

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**15<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

The meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Due to government guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually at various remote locations and live streamed.

**Present**

The Mayor (Councillor J. Tandy)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor W.J. Hancox)

Councillors J.B Beaumont, K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S. Croft, G. Daffern, S. Doughty, P.M. Elliott, K. Evans, D. Gissane, J. Glass, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, L. Hocking, J.A. Jackson, K.A. Kondakor, A. Llewellyn-Nash, I.K. Lloyd, B. Longden, B. Pandher, N.J.P. Phillips, G.D. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, A. Sargeant, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, R. Smith, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, C. Watkins and K.D. Wilson.

Note: Councillor A. Llewellyn-Nash joined the meeting at 18.51.

CL31 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, be approved and signed by the Mayor.

CL32 **Declarations of Interests**

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

CL33 **Announcements**

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Sir Tom Moore.

CL34 **Public Participation**

**Question/Statement 1**

**Sam Margrave asked the following question of Councillor J. Jackson, Leader of the Council:**

“When neighbouring authorities have long since dispensed with the mayoral chauffer and car, why does Nuneaton and Bedworth Labour group continue to waste taxpayer's money on such luxuries for our politicians, while local residents have to rely on foodbanks?”

**Councillor Jackson responded as follows:**

“On the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the Council gave notice to terminate its lease arrangements with the provider for the Civic Car, pending a further review of the provision once the position on the pandemic becomes clearer. The notice period has now expired and the car has been collected by the lease company. Whilst the contract for the chauffeur remains in place, this is a call off contract which means, during the pandemic, no driver costs have been incurred. Where a chauffeur service is required in the interim, the provision of a vehicle with driver is in place, but has not been utilised. Longer term, it will be a decision of the controlling group whether or not to reinstate the Civic Car, at an appropriate time.”

Councillor D. Brown moved that the question be referred to the Internal Overview Scrutiny Panel for further scrutiny. This motion was seconded by Councillor C. Golby.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors: K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S Croft, K. Evans, D. Gissane, C. Golby, S Gran, J. Gutteridge, K. Kondakor, B. Pandher, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, R. Smith, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, K. Wilson.

AGAINST: Councillors: J. Beaumont, G. Daffern, S Doughty, P. Elliott, J. Glass, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, J. Tandy, C. Watkins.

ABSENCES: None.

The motion was lost.

### **Question/Statement 2**

**Lubs Cvetkovic asked the following statement read out by an Officer:**

“It is with great sadness that we heard the news that Captain Sir Tom Moore passed away from COVID-19. I am sure that we have all been touched and moved by his example and his can do spirit during these testing and difficult times. It is my hope that this Council will pay him a suitable tribute by lowering the Union flag on the Council house to half mast on the day of his funeral. I would further ask that he is honoured and further remembered by having a road named after him within the Borough.

I was pleased to see that the incredible staff at the George Eliot Hospital have already taken a vote to honour him by naming a unit comprising of two fifteen bed wards after him. This is in addition to announcing that they will be adding two new operating theatres, the total cost of improvements being £5.7 million. I am sure that this is something Captain Sir Tom Moore would have strongly approved of and I am delighted that they are keeping his memory and legacy alive.

I hope that the Council will follow the example of the George Eliot Hospital in supporting this suggestion.”

**Councillor Jackson responded as follows:**

“Many of us were inspired by the valiant walk of Captain Tom who was honoured and made a Sir by the Queen for his fundraising efforts. The Council will lower the flag on the day of his funeral.

Further, the Council has already set up a group of elected members looking at how we can recognise the efforts of so many in our community who have done so much during this dreadful pandemic.”

**Question/Statement 3**

**Ann Brown asked the following question of Councillor I. Lloyd, Portfolio Holder for Arts and Leisure:**

“At the last full Council meeting held in December 2020, Cllr Lloyd answered a question concerning a petition in relation to the Bistro at the Civic Hall, Bedworth. Cllr Lloyd in his answer to that question confirmed that a valid paper petition had been received. I would like to know how many signatures the paper petition in question contained.”

**Councillor I. Lloyd responded as follows:**

“The petition was signed by 415 signatories.”

Councillor K. Evans moved that the question be referred to the Internal Overview Scrutiny Panel for further scrutiny. This motion was seconded by Councillor D. Brown.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors: K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S Croft, K. Evans, D. Gissane, C. Golby, S Gran, J. Gutteridge, K. Kondakor, B. Pandher, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, R. Smith, J. Tandy, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, K. Wilson.

