022/23 Current Budget	2023/24 Proposed Budget
	£	£
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT - GENERAL	6,567,860	6,343,869
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT - SPECIAL	3,396,980	4,199,682
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	5,580,760	5,994,405
CAPITAL FINANCING COSTS	10,669,200	10,515,050
INCOME	(26,949,520)	(29,138,935)
APPROPRIATIONS		
Appropriations to / (from) MRR	0	0
Capital Expenditure funded by HRA (CERA)	2,296,620	2,292,620
Appropriations to/ (from) Revenue Reserves	(275,000)	(181,985)
	2,021,620	2,492,620
Support Services (Pay Award Provision)	0	229,526
Total HRA	1,286,900	254,232

Councillor K. Wilson moved an adjournment to consider the alternative budget put forward by the opposition at 20.02PM.

The meeting reconvened at 20.27pm.

Councillor R. Tromans moved in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4A.21 to suspend standing orders to allow the business of the meeting to be concluded. Councillor K. Wilson seconded the procedural motion.

A vote was taken.

The procedural motion was carried.

A vote on the alternative budget amendment put forward by the Labour Group was taken.

The Labour Group budget amendment was lost

The Conservative budget was then the substantive motion

Councillor K. Kondakor put forward an amendment to present the alternative budget proposal on behalf of the Green Group which was seconded by Councillor M. Wright as follows:

GREEN GROUP OPPOSITION BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the General Fund draft revenue budget 2023/24, attached as Appendix B, be recommended to the Council for approval.
- (b) That the Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 is determined as £9,890,984 and the District Council Tax for 2023/24 be increased by 1.50% for a Band D property.
- (c) To note the initial budget changes approved by NBBC Cabinet on 7th December 2022 and those included within 8th February 2023 NBBC Cabinet report are agreed.
- (d) That the following budget changes are included as detailed below:

Savings Identified	£
Car Parking: £1 fixed charge at the Pingles and Bedworth Leisure centres between 11am and 4pm.	(75,000)
Car Parking: Remove the allocated parking for the mayor, deputy mayor and post van from Riverside car park (based on £1.50 for 3 hours)	(4,900)
Car Parking: Remove Councillor season tickets for all but Mayor, Leader and Shadow leaders, thereby increasing parking capacity for the general public in the Riverside car park.	(2,500)
Increase in car park season tickets by 20%	(20,500)
Car Parking: amended fees (see appendix C)	(141,296)
Trial half-yearly green bin option (as difficult to estimate take-up) - £25 per household	(50,000)
Reduction of footpath electricity costs by the newly installed energy efficient lighting.	(260)
Solar panels producing 10% electricity saving. (General Fund). Requires lead time but potentially £27k savings in future years	(13,500)
Reduction in mayoralty budget	(2,349)
Reduction in community safety budget	(2,173)
Remove £100,000 from Borough Plan budget in 23/24	(100,000)
Total Savings	(412,478)

Additional Growth Items	£
Car Parks: Provide free parking to Riverside car park after 5.30pm.	1,750
Amendments to market rents (see appendix C)	38,110
Increase Council Tax by 1.5% rather than 2.99%	148,253
Employ an Energy Officer to support climate change projects to improve the Council's energy efficiency.	36,200
Total Additional Growth	224,313

Housing Revenue Account

Savings and Spend Pressure Items	£
Increase in Housing Rents set at 5.96% instead of 6.75%	300,000
Increase replacement of fleet to 10 years (and review funds received for selling vans that can be reinvested in energy efficiency).	(300,000)
Total Additional Cost/Income	£0

Capital

Capital Spend to create Future Efficiencies	£
Town Hall: To replace single pane windows at the Town Hall with energy efficient glazing.	950,000
Replace the existing non-LED lights across the borough.	47,000
Fund set aside to install solar panels at council buildings across the borough including sheltered housing.	200,000
Total Additional Capital Spend	£1,197,000

- (e) That the upfront one-off capital costs to fund future energy efficiencies be funded from the New Homes Bonus reserve.

