

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

A Council meeting of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

**Present**

The Mayor (Councillor R. Tromans)

Councillors R. Baxter-Payne, B. Beetham, D. Brown, J. Clarke, T. Cooper, S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, L. Downs, K. Evans, C. Golby, J. Gutteridge, B. Hammersley, S. Harbison, L. Hocking, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, A. Llewellyn-Nash, S. Markham, B. Pandher, M. Rudkin, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, J. Singh, R. Smith, M. Tromans, , M. Walsh, C. Watkins and K. Wilson.

**Apologies** were received from Councillors N. Phillips, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, and H. Walmsley

CL42 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved and signed by the Mayor.

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**

The Mayor expressed his thanks for all the staff involved in the Christmas Light Switch on in making all three Nuneaton, Bedworth and Bulkington a successful evening.

The Chief Executive – Brent Davis announced the newly elected Councillor Jamie Hartshorn from the recent By-election in Barpool Ward.

The Leader of the Council – Councillor Kris Wilson announced the following:

- That Members of the Council in aid of the Mayors Appeal wore Christmas Jumpers and had raised £270.
- Congratulations were given to Councillor Jamie Hartshorn on his recent election win.
- Free parking in Nuneaton, Bedworth and Bulkington until end of January to help encourage visitors during the festive period.

- Councillor Kyle Evans would be resigning as Cabinet Member commencing at the end of the Council meeting and in his place Councillor Sue Markham would be the Cabinet Member for Public Services.

The Mayor proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Councillor Kris Wilson, to be given to Councillor Kyle Evans for his work in the successful bid that has in turn enabled the Bedworth Physical Activity Hub work to continue.

#### CL45 **Public Participation**

##### **Mr Christopher MacDonald submitted the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities:**

What are the plans for the Maisonettes in Marston lane concerning replacement windows, the gas boilers, the poor roofs, I am told by neighbours the boilers are 20years plus as are the windows? There was a section 20 to replace the windows but that has been put on hold. These properties need to be made energy efficient.

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

Currently for windows the contract is out to tender and due be awarded by early January. Marston Lane is on year two of the programme. The programme is compiled based on age of properties and/or recommendations from our repairs department on properties that are beyond repair and require urgent renewal, we aim to have Marston Lane completed in financial year 2023/24.

We have a variety of boiler types on Marston Lane, the upgrade of these is based on the exact type of boiler each property has and the availability of parts to maintain them. Where parts from manufactures are now obsolete these take priority for upgrade, this rationale is applied across our entire portfolio. Marston Lane upgrades are planned from this financial year through to 2024/25 depending on boiler type per property.

We have re-roofed properties that have been allocated to us as beyond repair and carried out repairs where needed to ensure performance is suitable. The remainder have been programmed for the new tender in 2024 to allow us to carry out the section 20 notices. Where properties are not leasehold, we are reviewing where we can add properties to the current programme whilst not neglecting properties already scheduled in, these will be completed prior to the new tender mentioned in 2024.

**Peter Rogers submitted the following question of the Portfolio Holder of Public Services:**

Before the Conservatives were in power, they made a public statement that if they were elected the charge for green bins would only be £12.50. Why then has my renewal come through at £40?

**Councillor K. Evans, Portfolio Holder for Public Services responded as follows:**

Yes, Mr Mayor and it will be my last response as Cabinet Member I am afraid to say. I would like to thank Mr Rogers for providing the opportunity to provide some clarity on this matter. It was a topic in the recent Barpool By-election from the other side of the chamber and I think it is only right that the council clarifies our position.

In the Summer of 2018 the previous labour council took the decision to implement a £40 green waste collection charge despite promising just a few weeks before that they wouldn't introduce such a charge and at the time this was because the Labour group was unable to stick to an in year budget and that is why the green bin charge was created to create an in year surplus for the council. As part of the Conservative Group budget setting proposal of February 2019 (we were then in opposition) we decided to put forward alternative budget proposals that including slashing the green waste down to £12.50 I understand that Mr Rogers is a resident of Weddington so I think that it is only right to draw Mr Rogers attention to the fact that I actually have the minutes of the February 2019 and I am afraid to say that our proposals to slash the charge down to £12.50 were rejected but there was a reason why and that's because a Councillor sitting in this chamber tonight decided to abstain on the proposals, does anyone want to have a guess which member this was? It was the green member for Weddington.