AGAINST: Councillors: J. Beaumont, G. Daffern, S Doughty, P. Elliott, J. Glass, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Watkins.

ABSENCES: None.

The motion was carried.

**Question 4**

**Michele Kondakor asked the following question of Councillor J. Sheppard, Portfolio Holder for Central Services and Refuse:**

“This past week, I have discovered that several e-mails that I have sent to officers at the Council have ended up in their junk folders and this has

affected numerous departments – elections, finance and planning. It is a real concern as members of the public will simply think that some officers and councillors can't be bothered to reply to them when, in reality, they are simply unaware that important messages have gone to the junk folder and, indeed, I only knew this when I have chased things up due to lack of responses. What is being done to fix this malfunction in the e-mail system and have all councillors and officers been told to keep checking their junk folders too?"

**Councillor Jill Sheppard responded as follows:**

"The Council recently upgraded its IT security and this appears to be now classifying more emails as spam. We have been investigating the issue and it appears that the items being diverted into Junk folders are from certain senders. This is happening because there is an issue with the settings from the sender.

All Council Employees and Councillors have been advised and asked to check their SPAM folders regularly. Regular updates are being provided. The current advice is to monitor junk folders to identify any that are incorrectly classified as spam; mark them as Not Junk so that they will then be directed to the inbox; and to let IT know so that they can be investigated. Senders are being advised to check their settings with their Internet provider."

Councillor K. Kondakor moved that the question be referred to Internal Overview Scrutiny Panel for further scrutiny. This motion was seconded by Councillor J. Sargeant.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors: K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S Croft, K. Evans, D. Gissane, C. Golby, S Gran, J. Gutteridge, K. Kondakor, B. Pandher, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, R. Smith, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, K. Wilson.

AGAINST: Councillors: J. Beaumont, G. Daffern, S Doughty, P. Elliott, J. Glass, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, J. Tandy, C. Watkins.

ABSENTIONS: None.

The motion was lost.

**Question 5**

**Lee Downs asked the following question of Councillor C. Watkins, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities:**

"In the latest round of funding provided to Councils as part of the Government's Green Homes Funding programme, North Warwickshire Borough Council were awarded £320,000 to renovate 54 homes. By contrast, I understand that the bid made by this Council for funding under the scheme was rejected. Can the Portfolio holder explain the reason this Council's bid

was rejected and what measures will be taken to ensure future bids are correctly submitted.”

**Councillor Chris Watkins responded as follows:**

“Thank you for the question.

The Government has provided 2 rounds of Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery funding, the round being referred to in the question is LAD part 1b.

LAD part 1b came about because the Government was unable to award all of its funding in the original LAD part 1 round due to unsatisfactory bids.

In LAD part 1, this Council was successful in leading a consortium bid, which included provision for North Warwickshire Borough Councils private sector stock.

That bid received £1.4m of funding for NBBC Council Housing, Private Housing and North Warwickshire Private Housing. We are well on our way to delivering these improvements.

This time NWBC bid separately to include their Council Housing Stock as it was not included in the first round.

NBBC submitted a duplicate bid concentrating on just NBBC area but this time it was not awarded. There is no evidence to suggest the bid was not correctly submitted.

I can only assume that other areas were given an opportunity to use for the limited funding this time round.

Given the size of the two Boroughs both areas have secured approximately the same proportionate amount of funding i.e. £500k for NWBC and £1.2m for NBBC.

This Council has an excellent track record of securing funds and delivering residential energy efficiency works including the CESP Scheme, Green Deal Communities and more lately LAD part 1.”

**Statement 6**

**Karl Mayer (Woodlands Action Group) asked the following statement be read out by an officer:**

“On the steps of the Town Hall the day after the local elections in 2018, Councillor Julie Jackson the now leader of this council, gave an interview on BBC Midlands news and spoke with reporter Bob Hockenhull to explain the loss of overall control of council. The reason given was quote:

There was an issue of our borough plan, and I'm going to be upfront about that. I need to be honest about that, there are a lot of people who were concerned of development in certain areas, but again the Government actually wants more and more housing and I think locally the conservatives played well ok the Government centrally, the conservatives centrally want one

thing but locally we're going to oppose it and I think in some area's that did affect us.

I must clear up one or two things within this quote, firstly NBBC is in its own right, a planning authority and therefore has the sole power to create its own borough plan of how many houses will be built and where they will be built, Not the Government or Conservatives centrally or even Uncle Tom Cobble come to think of it. The whole plan has been handled shockingly by the ruling labour group and I would like the leader of this council to maybe inform the tax paying residents of this council tonight a list of things taken on board by NBBC from one or two residents from any public consultations run over the years regarding the borough plan.”