- (f) With the above budgetary growth and savings initiatives, the net revenue expenditure of the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023/24 of £16,570,046 as detailed at Appendix B.
- (g) The revised budget position is a surplus of £188,165 to be transferred to the General Fund Balances, to partly offset the use of New Homes Bonus.
- (h) Where there are any potential staffing implications of the savings above, the Council's Management of Change policy will be followed.
- (i) That the Green General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023/24 of £16,570,046 be recommended to Council for approval.
- (j) That the Green HRA Revenue Budget for 2023/24 including an increase in rents of 5.96% instead of 6.75% be recommended to Council for approval.
- (k) That the Head of Financial Services assurance statements on reserves and base budget proposals as included in Appendix A be noted.
- (l) Because of the timescales involved, the General Fund Revenue Budget 2023/24 was considered as an urgent item and not subject to call-in as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

APPENDIX A

ROBUSTNESS OF BUDGET ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF THE RESERVES

5.) Introduction

The 2003 Local Government Act places specific responsibilities on the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of proposed financial reserves when the authority is setting its budget for the forthcoming year. These principles are embedded throughout the Council's budget setting and medium-term financial planning processes.

6.) Robustness of Estimates

The budget estimates include assumptions on spend pressures, inflationary pressures, interest rate forecasts and current trends on demand for services. The latter is kept under constant review, especially for the income generating services. The estimates also reflect the Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24 as well as the most up to date forecast of business rates income. Savings targets have also been assessed to ensure that they are realistic and achievable.

7.) Adequacy of Reserves

The minimum prudent level of reserves that the Council should maintain is a matter of judgement, taking into account a number of factors. This includes an assessment of current and future risks that the Council faces but these can and will change over time and so this cannot be the only factor. Reserve levels are ultimately the Council's safety net against unforeseen or unexpected circumstances and risks. Failure to maintain a minimum prudent level of reserves could lead to the Council being forced to cut spending during the year in an arbitrary way leading to loss of services and reputational damage.

Reserves are established and maintained in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and are reviewed annually by the S151 and also the Council's external auditors as part of the Value for Money Conclusion.

The main categories of reserves to be considered:

b) Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked reserves are those which the Council builds up over a period of time to fund known or predicted liabilities. Earmarked reserves may also contain funding for specific projects to be completed in the future, often by external contributions. The Council reviews the levels, contributions and appropriateness of these reserves annually as part of the budget setting process and when preparing the longer-term financial strategy.

It is estimated that the General Fund will have revenue reserves of £7.85m and capital reserves of £1.61m as at 31st March 2023, and £5.08m and £1.29m respectively as at 31st March 2024.

b) Unallocated General Reserves (General Fund)

The Council has determined a minimum working balance of £1m for the general fund balance over the medium term to deal with timing issues and uneven cash-flows and avoid unnecessary borrowing.

Business Rates Retention has brought about much greater risk and uncertainty to local government finance. The level of reserves that are held by the General Fund are prudent and continue to reflect this on-going risk and uncertainty.

In line with established accounting practice, part of the Council's financial strategy is to ensure that funding for future spending is not dependent on the use of reserves so as to demonstrate long-term sustainability.

8.) Deputy Section 151 Officer's Statement

Taking into account the above, together with all the proposals within the budget report, it is the Head of Financial Services view that the estimates for 2023/24 are robust and the proposed level of reserves is adequate, although they are only just above that considered the minimum acceptable level. A risk assessment of the assumptions within the budget are accepted as being achievable.

Appendix B

Opposition General Fund Budget Summary

	Current Budget 2022/23	Proposed Budget 2023/24
	£	£
Business & Regeneration	1,373,400	1,752,524
Finance & Corporate	4,076,860	4,411,715
Health & Environment	3,030,560	3,206,634
Housing & Communities	1,217,850	1,553,805
Planning & Regulation	(391,180)	(224,929)
Public Services	8,098,230	7,544,458
Portfolio Total	17,405,720	18,244,207
Central Provisions	334,500	1,235,500
Depreciation and Impairment	(3,096,530)	(3,096,530)
Transfers To/ (From) Corporate Reserves	(3,268,230)	(2,133,251)
Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,258,700	1,667,000
PWLB Premiums	21,120	21,120
Interest and Investment Income	(460,000)	(460,000)
Minimum Revenue Provision	536,000	654,000
Debt Interest	438,000	438,000
Total Council Net Expenditure	13,169,280	16,570,046
Funded by:		
Net Retained Business Rates	(4,077,300)	(5,124,733)

NDR Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	1,723,300	(159,299)
Council Tax Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	(18,010)	(81,868)
New Homes Bonus	(644,430)	(1,361,266)
Other Government Grants (one off funding)	(420,100)	(143,405)
Transfer Surplus to General Fund Reserves	10,964	191,509
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	9,743,704	9,890,984

**Note that the reduction in Council Tax Requirement above is due to the proposal of a 1.5% increase in Council Tax rather than 2.99%, hence reducing Council Tax income. The total net surplus as a result of the proposals in the body of this report has been presented as a transfer to corporate reserves.*