The facts of the matter are relayed in the minutes for Weddington residents to see. Furthermore, in February 2020 we put forward full costed plans to cut the green waste charge down to £10.00, again I would draw Mr Rogers to the February 2020 minutes where again I quote from the minutes Councillor Kondakor gave his apologies and left the chamber at 19.53pm and therefore did not vote with the Conservative proposals to cut the green bin charge down to £10.00.

Unfortunately, as a result of the Coronavirus the local elections were delayed by 12months and if we had those elections in 2020 and took control of this council, I believe that this council would have put the green waste charge down to £10.00. Mr Rogers may have seen the manifesto that we published for May 2021 and I draw his attention to the fact that under our commitments we did not make any proposals to reduce the green waste collection charge, the new conservative council officially took control in May and upon taking control had finally found that the previous Labour administration left their budgets in a complete mess and this new council was left with a bank hole of £1m. Unfortunately, due to decades of financial mismanagement of the continuous Labour councils we are simply not in the financial position needed to cut the green waste charge further.

I would also make reference to the fact that the current government is actively considering changing how local authorities charge waste, in particular it might be that the government make it compulsory in the next 18 months for councils to collect green waste for free. The government has said that it will be providing a Burdens grant for local authorities to cover this added cost, however councils must be charging for green waste collections in order for us to benefit from Burden's grant. So as much as I would like to reduce the green waste charge, I can't risk this authority potentially losing millions in funding from the government from the Burdens grant.

I hope my response provides clarity to Mr Rogers.

**Sam Margrave submitted the following question to the Leader of the Council:**

The Coventry Telegraph recently reported the Council is looking at developing new burial land. This is essential so people can lay their loved ones to rest.

Labours Cabinet previously had plans for a Super Cemetery in Nuneaton that would see my family in Bedworth buried far outside the town they love, making it hard for residents to visit loved ones without a car as they be far away in Nuneaton, on a site that would be expensive and hard to get to by bus.

There was also a disastrous plan to take Attleborough Recreation Ground away from the people of Attleborough, removing a much needed play area and creating a nightmare for residents of Springfield road, Mayfield Road and surrounding areas increasing traffic in an area that already has parking problems.

While there needs to be debate on the existing plan to extend Marston Lane with various organisations, and there could well be flooding issues, there must be burial space in Bedworth for Bedworth people, and no loss of Attleborough Recreation Ground or an extension of an already flooding cemetery.

Will the Leader of the Council promise to local people that Attleborough won't see the return of Labours previous plans to put a cemetery on Attleborough recreation ground and that Bedworth will get its own extra burial space with no return to Labours super cemetery but a continuation of burial space for Bedworth people and Nuneaton people, in their own towns?

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

The Authority is looking at potential new burial space sites and has already registered a "Call For Sites" as part of the emerging Borough Plan Review. This medium to long term strategic planning of sites, is required to ensure that future burial space can be investigated to support local needs.

Various sites have been investigated over previous years and these all require external consultant reports to look at water table levels and ground make up to support potential burial space.

The sites mentioned have all been considered, with the Marston Lane having potential to be extended, taking into consideration that this site is already a cemetery with some infrastructure in place. This would be required to be further developed if this site was identified.

As part of the strategic work and new policies now being developed by Officers, cemetery space will be reviewed as to the most viable options available for this Council to move forward with the burial sites.

**Michele Kondakor asking the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate**

I see from the figures that were presented at the Finances and Public services OSP, that the Council has reduced its expenditure on food and occupational safety, health promotion and inequalities, land drainage and emergency planning whilst expenditure is forecast to be over budget on Corporate management, Democratic representation and management and Mayoralty. Can the Cabinet member for Finance explain these variances which appear to take money from making the Borough safer for the residents and increase spending on more managerial roles?

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

Thank you Mr Mayor, I'll answer that question with the greatest pleasure, and it requires a substantial answer because I regret to say that the question is somewhat, misleadingly phrased because it implies in its phrasing that we are cutting spending in some areas to finance others. Now that is obviously not what has happened and that is not how local government finance works. Were we to vire monies between budgets, or reopen a budget we would say so, as we did in June with our emergency budget.

These figures are projections of in-year spend vs the budget produced in February, and there are constant updates throughout the year because monies are spent in different rates at different areas.

Sometimes we find cheaper ways of doing things, sometimes there are delays in projects or works and sometimes money doesn't need to be spent so the work becomes superfluous. Spending public money is not an end in itself, it is simply a means to an end.