Councillor K. Evans moved a procedural motion, to move Agenda Item 12 before Agenda Item 8. This motion was seconded by Councillor C.Golby.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors: K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S Croft, K. Evans, D. Gissane, C. Golby, S Gran, J. Gutteridge, K. Kondakor, B. Pandher, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, R. Smith, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, K. Wilson.

AGAINST: Councillors: J. Beaumont, G. Daffern, S Doughty, P. Elliott, J. Glass, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, J. Tandy, C. Watkins.

ABSENCES: None.

The motion was lost.

### CL35 **Special Urgency Decisions**

The following decisions have been taken under Special Urgency arrangements since the last Council meeting:

#### **a) Future High Streets Fund (FHSF)**

To enable the council to comply with the requirements of the FHSF programme and qualify for the provisional allocation of circa £13M to support the generation of Nuneaton Town Centre.

#### **b) COVID Business Grant Schemes**

To update Cabinet on progress with administering COVID Business Grant Schemes for those businesses mandated to close all severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent national and local restrictions.

**RESOLVED** that the Special Urgency Decisions taken under delegated officer authority by the Director – Regeneration & Housing, and Executive Director – Resources on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020, as detailed in the agenda, be noted.

CL36 **Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council submitted her report on behalf of Cabinet. The report highlighted matters considered at the Cabinet meetings held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 and also details of reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority Board, which had a direct impact on NBBC, namely the Board meeting of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Several questions were raised to which the Leader of the Council, or the appropriate Portfolio Holder, gave a response.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) the report be noted.

CL37 **Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2021/22**

The Council gave consideration to the selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22:

**(a) Mayor**

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor W.J. Hancox be invited to accept the office of Mayor.

It was further proposed and seconded that Councillor A. Sargeant, be invited to accept the office of Mayor.

It was further proposed and seconded that Councillor R. Tromans, be invited to accept the office of Mayor.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR COUNCILLOR W.J. HANCOX:	Councillors: J. Beaumont, G. Daffern, S.Doughty, P. Elliott, J. Glass, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, J. Tandy, C. Watkins
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FOR COUNCILLOR A. SARGEANT:	Councillors: D. Gissane, K. Kondakor, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant
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FOR COUNCILLOR R TROMANS:	Councillors: K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S. Croft, K. Evans, C. Golby, S. Gran J. Gutteridge, A. Llewellyn-Nash, B. Pandher, R. Smith, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, K. Wilson
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**RESOLVED** that Councillor W.J. Hancox be invited to accept the office of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

**(b) Deputy Mayor**

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

It was further proposed and seconded that Councillor C. Golby, be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor A. Sargeant, be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR COUNCILLOR J. BEAUMONT: Councillors: J. Beaumont, G. Daffern, S. Doughty, P. Elliott, J. Glass, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, J. Tandy, C. Watkins

FOR COUNCILLOR C.GOLBY Councillors: K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S. Croft, K. Evans, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, A. Llewellyn-Nash, B. Pandher, R. Smith, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, K. Wilson

FOR COUNCILLOR A.SARGEANT Councillors: D. Gissane, K. Kondakor, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant

**RESOLVED** that Councillor J. Beaumont be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

#### CL38 **Membership of the External Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

An addendum letter was sent out for this agenda item as Councillor Llewellyn-Nash was inadvertently deleted from the New Proposed Membership for the External Overview and Scrutiny Membership Panel. It was proposed to move Councillor N.J. Phillips replace Councillor T. Sheppard on this Panel and that the membership of this Panel as set out at Appendix A is approved.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor N.J. Phillips replace Councillor T Sheppard on the External Overview & Scrutiny Panel and the membership of the External Overview & Scrutiny Panel as set out in the Addendum be approved.

#### CL39 **Recommendations from Cabinet and Other Committees**

##### a) **General Fund Budget and Capital Programme 2021/22**

Councillor Julie Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Civic Affairs, reported on recommendations made by Cabinet at its meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, in respect of the above, and moved a motion for their approval.

Councillor I. Lloyd seconded the motion.