Appendix B

Opposition HRA Budget Summary

Service	2022/23 Current Budget	2023/24 Proposed Budget
	£	£
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT - GENERAL	6,567,860	6,343,869
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT - SPECIAL	3,396,980	4,199,682
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	5,580,760	5,994,405
CAPITAL FINANCING COSTS	10,669,200	10,515,050
INCOME	(26,949,520)	(29,220,920)
APPROPRIATIONS		
Appropriations to / (from) MRR	0	0
Capital Expenditure funded by HRA (CERA)	2,296,620	2,192,620
Appropriations to/ (from) Revenue Reserves	(275,000)	0
	2,021,620	2,492,620
Support Services (Pay Award Provision)	0	229,526
Total HRA	1,286,900	254,232

Appendix C

Proposed car parking charges

	1 hour	2 hours	3 hours	4 hours	5 hours	6 hours	over 6 hours	Sunday
Orchard Street	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£2.00	£3.00	£4.00	£5.00	£1.00
Justice Walk, Regent Street 1 & 2, Rope Walk	£1.40	£2.40	£3.40	£3.80	£4.80	£5.80	£6.80	as weekday
Town Hall, Riverside	£1.20	£2.00	£3.20	£4.40	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00	£1.00
Spitalfields 1 & 2	£0.70	£1.40	£2.20	£3.10	£4.00	£4.80	£5.00	£1.00
Upper Abbey Street, Riversely Park, Pool Bank Street, Victoria Street 2, Harefield Road	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00					

Note: free parking subject to 3-hour time limit

Proposed market rents (Nuneaton)

Saturday:	
Licensed Trader 1 Stall	£30
Licensed Trader 2 Stalls	£57
Licensed Trader 3 Stalls	£84
Licensed Trader 4 Stalls	£101
Casual Trade Cost Per Stall	£32 + £27 for each extra
Wednesday:	
Licensed Trader 1 Stall	£28
Licensed Trader 2 Stalls	£53
Licensed Trader 3 Stalls	£78
Licensed Trader 4 Stalls	£103
Casual Trade Cost Per Stall	£31 + £25 for each extra

A vote on the alternative budget amendment put forward by the Green Group was taken.

The Green Group budget amendment was lost

The Conservative budget was then the substantive motion.

A recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion:

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

AGAINST: K. Kondakor, J. Sheppard, E. Shiers, C. Watkins

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Conservative budget was carried.

RESOLVED that

- a) the forecast outturn position for the General Fund for 2022/23 be noted;
- b) the Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 of £10,039,237, an increase of 2.99% on a Band D, be approved in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- c) the NNDR1 has been completed and submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and included within the Budget for 2023/24 with a precept for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) of £14,979,616 in 2023/24 be noted;
- d) any increases in Fees and Charges for 2023/24 (see separate corrigendum to the report for Appendix 4) be approved;
- e) the net General Fund revenue expenditure budget of £16,906,464 be approved (Appendix 1 of the report);
- f) delegated authority be given to the Director – Regeneration & Housing and the Head of Economic Development & Communities in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Business & Regeneration to undertake procurement activities to deliver against the 2023/24 priorities set out as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF);
- g) delegated authority be given to the Director – Public Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Public Services to formally accept, subject to confirmation of match funding from other relevant bodies, the award of the £750k revenue grant from Arts Council England to increase the level of cultural activity across the Borough and finalise contractor arrangements;

h) the existing Local Council Tax Support Scheme be approved for use in the financial year 2023/24;

i) Members' Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances for the financial year 2023/24 not be increased; and

iv) Housing Budget Account (HRA) 2023/24

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor C. Golby, presented the recommendations made at Cabinet held on 8th February 2023, in respect of the above and moved the motion.

Councillor S. Croft seconded the motion

Councillor C. Watkins moved the joint alternative Housing Revenue Account budget from the Labour and Green Group as detailed above under the Labour Budget amendment. Councillor J. Sheppard seconded the alternative HRA budget.

A vote was taken on the Joint Alternative Housing Revenue Account

The vote was lost.

A recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion as follows:

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

AGAINST: K. Kondakor, J. Sheppard, C. Watkins

ABSTENTIONS: None

The substantive motion was carried

RESOLVED that

a) the forecast outturn position for the HRA for 2022/23 be noted;

b) the net budget of £254,232 for 2023/24 be approved;

c) a rent increase on dwellings of 6.75% be approved;

d) the Homeless Hostel rents increase of 32% be approved;

e) Fees and Charges for the HRA (Appendix 2 of the report) be approved; and

v) Capital Budget 2023/24

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, presented the recommendations made at Cabinet on the 8th February 2023, in respect of the above and moved the motion.