Now Mr Mayor I would normally give someone the benefit of the doubt because financial statements can be quite hard to read sometimes but Mrs Kondakor is a long-standing attender of council meetings, and a perennial candidate in local government elections for one of the fringe parties.

So she may say that the variances "appear to take money" but she must surely know that they do not.

So secondly, I'll answer the underspends. The main reasons for underspends is staffing issues across this authority we know that we have trouble at the moment in hiring people. So with food and occupational safety and land drainage, we do not have people in post to do the works. In health promotion

and inequalities, we have made efficiencies so we are doing the same work for less money.

In all of these cases, and I must stress this, the budget provisions are still there, they simply have not yet been drawn down on. They have not been changed or cut.

Thirdly in terms of overspend, the same point substantially applies, sometimes prices increase, or more work is required than initially projected so for example in the Corporate Management costs a lot of that is transaction charges that we have to pay to pay people.

I will say that the Financial Year 2021 budget was set by the previous Labour administration and, given the in-year variance we are now facing of nearly half a million pounds, shows their record of financial planning is not hugely credible.

Neither are their plans gospel. We are not bound by their strategic priorities or their political plans, and the fact that there are now six of them and 25 of us, suggests the public take the same view.

As a result, some departures are inevitable to reflect the priorities of the new administration, and we sometimes find that some areas require more money and it was not many weeks ago that Mrs Kondakor at Cabinet was talking about the fact we are not competitive in terms of hiring, now I agree but in terms of corporate management there will need to more corporate spend in order to become more competitive on pay.

In terms of Democratic Representation and Management, we make absolutely no apologies for that because there is work that needs doing, and we have established the necessary committees to do it and we have funded the payroll to properly to carry that work out whether that is increased, more practical overview and scrutiny, promoting good governance through the Employment Committee or restoring civic pride through our new Civic Honours Committee and Jubilee working party, it all costs money.

And I must say, our Democratic Services officers have worked extremely hard to deal with the extra workload, sometimes on short staff, and they have been magnificent.

It will not escape your attention Mr Mayor, that there was a completely unnecessary by-election last week, that cost our council approximately £10K, which could have been avoided if the former member for Barpool had simply sat tight for six weeks, or better yet fulfilled her duty to her residents and completed her term of office.

In terms of the Mayoralty, I will just say in closing that there has been no overspend in that department, as you Mr Mayor know, the extra amount showing is an accounting quirk in the figures that was presented to OSP, some payroll costs have not yet been pro rata-ed to the events, IT etc budget.

I'd like to take the opportunity to point out, that no mayor has made such a sacrifice, cheerfully giving up £20K and a flash car to focus on the real

purpose of the job: serving the people and adding ceremony and colour to our civic life.

The question is not valid, I reject the premise of it entirely, had the opposition taken that attitude to public duty, and applied that spirit of service to financial management, there might be more of them sitting on these benches.

**Mrs Michele Kondakor asked a supplementary question follows:**

Why do you refer to me as a member of a fringe party when I am here as a member of the public, irrelevant to what party I belong too, I just expect an answer to my question?

Secondly you say that the extra spend on democratic representation and management is because you have got all these extra committee meetings but in your paraphernalia before the election you said that you going to reduce the spending on all the Cabinet Members etc but you have actually increased it.

**Councillor S. Croft responded as follows:**

It is a matter of long-standing public record, Mrs Kondakor's public career in local politics, it is not a major party; it is not serious party it is on the far fringe of the spectrum. In terms of her substantial point, again, it is somewhat misleading because we did cut the Cabinet member allowances, each cabinet member is paid £1000 less than the previous administration because we got more work for the same money, in fact I think it was a £14 saving in the end, the way we divided it out.

Committee work is different, it is actual work, and we have to pay for officer time and printing that is where the money is coming from, as even though we are happy to do more work to improve things for the people for less money as the rewards for public life is public process, we cannot ask our officers to do more work for less money. Let's not be misleading, lets be accurate with what we are putting out there.

**Karl Mayer submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder of Planning and Regulation**

At the full council on the 14th July 2021 this council passed a motion regards the borough plan, part of this motion passed on the night into council policy was that this council steps away from the memorandum of understanding with Coventry which on flawed figures imposed over 4000 houses on this borough. So my question to the portfolio holder is can he tonight Guarantee 100% that this council will not accept the memorandum of understanding overspill of 4020 houses from Coventry before the end of the current borough plan review now in 2024, and if not will all the sites in the current plan possibly have obtained planning permission before the review is finished deeming the review obsolete?