Councillor K. Kondakor moved the following amendment seconded by Councillor A Sargeant:

That the following changes be made to the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2021/22:

a) The Central Services and Refuse Portfolio be increased by £13,600 to fund an average of two additional litter bins per ward. This cost is to be funded by removing the Mayor's Car and Chauffeur budgets and instead providing a small budget to cover travel expenses.

b) That free parking be provided after 3pm in all Council car parks during 2021/22. This will reduce income in the Planning and Development portfolio by £162k and will be funded by the Additional Restrictions Grant.

The revised General Fund budget is shown in the table below:

	<b>Original Budget 2020/21 £</b>	<b>Original Budget 2021/22 £</b>
Arts, Leisure and Economic Development	5,493,750	5,423,630
Central Services and Refuse	4,930,660	5,330,220
Finance and Civic Affairs	3,905,020	4,862,670
Housing, Health and Communities	1,459,430	1,296,900
Planning and Development	(497,830)	240,850
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>15,291,030</b>	<b>17,154,270</b>
Central Provisions	334,500	334,500
Depreciation and Impairment	(3,117,950)	(3,096,530)
Transfers To/ (From) Corporate Reserves	(2,216,783)	(5,522,515)
Financing of Capital Expenditure	5,028,520	1,795,000
PWLB Premiums	21,120	21,120
Interest and Investment Income	(199,030)	(100,000)
Minimum Revenue Provision	481,630	477,800
Debt Interest	563,290	468,000
<b>Total Council Net Expenditure</b>	<b>16,186,327</b>	<b>11,531,645</b>
Funded by:		
Net Retained Business Rates	(5,293,376)	(4,712,780)
New Homes Bonus	(1,621,983)	(851,360)
Other Government Grants (one off funding)		(1,629,805)
NDR Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	(120,294)	4,960,420
Council Tax Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	(150,820)	57,000
Transfer to General Fund Reserves	168,604	3,398
<b>COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>9,168,458</b>	<b>9,358,518</b>

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors: D. Gissane, K. Kondakor, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant

AGAINST: Councillors: J. Beaumont, K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S. Croft, G. Daffern, S. Doughty, P. Elliott, K. Evans, J. Glass, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, A. Llewellyn-Nash, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, B. Pandher, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, R. Smith, J. Tandy, R Tromans, H. Walmsley, C. Watkins, K. Wilson

The amendment was lost.

Councillor K. Wilson moved the following amendment seconded by Councillor S. Croft:

- (a) That the General Fund draft revenue budget 2021/22, attached as Appendix B, and updated General Fund Capital Programme as attached as Appendix C be recommended to the Council for approval including the following items:

	<b>Savings Identified</b>	<b>£</b>
a.)	Reduction in the Arts Development budget.	(6,000)
b.)	Reduce public conveniences salary budgets by 1 FTE.	(20,000)
c.)	Cease publication of InTouch.	(15,000)
d.)	A savings target across all back office functions by not back filling vacant posts, where not absolutely necessary.	(9,000)
e.)	Transfer operation of the Museum into a trust to generate NNDR savings.	(10,000)
f.)	Savings from the Mayoralty budget.	(1,000)
g.)	Close the Civic Hall on a Monday and Tuesday, as the least financially viable days.	(18,000)
h.)	Close the Museum for one additional day per week	(8,000)
i.)	To increase the Mobile Homes charges to £27 per week and other fees and charges by 1.7% (CPI + 1%). [Excluding car parks and markets, with Cemeteries as per Cabinet decision].	(29,000)
j.)	To introduce an English language test and a Safeguarding, Disability and Dementia test for taxi driver applicants at £35.	(1,000)
k.)	Apply a reduction in the Special Responsibility Allowances for Planning and OSPs to be the same as opposition leader.	(5,000)
l.)	Minor budgetary changes and spreading of the Collection Fund deficit, taken from the table at paragraph 5.5 of the Cabinet report	(56,000)
		<b>(178,000)</b>

	<b>Additional Spend items</b>	<b>£</b>
a.)	Temporarily changing the Car Park charging structure so that parking for up to 3 hours will cost £1 for 2021/22 (at a cost of	390,000

	£217k), with free parking in all Council car parks for December and January (at a cost of £173k). This is for one year only and will be funded from the Additional Restrictions Grant.	
b.)	To offer free market rents at Nuneaton and Bedworth to all permanent traders for 2021/22, and a 50% reduction to casual traders, to be funded from the Additional Restrictions Grant	190,000
c.)	A one-year grant scheme for shopfront enhancements for local town centre businesses and SME's (Small to Medium Enterprises) at £1,500 per grant (funded from the Additional Restrictions Grant)	100,000
d.)	Additional revenue costs associated with the additional Nomad Cameras included in a revised capital programme	14,000
e.)	Deep clean of three centres twice a year (Nuneaton, Bedworth and Bulkington)	42,000
f.)	The addition of a project for the purchase of six fly-tipping cameras to be funded by a revenue contribution	54,000
g.)	Use of Additional Restrictions Grant to fund items a.), b.) and c.) above	(680,000)
		<b>110,000</b>