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the motion.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

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

AGAINST: K. Kondakor

ABSTENTIONS: J. Sheppard and C. Watkins

vi) Council Tax 2023/24

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, proposed the following motion:

'To defer the determination of the Council Tax 2023/24 to a Council Tax Setting Committee to be held on 27th February, 2023 due to the Police and Crime Commission Precept not being available yet and that the Committee consist of five conservatives (Councillors K. Wilson, J. Clarke, S. Croft, B. Beetham and R. Baxter-Payne) one Labour and one from the Green Group (Councillor K. Kondakor)

This was seconded by Councillor K. Wilson.

A vote was taken.

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED that

- i) the setting of the council tax be deferred to a Council Tax setting Committee to be held on 27th February 2023 upon the receipt of Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner precept; and
- ii) the committee consist of five conservative members (Councillors K. Wilson, J. Clarke, S. Croft, B. Beetham and R. Baxter-Payne) one labour member (to be confirmed) and one member from the Green Group (Councillor K. Kondakor).

vii) Treasury Management Strategy and Budgetary Framework 2023/24

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, presented the recommendations made at Cabinet, in respect of the above, on 8th February 2023 and moved the motion.

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the motion.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

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

AGAINST: K. Kondakor

ABSTENTIONS: J. Sheppard and C. Watkins

RESOLVED that the proposed Treasury Strategy and Budgetary Framework 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix J of the report be agreed including the items below be agreed:

- Treasury Strategy
- Treasury and Prudential Indicators
- MRP Policy Statement
- Capital Resource Allocations

CL61 **Vote of Thanks**

Councillor S. Croft, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Councillor K. Wilson, to the Director – Finance and Enterprise and the Finance Officers who have all worked tirelessly to enable this budget to be brought forward.

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"> • Exhall Education Foundation (Council appointment). 	
	C. Cape	Director of Capability Coaching and Consultancy Ltd.	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Forces Covenant Meeting 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	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 the Local Government Association	Sponsorship: Election Expenses – North Warwickshire Conservative Association	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Membership of Other Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitute Member of the West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee 	
	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. President – St Vincent De Paul Society at Our Lady of the Angels Church. Our Lady of the Angels Church. Member of the George Eliot Fellowship Member of the Nuneaton Education Strategy Board	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			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 and Embedded Software Design Engineer (self-employed)	Unpaid Director of 100% Renewables UK Ltd Green Party (E&W)	
	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 • Warwickshire Waste Partnership 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee 	
	G. Moreton	Member of School Appeals Panels at Warwickshire County Council	<p>Share in rental dwellings at Sealand Drive, Bedworth and Tresillian Road, Exhall.</p> <p>Member on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee 	
	B. Pandher		<p>Member of Warwickshire County Council</p> <p>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</p> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foleshill Charity Trustee – Proffitt's Charity 	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	<p>Member of:</p> <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		<p>Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local.</p> <p>Director of Wembrook Community Centre.</p> <p>Member of Labour Party</p>	<p>Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre</p>
	T. Sheppard		<p>Member of Unite Union</p> <p>Member of Labour Party</p>	
	E. Shiers	<p>Employed by and Director of Cannon Enterprise Ltd.</p> <p>Director of The Fresh Dessert Company</p>	<p>The Labour Party</p> <p>Coventry East Credit Union</p> <p>Member of the Pride in Camp Hill Board.</p>	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<p>Member of the governing board for Camp Hill Primary School.</p> <p>Member of the Board of Trustees of Camp Hill Community Association.</p> <p>Volunteer for the Coventry and Warwickshire district RSPCA</p>	
	J. Singh			
	R. Smith		<p>Chairman of Volunteer Friends, Bulkington; Trustee of Bulkington Sports and Social Club;</p> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <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 • West Midlands Combined Authority and Land Delivery Board 	
	M. Tromans	RTC Ltd, Nuneaton; WCC, Warwick	Nuneaton Acorns WI	
	R. Tromans	<p>Director of RTC Ltd, Nuneaton</p> <p>Compliance, GIM, Coventry</p> <p>Warwickshire County Councillor (Weddington)</p> <p>Share in a rental property in Hydes Pastures, Nuneaton</p>	<p>W.C.C Warwick</p> <p>Member of the Conservative Party</p> <p>Member of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management</p>	
	M. Walsh	Employed by Maclnnes 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			