**Councillor R. Smith, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation responded as follows:**

Thank you, Mr Mayor and thank you Mr Mayer for asking this question giving me the opportunity to update everyone on the work that is going on with the Borough Plan Review.

As you know the Borough Plan was adopted in 2019 and following the change of control at the council after the May elections we made a commitment to kick start an immediate review.

This work is now being undertaken at pace and we are committed to ensuring that this review is thorough and robust and results in a sound plan that will satisfy housing need up to 2038.

It is important that the public and elected members can have their say in the development of this review and we commenced this process in June, this year by undertaking a significant consultation, the outputs of which will help shape the early stages of the review itself.

During this consultation it was clear to me that there is big gap between consulting on the scope of the plan, which is what we have done, to then informing the public of the level of growth we will be planning for and the sites we want to allocate to meet this future growth.

As well as considering this, we together with our local authority partners across Warwickshire and Coventry commissioned a new HEDNA (Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment) that will identify sub regional housing need.

The figures produced by the HEDNA will be adjusted to reflect the outputs of the National Census when they are made available in the spring of next year, this will ensure we are working with the most up to date evidence.

Once we have a new target of housing numbers, we can commence discussions with the other Warwickshire Boroughs and Districts along with Coventry City to reach an agreement and a new Memorandum of Understanding that will satisfy the Duty to Cooperate or at a minimum produce a Statement of Common Ground, this will be necessary to satisfy the inspector that we have a sound plan.

As of today, I have no idea what the definitive housing number projections will be across the sub region and will not know this until next spring, however unlike our predecessors we recognise we have a duty to cooperate with our partners not a duty to capitulate.

For these reasons, I will be bringing a report to Cabinet suggesting we extend the timetable and add an additional stage of public engagement to the review process.

This will ultimately extend the time it takes to get a Plan adopted to early 2024; however, I am confident that the timetable will enable wider public engagement and ultimately result in a better prepared plan which has more chance of being found sound.



With respect to the Memorandum of Understanding, and the wider issue around housing growth, the Authority has made its position clear with respect to the currently adopted MoU from which we have withdrawn our signature in July.

We have also been informed after contacting the Secretary of State that there is no chance of a moratorium being imposed that would stop developments of major sites and therefore, we must make decisions based on the currently adopted plan until the review is complete. I cannot say yet what future level of growth we will be planning for. This must be informed by emerging evidence along with duty to cooperate engagement.

With respect to those allocations that are identified within the current plan that do not benefit from any sort of planning permission, it is correct to say that an application could be submitted ahead of the Plan Review being completed. If planning applications are submitted for allocated sites, then the Authority will be duty bound to determine them.

What I can say is that as part of the review process all existing allocations are being reviewed to assess their suitability and this will need to be considered in the context of housing need, which as I have already explained is still to be understood.

It is important to be aware that we have committed to a full review of that plan and therefore it's not simply housing allocations being considered. The review provides the opportunity to assist with town centre regeneration, climate change and all other planning policy matters.

#### CL46 **Questions by Members**

##### **Councillor Kondakor asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:**

It is very disappointing that I am not allowed to attend, (as an observer), the Town Deal Board meetings which track the projects that had been awarded a possible £23.2m in funding. I understand that there is a requirement to have the final business cases signed off for all these projects early next year to avoid funding for some project being withdrawn. The public documents list the projects but to not give something like a RED/AMBER/Green risk status for each project at the moment. Could the Leader please update the council tonight on any individual projects that are of Amber or Red risk rating?

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

Town Deal Board meetings, whilst mainly made up of non-councillors, still constitutes a meeting of this Council. If Cllr Kondakor had asked officers this question, he would have easily found that information out for himself.

Similarly, as this is a meeting of the Council, the agenda papers and minutes are available online for him to review at his leisure.

Subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 regarding confidentiality, any member of the public is entitled to attend (links to the remote meeting can be provided upon request) and so can Councillor Kondakor. Having checked with my officers they have confirmed that no such requests from him have been received.

In relation to the individual projects, as the Town Deal Board does not meet until this Friday, I am not able to comment on their status. I am able to advise that at October's Board meeting, information was provided to advise that each project is on track to complete and submit their Business Cases and summary documents within agreed timeframes.