- (b) When added to the deficit of £54k from the table at para 5.5 of the Cabinet report, the revised budget position is a surplus of £14,000
- (c) Given the potential staffing implications of the savings above, the Council's Management of Change policy will be followed.
- (d) That the District Council Tax for 2021/22 be increased by £1.99% for a Band D property as per the draft position.
- (e) That the budget surplus of £14,000 be added to the General Fund Balances to support the savings programme in future years.
- (f) Furthermore, it be proposed that the capital programme included in the Cabinet report of 10<sup>th</sup> February and updated by amended recommendation 2.7 be revised as follows:

		£
a.)	The addition of a project for the purchase of twelve NOMAD Cameras to funded from capital receipts	90,000
b.)	The addition of a project for the purchase of six fly-tipping cameras to be funded by a revenue contribution (as included in section b)	54,000

- (g) That the Executive Director – Resources assurance statements on reserves and base budget proposals as included in Appendix A be noted.

- (h) Because of the timescales involved, the General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 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.

The Mayor moved the following which was seconded by Councillor C. Golby:

“That Standing Orders be suspended until the completion of all business listed under Agenda Item 12”. There being no dissent, the meeting was extended to the close of business.

A recorded vote was taken on Councillor Wilson’s amendment as follows:

FOR: Councillors: K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S. Croft, K. Evans, D. Gissane, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, A. Llewellyn-Nash, B. Pandher, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, R. Smith, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, K. Wilson

AGAINST: Councillors: J. Beaumont, G. Daffern, S. Doughty, P. Elliott, J. Glass, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, J. Tandy, C. Watkins

ABSTENTIONS: K. Kondakor

The amendment was lost.

A recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion proposed by Councillor J. Jackson as follows:

FOR: Councillors: J. Beaumont, G. Daffern, S. Doughty, P. Elliott, J. Glass, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, J. Tandy, C. Watkins

AGAINST: Councillors: K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S. Croft, K. Evans, D. Gissane, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, K. Kondakor, A. Llewellyn-Nash, B. Pandher, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant R. Smith, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, K. Wilson

The result was a tie, but the Mayor used her casting vote and the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) The forecast outturn for the General Fund revenue and capital budgets for 2021/22 is noted;
- b) that the revised Capital Programme for 2021/22 of £15.567m is approved.

- c) that the Council Tax requirement for 2021/22 is agreed as £9,358,518, an increase of £5 on a Band D, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- d) the 2021/22 Business Rates forecast reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government and included in the draft budget, is noted.
- e) no further increases in fees and charges for 2021/22 is approved;
- f) the General Fund revenue budget for 2021/22 is approved;
- g) the Capital Programme for 2021/22 of £37.928m is approved;
- h) delegated authority is given to the Executive Directors to carry out procurement exercises in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in order to deliver the capital programme for the General Fund;
- i) due to the timescales involved with setting the budget and council tax for 2021/22 this report will not be subject to the call-in procedures as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

**a) Housing Revenue Account Budget and Capital Programme 2021/22**

Councillor C. Watkins, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, reported on recommendations made by Cabinet at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, in respect of the above, and moved a motion for their approval.

The motion was seconded by Councillor J. Jackson.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors: J. Beaumont, K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S. Croft, G. Daffern, S. Doughty, P. Elliott, K. Evans, D. Gissane, J. Glass, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, A. Llewellyn-Nash, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, B. Pandher, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, R. Smith, J. Tandy, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, C. Watkins, K. Wilson

AGAINST: Councillor K. Kondakor

The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) That the forecast outturn for 2020/21 be noted and revised capital programme for 2020/21 of £17.220m be agreed;
- b) a virement of £500k is approved for 2020/21 from earmarked reserves to the Independent Living Service within Supervision and Management to fund the increased costs for fire risk surveys and security;
- c) the draft HRA Capital programme for 2021/22 of £25.057m is approved, as shown at Appendix C;
- d) an increase in HRA dwelling rents for 2021/22 of 1.5% is approved in line with Government policy of CPI + 1%;