As a Town Deal Board member, I have asked the Chairman of the Board to consider at Friday's meeting whether the RAG status of the projects should be published under Any Other Business.

I have had a response from Shaun Farnell who is the Chair of the Town Deal Board and he has confirmed that he has no issue with having the matter considered under any other business, and representations can be made then. I have done as much as I can on that, but it is up to Councillor Kondakor as to whether he attends a public meeting of this council.

**Councillor Damon Brown submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities:**

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities please provide an explanation about the £211k Green Homes grant funding that was reported in the local press and on social media as having been returned to the Government. Fact or fake news?

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

The total Grant received was £1,410,000 and it was broken down in the following way.

£660,000 went to improving our council housing stock. All of this money was spent.

£750,000 was paid to private sector housing applications, so people who own their own homes or anyone not a council tenant. From this £750,000, £211,000 did have to be paid back to government, this is where the requirement has come from, not from this council.

It has been said in the 10<sup>th</sup> November Cabinet that the payback has happened because of a few factors. I was quite clear about the whole situation, nothing underhand about it at all. Basically, it is due to capacity due to Covid, wet weather and the sudden release of millions of pounds into the green homes sector has meant there are not enough contractors to do the volume of work that's been asked within the government allocated time frame.

To be clear, the Council signed up enough customers to spend every penny of the total £1.4M which is an excellent achievement by officers, and it

shouldn't be underestimated, it took a lot of effort and it has taken a lot of effort to actually manage it. Council staff need to be recognised for their work in this and I am quite happy to do that.

Not only this but on another positive note it appears that on the monthly statistical updates published by BEIS which is the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the grants provider, we are one of the top performing local authorities for the number of homes upgraded.

Out of 250 local authorities we are 5<sup>th</sup> and that is even on top of having to pay back the £211k.

We have also been successful with the next round of the Green Homes Grant, and because of this it has been agreed that all customers still waiting for work or had to give their money back will be rolled over to the next round which has followed on immediately so no one will be losing out or losing their place in the queue.

All of this was discussed openly, in public, with engagement from the Leader of the Labour group, at the cabinet meeting on 10th November. You did ask the question; the answer was given; you didn't indicate you were not satisfied with the answer at the time.

Now I must take the opportunity to address the fake news element of your question.

Yes, there has been fake news surrounding this.

On 17th November the Nuneaton Labour published a Facebook post about paying back of the Green Homes Grant which wasn't just misleading it was completely dishonest and only made worse by the fact that the leader of the Labour group was the person doing my role before I did took it on so should be fully versed in what is going on with the Green Homes Grant.

Big bold declaration "£211,000 was handed to the Tory Run Nuneaton and Bedworth Council to spend on Green Homes. They failed to spend it and now they are handing it back to Government"

This Conservative group was not handed £211k, so we can't 'fail to spend it'. The Labour group know this!

Just when I think the level of desperation of the labour group has peaked, they ratchet it up a notch.

What I'm really annoyed about in all this is the leader of the labour group, Councillor Watkins, the person so publicly blaming this conservative group on social media, is the person who was doing the role I'm doing now.

Councillor Watkins is quoted in the post and not only have they posted this under the Nuneaton Labour Group with yourself being quoted but you actually paid to have this post boosted. You paid to boost this Facebook post to around 10,000 residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth. This is all publicly available, so you paid to spread a deceitful fabrication.

So, to be clear Nuneaton Labour sponsored and paid for this ad, that is publicly available information, all the details of the advert are publicly available so that's how I know it was boosted and paid to reach 10,000 people. So, Nuneaton Labour has paid to spread this deceitful fabrication and I would actually question is it incompetence that you didn't know the facts of this or are you just wilfully misleading residents of the Borough. Either way its stunningly bad judgement.

**Councillor D. Brown asked a supplementary question as follows:**

Based on what we have heard, will the Cabinet Member who just responded to the question agree with me that the Labour Group paid to boost fake news?

**Councillor C. Golby responded as follows:**

Yes

**Councillor Lubs Cvetkovic submitted the following question to the Leader of the Council:**

I would like to express my thanks to Council Officers for all their hard work in putting up the Christmas lights and decorations and for all their hard work on the night. These events do not just happen they take months of planning. I was very pleased that the Council purchased £40,000 lights and Christmas displays back in June something which the previous Labour administration should have done a long time ago.