- e) that Homeless Hostel rents are increased for 2021/22 by 1.5% in line with the general dwellings rent increase;
- f) an increase of 1.5% for 2021/22 in line with CPI + 1% for other HRA fees and charges as set out in section 4.11 be approved;
- g) the 2021/22 draft HRA Revenue budget, including the rent and fee changes above, is approved;
- h) that delegated authority is given to the Executive Directors to carry out procurement exercises in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in order to deliver the capital programme for the General Fund;
- i) due to the timescales involved with setting the HRA budget and rents for 2021/22, this report not be subject to the call-in procedures as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

**b) Council Tax 2021/22**

Councillor J. Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Civic Affairs, reported on recommendations made by Cabinet at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, in respect of the above, and moved a motion for their approval.

The motion was seconded by Councillor I. Lloyd.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors: J. Beaumont, G. Daffern, S. Doughty, P. Elliott, J. Glass, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, J. Tandy, C. Watkins

AGAINST: Councillors: K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S. Croft, K. Evans, D. Gissane, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, K. Kondakor, A. Llewellyn-Nash, B. Pandher, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, R. Smith R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, K. Wilson

As the vote was a tie, the Mayor used her casting vote and the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) Noted that on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 the amount of £38,408.1 has been calculated and determined as the Council Tax base for the year 2021/22 for the whole council area [item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the 'Act')];
- b) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 is £9,358,517.65;
- c) the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-

(a) **£ 91,931,877.65**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act;

(b) **£ 82,573,360.00**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;

(c) **£ 9,358,517.65**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).

(d) **£243.66**

being the amount at 3(c) above (item R), divided by item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

- d) noted that for the year 2021/22 **Warwickshire County Council** has set a precept requirement to the Council of **£58,899,205.43** and has stated the amounts set out in Column 3 of the table in 6 below in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings.
- e) noted that for the year 2021/22 **Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner** has set a precept requirement to the Council of **£9,715,704.14** and has stated the amounts set out in Column 4 of the Table in 6 below in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings.
- f) that the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the Council's amount of Council tax as shown in column 2 below for each category of dwelling and provisionally sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.



1	2	3	4	5
Valuation Bands	Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough	Warwickshire County Council	Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner	Council Tax 2021/22
	£	£	£	£
AR	135.37	851.95	140.53	1,127.85
A	162.44	1,022.34	168.64	1,353.42
B	189.51	1,192.73	196.75	1,578.99
C	216.59	1,363.12	224.85	1,804.56
<b>D</b>	<b>243.66</b>	<b>1,533.51</b>	<b>252.96</b>	<b>2,030.13</b>
E	297.81	1,874.29	309.17	2,481.27
F	351.95	2,215.07	365.39	2,932.41
G	406.10	2,555.85	421.60	3,383.55
H	487.32	3,067.02	505.92	4,060.26

- g) the Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2021/22 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2021/22. The Council is required to determine whether its basic amount of Council Tax is excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- h) the following officers 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:

Rachael Dobson  
Sharon Oliver

Jade Fuller  
Simon Jones

Joanne Blurton

**c) Treasury Strategy and Budgetary Framework 2021/22**

Councillor J. Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Civic Affairs, reported on recommendations made by Cabinet at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, in respect of the above, and moved a motion for their approval.

The motion was seconded by Councillor I. Lloyd.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors J. Beaumont, K. Brindley-Edwards, D. Brown, S. Croft, G. Daffern, S. Doughty, P. Elliott, K. Evans, D. Gissane, J. Glass, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, W.J. Hancox, L. Hocking, J. Jackson, A. Llewellyn-Nash, I. Lloyd, B. Longden, B. Pandher, N. Phillips, G. Pomfrett, M. Rudkin, A. Sargeant, J.

Sargeant, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, R. Smith, J. Tandy, R. Tromans, H. Walmsley, C. Watkins, K. Wilson.

AGAINST: Councillor K. Kondakor

The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed Treasury Strategy and Budgetary Framework 2021/22, as detailed in **Appendix H**, be approved, including:

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

#### CL40 **Questions by Members**

##### **Question 1**

**Councillor Kyle Evans asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development and Health:**

Across the Borough we have many private pieces of land which adversely affect the amenity of the locality around the land. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, local authorities have the power to issue Section 215 notices to landowners. Could I ask the Portfolio Holder how many Section 215 Notices the Council has issued since May 2018?

**Councillor J. Beaumont, as Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development and Health, responded as follows:**

Since 2018, the Council have issued six Section 215 notices. The issuing of each notice follows extensive negotiation and engagement with the landowner. Typically officers are successful in resolving the clear up of a site before the need to serve a Section 215.