Due to circumstances beyond the Councils control the lights did not arrive. Once again, I commend officers who rose to the challenge to ensure that Nuneaton, Bedworth and Bulkington had lights to switch on especially as so many of the existing displays were either broken or unserviceable due to a lack of inward investment into the communities of this Borough by the previous Labour leadership.

Each year the display gets smaller and smaller with less and less variety. As the third settlement of our Borough, we do not expect something as large as Nuneaton be we would like an event which is proportionate to our size and standing in the Borough.

Could I ask the portfolio holder how can we ensure that next year's displays will be better and how can we turn the market and funfair into a larger thriving and more vibrant event with a greater selection of attractions?

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

Firstly, I would like to echo Councillor Cvetkovic's thanks to all of the officers and Glendale workers who have worked behind the scenes to make all three of our Christmas Light Switch Ons a success. It has been a very challenging year, but we were able to put on shows across our Borough that everyone can be proud of.

I can assure Lubs that we are constantly working to improve the Christmas offer, and I have asked officers to begin the planning for Christmas 2022 in the New Year.

As Leader, I made a decision to move the switch on events in all 3 centres from a Sunday to Friday or Saturday nights so as to make them more family friendly and accessible. The Labour way of doing things meant that on a Sunday you had the hassle of also being worried about the start of the working week and getting kids ready for school in the morning. Having these events on Fridays and Saturdays meant that more people were able to attend.

And they did.

These changes were well received by both the public and the businesses, and I can confirm that attendance was jam packed in all three centres. However, it did cause some logistical issues for the fair ground operators, which were further exasperated in Bulkington by their concerns about the weather. With greater notice of the dates next year, I hope we can resolve these issues moving forwards.

In addition, 90% of our existing Christmas lights were no longer serviceable. If the last administration had got their act together after the lights were taken down in January and began the process of replacing the worn-out units, we would not have had this problem. This meant we had to order new displays and there were supply chain issues in receiving these. Fortunately, replacements were provided on loan by the supplier to ensure the events were not compromised.

A full inventory of the new lights and any remaining serviceable lights will be pulled together in the New Year, where the light coverage for each centre can be reviewed and, where necessary and budget permitting, any additional light requirements can be considered.

As a way of an update I had a meeting with the Head of Town Centres today and we spoke about this very issue and he has confirmed that whilst there is a budget of £40,000 for the new lights which we set in the emergency budget in June we did actually underspend slightly in that so I have authorised him to see what we can actually get extra for the remaining capital spend that was there, that will very much depend on whether we can get them up this year but since we have allocated the money already, I am keen to ensure even if they can't go up this year they will be available for next year.

I would like to finish on a positive note, I received an email, (it is quite unusual to get a positive email in my inbox these days) from the officers from a business owner in Bulkington and I thought the council would like to hear from someone directly involved in the Christmas Light switch on. I won't divulge their name because that is not appropriate but it's says:

'As a business owner, Friday was a roaring success we have been a part of Christmas lights since the Christmas lights since the beginning and have been part of the original fundraisers. We were very pleased with the footfall on the night, and I know the other businesses feel the same. The village café

and some residents put some lovely pictures on Facebook and we all felt that the people we came in contact with had a great time. Unfortunately, the keyboard warriors who don't support the local businesses and haven't been part of this occasion before were very negative but these are same people who say that we should raise funds for a real Christmas tree.

As you know we have a real Christmas Tree which someone has worked very hard on and was out decorating in the rain. The weather can't be helped but I think it was fine in the end and people had a truly good time. You and your team should be extremely proud to have pulled off a successful event with the challenges you had against you. We look forward to doing it all again next year'

I think that sums in up Mr Mayor we have had a cracking year and look forward to an even better year next year.

**Councillor Chris Watkins asked the following question for the Portfolio Holder – Housing and Communities**

I understand that all of the external fire risk assessments have now come back with a large number of actions to be taken by the council. Can the portfolio holder for housing and communities please give me a time scale of when these works will be completed by, please?

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

All emergency priorities i.e., those that needed completing within 24hrs have been done.

We are currently in the process of prioritising further works and also evaluating the budget associated with these and through the Housing Team. So, these will have to be done before I can give a full time timeframe.

**Councillor Kondakor under the Constitution at 4.10.6 requested that the Question put forward by Councillor Watkins be referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel.**

**Councillor Wilson seconded this requested.**

**A vote was taken**

**It was agreed that the Councillor Watkins question regarding external fire risk assessments be referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel.**

**CL47 Cabinet Report**

The Leader of the Council submitted his report on behalf of Cabinet. The report highlighted matters considered at the Cabinet meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> November and details of reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority Board, which has a direct impact on NBBC.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

CL48 **Committee/Panel Membership**

An addendum was published detailing the changes in the committee seat allocations due to the Barpool By-election.

**RESOLVED** that

- i) the table below detailing the new committee seat allocations be approved.

<b>Committee Size</b>	<b>Seats to Allocate</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Green &amp; Independent</b>		
Business, Regeneration & Planning OSP	9	7	1	1		9
Finance & Public Services OSP	9	6	2	1		9
Housing, Environment & Health OSP	9	7	1	1		9
Employment	5	4	1	0		5
Audit & Standards (Excl co-optees)	11	8	2	1		11
Planning	11	8	2	1		11
Licensing	11	8	2	1		11
Appeals	10	7	2	1		10
NABCEL	6	4	1	1		6
Borough Plan	9	7	2	0		9
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>90</b>

- ii) the following changes to Committee Membership be approved:

**Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP**

Councillors J. Kennaugh and J. Hartshorn be added  
Councillor R. Baxter-Payne be removed

**Housing, Environment and Health OSP**

Councillor B. Beetham be added

**Audit and Standards Committee**

Councillor S. Markham be removed and Councillor J. Hartshorn be added

**Planning Applications Committee**

Councillors J. Hartshorn and S. Harbison be added  
Councillors K. Evans and S. Croft be removed

**Licensing Committee**

Councillor K. Evans be nominated as the new Chair of Licensing

CL49 **Recommendations from Cabinet and Other Committees**

**a) Cabinet Support Members**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor K. Wilson, presented the recommendation made at Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The report enabled the appointment of Cabinet Support Members.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i) the constitution be amended accordingly;
- ii) Councillor R. Baxter-Payne be appointed as Cabinet Support Member to Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulation; and
- iii) Councillor K. Evans be appointed as Cabinet Support Member to Cabinet Member for Public Services

**b) Appointment of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Deputy ERO, Deputy ERO and Scale of Election Staff Fees**

The Cabinet Member – Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, presented the recommendations made at Audit and Standards Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 detailing the appointments to be made and the scale of fees for election staff to be approved.

**RESOLVED** that

- i) the Chief Executive be appointed as Electoral Registration Officer;
- ii) the Head of Elections be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer and Deputy Returning Officer;
- iii) the proposed scale of fees attached at Appendix A of the report be approved; and
- iv) the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to make minor amendments to the attached fees to reflect the National Joint Council Local Government Pay Award.

**c) Leisure Development – Bedworth Physical Activity Hub (BPAH)**

The Cabinet Member for Public Services, Councillor K. Evans, presented the recommendation made at Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 detailing the success of the Levelling up bid in enabling the project to continue.

A recorded vote was taken

FOR: Councillors B. Beetham, D. Brown, J. Clarke, T. Cooper, S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, L. Downs, K. Evans, C. Golby, J. Gutteridge, B. Hammersley, S. Harbison, J. Hartshorn, L. Hocking, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, A. Llewellyn-Nash, S. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Baxter-Payne, M. Rudkin, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, J. Singh, R. Smith, M. Tromans, R. Tromans, M. Walsh, C. Watkins, and K. Wilson



AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

**RESOLVED** that an additional £500k be added to the capital programme for 2021/22, funded from earmarked reserves, to undertake the works required this financial year per section 9.2 of the report.

**d) Pay Policy Statement**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, presented the recommendation made at Employment Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**RESOLVED** that the Pay Policy be approved and published as required by Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

**e) Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Policy 2022-25**

The Chair of Licensing Committee, Councillor S. Markham, presented the recommendation made at Licensing Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**RESOLVED** that the Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with the legislative provisions be adopted.

**CL50 Recovery of all non-domestic rates, council tax, business improvement district and other debts**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, advised the council that due to a change in staffing, it was necessary to update the appointment of officers authorised to institute or defend on behalf of the Council, proceedings before a County or Magistrates' Court, in relation to the recovery of all non-domestic rates, council tax, business improvement district and other debts and to appear in such proceedings.

**RESOLVED** that

Rachael  
Dobson

Jade Fuller

Victoria  
Church

Karen Rosten

Simon Jones

Sharon Oliver

be authorised to institute or defend, on behalf of the Council, proceedings before a County or Magistrates' Court, in relation to the recovery of all non-domestic rates, council tax, business improvement district and other debts and to appear in such proceedings.