With respect to process the planning enforcement team have developed a structured route which focuses on negotiation initially. The process is comprehensive and seeks to ensure that any challenge the Council might face at magistrate's court can be defended. This is important to recognise because the landowner has a right of challenge. The court will expect the Local Authority to have acted responsibly and exhaust all other routes before pursuing a Section 215. The approach to serving a Section 215 is also comparable to neighbouring authorities.

Location of notices:

29/11/2018 – 022593 2 Bath Road

29/11/2018 – 022593 6 Bath Road

22/11/2018 – 022049 9 Kings Gardens

28/08/2019 – 023286 9 Barpool Road

09/10/2019 – 023188 14-20 Hospital Lane

02/12/2019 – 023495 187 Wootton Street

## **Question 2**

### **Councillor Keith Kondakor asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development and Health:**

The planning application for County Council owned Top farm site was submitted in November 2017 after the Conservative controlled council agreed to develop the site for around 1,700 homes. Since the application was made the Borough Plan has been adopted and several additional substantial planning applications have been approved in Weddington & St Nicolas Wards. We now have a 2-form entry primary school being constructed on the Lower Farm site for completion for this September, in principle funding for a secondary school from Department for education and an unfunded £8 million plan for a new entrance on the Weddington side of Nuneaton railway station.

It surely cannot be reasonable for the application to sit undetermined for well over 3 years without the application documents being updated to take account of these changes. Will the portfolio holder for planning ask his department to require any out of date sections of the application documentation pack to be updated and then that the public be consulted again?

### **Councillor J. Beaumont, as Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development and Health, responded as follows:**

The application was submitted in November 2017 as Cllr Kondakor correctly states. Since then, there have been on-going discussions with the applicant (who in this case is the County Council). There is an agreement in place with the applicant to extend the time limit for determination beyond the statutory 13 week date, and this agreement is effectively 'open-ended'.

The site is earmarked for the provision of homes within the adopted Borough Plan, which at the time application's submission was merely emerging, but now has full adopted Development Plan status.

The Council will of course comply with any statutory requirements to consult with neighbours, and other statutory consultees at the appropriate time, but as a matter of course residents are not re-consulted on amendments where there is no significant material change. The original consultation letters to neighbours makes this clear and advises them to check the website for updated plans. WCC Education are a consultee on this application and their comments/requests in relation to school provision and education will be presented to Members of Committee.

The 'up-to-date' nature of any submission and documentation will be assessed by Officers before a report is submitted to the Planning Applications Committee and the relevant statutory consultees on a case-by-case basis. It is possible that some documents will require updating and the Council will request the applicant to do so as necessary.

When the applicant is ready for the application to be determined, they will inform Officers who will work towards the next available Planning Applications Committee date. At that time, all supporting documentation will have to be up-to-date, complete and made available to relevant parties, any required statutory public consultation undertaken and the matter determined in accordance with all extant planning policies both in the Borough Plan and the up to date National Planning Policy Framework prevailing at that time.

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Mayor

## Council - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2020/2021

	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>
	J. Beaumont		Board member of Bulkington Community Library CIC in addition to an unpaid Manager of the library.  Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Older People's Forum</li> </ul>	
	K. Brindley-Edwards	Teacher and Head of 6 <sup>th</sup> Form at Beauchamp College	Representative on the following Outside Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King Edward VI College Foundation - Trustee</li> </ul>	
	D. Brown	Employed by H.M Land Registry	Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity	
	S. Croft	Employed at Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd	Treasurer of the Conservative Association	
	G. Daffern	Teacher at Finham Park 2	Member of NEU Staff Governor – Finham Park 2, Local Governing Body.	
	S. Doughty	Cherville Limited	Unite the Union	
	P. Elliott	Employee of CW Mind's Autism Support Service	Governor at Stockingford Nursery  Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendship Project for Children</li> </ul>	
	K. Evans	Employed by UK Parliament	Executive Officer at the North Warwickshire & Bedworth Conservative Association Association Representative of	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Warwickshire Conservative Area Association	
	J. Glass	None	None	
	D. Gissane	Self employed trading as Huxo Creative	Member of Warwickshire County Council	
	C. Golby		Member of Warwickshire County Council	
	S. Gran		Member of Warwickshire County Council	
	J. Gutteridge		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age UK (Warwickshire Branch)</li> </ul>	To speak and vote on any matters involving the Borough Plan related to land at Leyland Road Bulkington
	W.J. Hancox		Daughter holds employment position within NBBC  Unite the Union  Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Control Partnership Steering Group</li> <li>• Hammersley Smith &amp; Orton Charity</li> </ul>	
	L. Hocking	Employed by Openreach	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unite the Union</li> <li>• Communication Workers Union</li> </ul> Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</li> </ul>	
	J.A. Jackson	Any matter relating to the employment policies and procedures of Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council or any matter relating to the contractual arrangements with Sport & Leisure Management Ltd.	Unite the Union  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited</li> <li>• Director Coventry &amp; Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership</li> </ul> Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coventry, Warwickshire &amp; Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee</li> <li>• District Leaders</li> <li>• Local Government Association</li> <li>• Local Enterprise Partnership</li> </ul>	Dispensation to speak and vote on matters that do not relate specifically to her husband's contract of employment.  Dispensation to speak and vote