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Mayor

## Council - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2021/2022

	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	
	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>• Exhall Education Foundation;</li> <li>• Warwickshire Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee;</li> <li>• NBBC Biodiversity Champion</li> </ul>	
	J. Clarke	Employed by Marcus Jones MP	County Councillor W.C.C.  Nuneaton Conservative Association; Deputy Chairman	
	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> </ul>	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</li> </ul>	
	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	NBBC representative on the Armed Forces Covenant Meeting	
	K. Evans	Employed by UK Parliament	Sponsorship: Election Expenses – North Warwickshire Conservative Association  Membership of Other Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee;</li> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum;</li> <li>• Warwickshire Direct Partnership;</li> <li>• Warwickshire Waste Partnership;</li> </ul> West Midlands Combined Authority Audit Committee.  Executive Officer – North Warwickshire Conservative Association; Member of the Conservative and Unionist Party; Member of the Governing Body – Race Leys Infant School	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	C. Golby		<p>Member of Warwickshire County Council</p> <hr/> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee</li> <li>• District Leaders</li> <li>• Local Enterprise Partnership</li> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL)</li> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Home Improvement Agency</li> <li>• NBBC representative on the George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust – Public/User Board</li> <li>• NBBC representative on George Eliot Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governors</li> </ul>	
	J. Gutteridge	Joint shareholder in a factory unit on Bayton Road Industrial Estate	<p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>• Age UK (Warwickshire Branch)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Member of NABCEL</p>	To speak and vote on any matters involving the Borough Plan related to land at Leyland Road Bulkington
	B. Hammersley	County Councillor – W.C.C.		
	S. Harbison	Employed by Meridian c/o Hello Fresh, 1 St Georges Way, Nuneaton	<p>Member on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor's Piece Charity</li> <li>• Astley Charity</li> </ul>	
	L. Hocking	Employed by Openreach	<p>Member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unite the Union</li> <li>• Communication Workers Union</li> </ul>	
	J. Kennaugh	County Councillor W.C.C. Employed by UK	<p>Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative Party</p>	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		Flooring Direct Ltd.	Member of UNITE the Union Nuneaton and Bedworth representative for the Equality and Inclusion Partnership NBBC Representative on Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership	
	K.A. Kondakor	Electronic Design Engineer (self-employed semi-retired); Statistical data analyst and expert witness (self employed)	Unpaid director of 100PERCENTRENEWABLEUK LTD	
	A. Llewellyn-Nash	Employee of BMI Healthcare	Treasurer of Exhall Multi-cultural Group  Governor at Newdigate Primary and Nursery School, Bedworth  Member of the following Outside Bodies: • Hospice Charity	
	S. Markham	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Member of the following Outside Bodies: • Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch • Governor at Ash Green School	
	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: • Foleshill Charity Trustee – Proffitt's Charity	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	Member of: • 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	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	M. Rudkin	Employee of Coventry City Council	Unite the Union	
	A. Sargeant	Employed by Pertemps	Chairman of The Nook (Nuneaton) Residents Association. Member of Nuneaton Carnival Committee. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice Rights</li> </ul>	
	J. Sargeant	Head of Retail – Life Charity		
	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		
	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>• Digital Infrastructure Board</li> </ul>	
	M. Tromans	RTC Ltd, Nuneaton; WCC, Warwick	Nuneaton Acorns WI	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	R. Tromans	RTC, Nuneaton AFL, Wellingborough	<p>W.C.C. Warwick</p> <hr/> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton Neighbourhood Watch Committee</li> <li>• Nuneaton Festival of Arts</li> </ul>	
	H. Walmsley	Chief of Staff to Julian Knight MP	<p>Chartered Institute of Public Relations</p> <hr/> <p>Member on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendship Project for Children</li> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority Audit Group</li> </ul>	Dispensation to speak and vote
	M. Walsh	Employed by MacInnes Tooling Ltd. – UK Sales Manager		
	C.M. Watkins	Landlord of a privately rented property	<p>Representative on the following outside bodies:</p> <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	<p>Nuneaton Conservative Association</p> <hr/> <p>Corporate Tenancies: properties are leased by NBBC to Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd, of which I am a Council appointed Director.</p> <hr/> <p>Representative on the following:</p> <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> <li>• Deputy Chairman – Nuneaton Conservative</li> </ul>	

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
			Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Council Network</li><li>• Local Government Association</li></ul>	