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority</li> <li>• Member Liaison of both Transforming Nuneaton and Transforming Bedworth</li> </ul>	
	K.A. Kondakor		<p>Member of Warwickshire County Council</p> <p>100PERCENTRENEWABLEUK LTD</p>	
	A. Llewellyn-Nash	Employee of BMI Healthcare	<p>Treasurer of Exhall Multi-cultural Group</p> <p>Governor at Newdigate Primary and Nursery School, Bedworth</p>	
	I. Lloyd		Non Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited.	Dispensation to speak and vote
			<p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton &amp; Bedworth Sports Forum</li> <li>• Camp Hill Urban Village and Pride in Camp Hill</li> <li>• Poor's Piece Charity</li> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill &amp; Nuneaton Recreation Group</li> <li>• Towns Board</li> </ul>	
	B.J. Longden		Daughter and son-in-law work in the NHS	
			Member of the Stockingford Community Centre	
			Ex-Officiate of the Veterans Contact Point Board	
			<p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust – Public/User Board</li> <li>• George Eliot Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governors</li> <li>• Armed Forces Covenant Meeting</li> <li>• Astley Charity</li> </ul>	
	B. Pandher		<p>Member of Warwickshire County Council</p> <p>Treasurer &amp; Trustee of Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple;</p> <p>Coordinator of Council of Sikh Temples in Coventry;</p>	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Secretary of Coventry Indian Community; Trustee of Sikh Monument Trust Vice Chair Exhall Multicultural Group	
	G.D. Pomfrett	None	None	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton Labour CLP</li> <li>• The Fabian Society</li> <li>• The George Eliot Society</li> <li>• The PCS Union</li> <li>• Central Credit Union</li> <li>• Stockingford Sports and Allotment Club</li> <li>• Haunchwood Sports and Social Club</li> </ul>	
	M. Rudkin	Employee of Coventry City Council	Unite the Union	
			Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee</li> </ul>	
	A. Sargeant		Member of Warwickshire County Council Chairman of The Nook (Nuneaton) Residents Association. Chair of Attleborough Community Matters group. Chair of Attleborough Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer at Volunteer Friends Bulkington. 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	Board of Directors – Volunteer Friends, Bulkington	
	J. Sheppard		Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local.	Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre
			Director of Wembrook Community Centre.	
			Member of the Management Committee at the Mental Health Drop in.	
			Champion for Safeguarding	



	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			(Children & Adults)  Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board</li> <li>• Warwickshire Direct Partnership</li> <li>• Warwickshire Waste Partnership</li> <li>• West Midland Employers</li> <li>• Nuneaton Neighbour Watch Committee</li> </ul>	
	T. Sheppard	Employee of Dairy Crest	Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel</li> </ul>	
	R. Smith		Chairman of Volunteer Friends, Bulkington; Board member of Bulkington Village Community and Conference Centre Trustee of Bulkington Sports and Social Club	
	J.A. Tandy		Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local. Member of Unite the union.  Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton Festival of Arts</li> <li>• Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership</li> <li>• Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership</li> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority Audit Group</li> </ul>	
	R. Tromans	Director of RTC Ltd		
	H. Walmsley	Chief of Staff to Julian Knight MP	Chartered Institute of Public Relations	Dispensation to speak and vote
	C.M. Watkins	Landlord of a privately rented property	Representative on the following outside bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Home Improvement Agency.</li> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership.</li> <li>• Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board.</li> <li>• Warwickshire Housing Support Partnership.</li> </ul>	

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel.</li> </ul>	
	K.D. Wilson	Employee of the Courts Service	Non Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited	