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Date: 16th April 2024

Our Ref: KB

Dear Sir/Madam,

Addendum Council – 17th April 2024

I refer to **Item 3 – Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21st February 2024** on the agenda for the meeting of Council on Wednesday, 17th April 2024 and attach the revised minutes (changed section highlighted in yellow) for consideration at the meeting. **(Page 2)**

In addition, following the Cabinet meeting on the 10th April 2024 **Agenda Item 12c) Borough Plan Review – Examination in Public** the recommendations as per the report on page 96/97 of the main agenda pack were approved for council consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Davis'.

BRENT DAVIS

Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

21st February, 2024

A Council meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 21st February 2024 which was recorded and uploaded to the Council's website.

Present

The Mayor (Councillor M. Walsh)

Councillors R. Baxter-Payne, B. Beetham, D. Brown, J. Clarke, T. Cooper, J. Coventry-Moreton, S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, L. Downs, K. Evans, C. Golby, M. Green, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, K. Kondakor, S. Markham, G. Moreton, B. Pandher, N. Phillips, E. Shiers, J. Singh, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, R. Smith, M. Tromans, R. Tromans, , K. Wilson, and M. Wright.

Apologies were received for Councillors The Deputy Mayor (Councillor B. Hammersley) C. Cape, L. Downs, S. Harbison, J. Kennaugh and C. Watkins

CL67 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Council held on 13th December 2023 be confirmed and signed with the following amendments:

Min no CL37 Q1 Councillor K. Kondakor question the word 'business' be changed to 'busiest' and Q6 Councillor R. Baxter-Payne the year '2021' instead of '2022'

The minutes of the Extraordinary Council held on 17th January 2024 and 29th January 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

CL68 **Declarations of Interests**

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

CL69 **Announcements**

No announcements were made.

CL70 **Public Participation**

Question 1 – Mr Stephen Hey asked the following question to the Leader of the Council.

Tackling intimidation is a cross-party issue; abuse knows no political boundaries. "Robust debate and scrutiny are essential aspects of public life; abuse and intimidation shouldn't be" is a quote from the introduction to the Jo Cox Foundation Civility Pledge and Labour members are all signed up to this. Can the Council Leader confirm that his colleagues are also all signed up to this and, if not, why not?

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

I thank Mr Hey for his question. The aims of the Jo Cox Foundation of laudable and valuable to civic society. Anyone who wishes to sign up to their pledge is, of course, welcome to do so. But I don't think you need to sign a pledge to uphold these principles. They are something we should be doing anyway.

Robust challenge and debate is essential for a healthy democracy. You can hold someone to account for their words and deeds, but too often nowadays people seem to think it is acceptable to go for the personal.

Mr. Mayor, I think it is safe to say that at no other time since I have been involved in politics has the situation been so bad.

We have keyboard warriors hiding behind the veil of anonymity of social media, saying and threatening awful things that they would not have the courage or conviction to do if they were to see us face to face. This cowardly behaviour should have no place in politics at any level.

Yet, here in Nuneaton and Bedworth both myself and others on this side of the chamber have received death threats. We have seen women, female Councillors receive threats of rape. We have experienced our places of work contacted in efforts to harass us in our day to day lives.

Indeed, I saw a quote from a member opposite on social media saying that I, and I quote "am not even worthy of being called a human being". Will Mr Hey distance himself and his Party from that comment and remove the Councillor responsible from his position? I don't think he will.

And I don't think we have to go far for the root cause, Mr. Mayor. When we have the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party calling Tories scum, I would not call that civility in politics. When a Party Conference is held and Tories are welcomed by left-wing activists with a mannequin being lynched from a bridge, I would hardly call that civility in politics. Not one of these things has been done to Labour Party Members at their conferences. Most of the abuse of

politicians I have seen online and in person has been committed by left-wing activists.

I agree with the principle of Mr Hey's question that there should be civility in politics.

But I think he should get his own house in order first before criticising others.

Question 2 – Mr Brian Walmsley asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

Would the Conservative Leader please confirm he was horrified and disgusted by the diabolically offensive, ableist comments and draconian views of Conservative Councillors, about children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities plus their parents. Deputy Leader Golby and Deputy Mayor Hammersley have harmed their mental health and wellbeing, due to their parental blame rhetoric and something in the water comments, all raised during children's mental health week. Will he take action and reprimand them for being disrespectful, failing to uphold the Nolan Principles, breaching The Equality Act 2010 and for surely breaching the Conservative Party Code of Conduct?

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

Mr Walmsley is, of course, referring to the events at a Scrutiny Committee at Warwickshire County Council and not this Council.

Of course, I acknowledge the depth of feeling on this highly emotive issue and there are a number of families who have been upset by the edited video on TikTok. The Councillors concerned have already issued an apology to those families that have been affected by what they saw in the video.

I think it is also important to remember that there is an ongoing investigation at Warwickshire County Council following the complaints received. That is a quasi-judicial function and effectively means that the case is currently sub judice. It wouldn't be appropriate for me to intervene in an ongoing investigation, and I believe it is only right that the investigation is allowed to proceed and come to a conclusion.

Mr Brian Walmsley then asked a supplementary question, however part way through this the Mayor declared that Mr Brian Walmsley was making a supplementary statement, which the Constitution does not allow for, rather than asking a supplementary question. However, as the supplementary statement had been heard in the public domain, the Mayor allowed the Leader of the Council to make a point of personal explanation.

Question 3 – Mr Mark Garrett’s was not present at the meeting to ask his question, therefore no response was given.

Question 4 - Mrs Michele Kondakor asked the following question to the Leader of the Council

Since the Lily Pad fountain was removed from Market Place in Nuneaton town centre, I have experienced an increase in cars being driven through the town centre at speed in the evenings. There is now nothing to act as a traffic calming measure and more drivers are ignoring the one-way signs. I am fully aware that Warwickshire County Council are the Highways authority, but Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council are partners in the town centre. Will the Council monitor the situation with the CCTV, pass on all incidents of unsafe driving to the Police and look at adding street furniture or flower beds to calm speeds?

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

As Mrs Kondakor has already identified, Highways is the primary responsibility of Warwickshire County Council.

Should we be requested to we will provide assistance to the Police in any investigation they have ongoing, as we have always done.

I would remind Mrs Kondakor that 24-hour CCTV provision was removed in the last Labour budget of February 2021, and it is only thanks to this Conservative administration that we have been able to find the funding to restore the 24-hour coverage in our towns.

Mrs Michele Kondakor asked a supplementary question as follows:

You haven’t actually answered the question. Will you report things to the Police, because as a member of the public, the car was going so fast that I couldn’t even get the registration number. So I rely on the CCTV people, it’s irrelevant what the Labour group did, I know we have 24-hour CCTV, so I want that to be used to make things safer. Will you do that please.

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

It is relevant the Labour Party Administration cutting the CCTV 24-hour coverage, because we wouldn’t be able to provide assistance to the Police if we had allowed that to continue in the scenario that Mrs Kondakor outlines.

Now we can’t have everyone looking specifically at the Lily-pad fountain, where it was, looking at it all day, every day. So if members of the public can come forward if they have issues, and identify the times and dates, I’m sure that with Officers we can look at the video footage that is there, and where necessary liaise with that member of the public and the Police to raise any issues that might contravene the law, but I can’t have someone sat there watching that video all day, every day, non-stop 24-hours a day, seven days a week. That’s ludicrous Mr Mayor.

Councillor K. Kondakor moved that the issue be referred to the relevant OSP for further discussion.

Councillor M. Wright seconded the motion.

A vote was taken

The motion was lost.

Question 5 – Mr Alan Baxter asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities

The question relates to the blocks of garages at the end of The Poplars driveway in Stockingford.

The brick-built block, numbers 9 to 15, is falling progressively into dilapidation. Part of the roof blew off in the winter storms and the roof on number 15 has caved in. Number 15 is also home to a family of rats. The brickwork is spalling all over and damp is rising.

Noting that a block of similar Council garages was demolished due to dilapidation this month, I would like to ask the Council to consider the same for this block.

You could transform it into allocated parking spaces, like you did with the Toilet Block behind the Council house. This would alleviate the parking problems OAP residents in The Poplars currently have. There is not enough spaces for the OAP residents in the flats and bungalows for them to park their cars down there.

It should also alleviate some of the anti-social behaviour that takes place in that end of the Poplars, as the whole area would become more open plan and illuminated by the lamps that currently exist adjacent to the OAP flats. Ambulance and Fire Engine access in emergencies would also be eased down there.

You may be able to move the 2 or 3 garage tenants from 9-15 into the other block, which is 1 to 8, as some of these are empty. This block recently had a brand new roof. There should be a long term saving to the Council in maintenance costs as the flat sheets of tarmac are easier and cheaper to repair than brick buildings.

Hopefully you can turn this into a win-win for the Council and local residents down there. Thank you

Councillor K. Wilson responded on behalf of Councillor C. Golby, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities:

There is a Capital Review ongoing across the whole of the HRA estate, that be housing, garages and indeed some shops which fall into the HRA account too.

That then forms into part of the wider 30-year business plan that we have to have by law with the housing revenue account. So we need to complete the results of that asset review, before we can decide what we do with long term pieces of infrastructure and real estate across the HRA account. So what I'm saying is, it's not a no, it's not a never and it may be that what you are suggesting is the right course of action, but to make sure that it all stacks up according to what we are required to do by law and everything else fits together like a jigsaw. Because it's not as easy as saying we do this and move it over here, there may be some other things as part of the Housing Revenue Account we have to consider as part of it. But that work is under way because it is out of date and needs to be done ASAP and that piece of work is impacting not just on garage sites, but it is impacting on a number of other key decisions that we have to make with the HRA for the medium and long term.

CL71 **Questions by Members**

Question 1 – Councillor Kyle Evans asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate:

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance outline to Council how the Council Tax Support Scheme will benefit the Borough in the next financial year?

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

I hope I don't disappoint Councillor Evans too much when I say that as he will have noticed the Local Council Tax Support Scheme is not actually in the papers tonight. We would normally bring it to budget Council, but unfortunately there have been a large number of legislative changes this year which we need to work through. As I keep saying we will take the time we need to get things right, so we'll be bringing it to the March Cabinet, and if it needs to go to Council it will go to the April Council, but I can confirm that we will be bringing such a scheme to Cabinet. It will be the usual scheme where people can apply for up to 85% relief on their Council Tax and I've had some figures today which confirm that we anticipate that will affect 8,242 people at a cost of 10.1 million.

Question 2 – Councillor Emma Shiers submitted the following question to the Leader of the Council:

The comments made by Cllr Golby and Cllr Hammersley has had an impact on Nuneaton and Bedworth SEND children and families. I would therefore like to ask Cllr Wilson for his and his group's opinion with regards to the SEND crisis that is currently impacting on our residents.

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

Mr. Mayor, I believe that I have already answered this question with my response to Mr Walmsley's public question.

Question 3 – Councillor Keith Kondakor asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Public Services:

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) produces English fly-tipping statistics using its Flycatcher database. Councils upload data on the number of fly-tipping cases and details of actions such as various fixed penalty notices (FPNs) into the data base. This data base is strictly for fly-tipping cases and briefings clearly tell Councils not to include FPNs for littering into the database. Last year a tiny number of Councils including Nuneaton and Bedworth ignored the instructions and filled grossly excessive numbers by including FPNs related to littering. This mistake resulted in DEFRA tables showing our Borough for 2022/23 to have the highest number of fly-tipping related FPNS in the region with 1712 FPNS issues for 1870 incidents. That is clearly rubbish.

In the calendar year 2023, which has just finished, how many FPNs for Fly-tipping explicitly has the Borough Council issued, and when is the Council going to fully investigate and clear the mass of fly-tipping along Jubilee way?

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

As per my previous answer to you on this subject, I've asked that each fixed penalty notice that's been issued for the relevant reported period to be individually reviewed, to confirm whether it met the necessary criteria as set out in the guidelines issued by DEFRA. Unfortunately, this hasn't been completed yet. When it is, the updated figures will be provided to DEFRA as necessary. There's been 46 notices issued specifically for fight tipping in 2023, but having said that, as a Borough we have made a conscious decision to deal with smaller fly tipped rubbish with littering fixed penalty notices, and not a Section 33 EPA as it's dealt with in a more timely manner. It doesn't mean it's not fly tipping. We are working hard to improve the environment throughout the Borough and our Enforcement team are doing an exceptional job, and with regards to Jubilee Way, whilst I believe the query relates to littering and not fly tipping, I can confirm the Council is working with partners to ensure the litter is cleared as a priority. Thank you.

Councillor K. Kondakor asked the following supplementary question:

Out of the 48 that were issued, were they issued as £400 fines or were some of them issued as the £100 FPN's, because you sort of drifted between the different types, we issue different types. So can you just clarify are all 48, £400 fines. Thank you

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

They were issued specifically for fly tipping, thank you.

Question 4 - Councillor Lubs Cvetkovic submitted the following question to the Leader of the Council:

A few weeks ago I was delighted to see a number of men and women from across the Borough granted the status of Alderman/Alderwoman and Freeman/Freewoman of the Borough. This really highlights what an amazing community we are part of, it is truly humbling to hear the stories and achievements and about the active role which all these residents are involved in to make the Borough a better place.

There is another person that the Civic Honours Sub-Committee is seeking to honour. I would like to ask for a progress report on renaming a road after Fusilier Lewis Carter, who was sadly killed in action in Afghanistan on the 16th August 2009 aged just 18. I have spoken to Fusilier Carter's mother and to members of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, who are all keen for this to happen by Normandy Day in June of this year. I know there is a very strong will on this side of the Chamber and I also hope on the opposition side, to get this done as soon as possible.

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

As members will be aware, both the Civic Honours Sub-Committee and Cabinet have agreed in principle to renaming part of Clinic Drive after Fusilier Louis Carter who lost his life in the line of duty in Afghanistan. I believe it is absolutely right that we should ensure that this sacrifice is honoured by our community, which is why we are taking this through as quickly as we can.

There have been some legislative changes following the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 that do impact on the process for renaming streets, and we have to ensure that we meet all of the requirements of the Act.

We have consulted on the proposal as required and we aim to bring a follow-up report to Cabinet as soon as we can, we are hoping March time if we possibly can, subject to paperwork being finalised. Subject to meeting all of the legal tests I hope we will be in a position to formally re-name the road after Fusilier Louis Carter in time for June.

CL72 Special Urgency Decisions

The special urgency decision Nuneaton Business Improvement District (BID) exempt item be noted

CL73 Cabinet

The Leader of the Council submitted the Leaders report on behalf of Cabinet. The report highlighted matters considered at the Cabinet meetings held on 10th January 2024 and 31st January 2024 and details of reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority Board (WMCAB), which has a direct impact on NBBC, namely the WMCA Board meetings held on 12th January 2024, and 9th February 2024.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CL74 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Council gave consideration to the selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

for the Municipal Year 2024/25:

(a) Mayor

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

It was further proposed and seconded that Councillor E. Shiers be invited to accept the office of Mayor.

A vote was taken

RESOLVED that Councillor J. Gutteridge be invited to accept the office of Mayor for Municipal Year 2024/25

(b) Deputy Mayor

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

It was further proposed and seconded that Councillor K. Kondakor be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor.

It was further proposed and seconded that Councillor T. Sheppard be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor.

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that Councillor M. Green be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor for Municipal Year 2024/25

CL75 **Recommendations from Cabinet and Other Committees**

i) Publicity Protocol – Change to the Constitution

At the Audit and Standards meeting held on the 9th January 2024 a report by the Chief Executive was submitted and a recommendation put forward for Council approval.

Councillor K. Wilson moved the recommendation for council approval.

Councillor S. Croft seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that the constitution be amended accordingly.

ii) Contract Procedure Rules - Update

At the Audit and Standards meeting held on 9th January 2024 a report by the Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance was submitted, and a recommendation put forward for Council approval.

Councillor K. Wilson moved the recommendation for council approval.

Councillor R. Tromans seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that the constitution be amended accordingly.

iii) Article 4 Directions

At the Cabinet meeting held on 10th January 2024 a report by the Assistant Director – Planning was submitted, and recommendations put forward for Council approval.

Councillor R. Smith moved the recommendation for council approval.

Councillor D. Brown seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that

- a) the outcome of the public consultation be noted;
- b) the Article 4 Directions in Abbey and Bulkington Conservation area be confirmed and made permanent; and
- c) Delegated Authority be given to the Assistant Director – Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder of Planning to make, if any, amendments prior to the Council meeting.

Councillor K. Wilson moved that section 4.13.4 procedural rule of the constitution be suspended to enable the proposer, seconder including the Opposition Budget proposer and seconder of budget agenda items d) to h) no time limit for speeches. This was seconded by Councillor S. Croft.

A vote was taken.

The procedural motion was carried.

iv) General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, presented the recommendations made at Cabinet earlier on the 21st February 2024, in respect of the above, and moved a motion for their approval.

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the motion.

Councillor E. Shiers put forward an amendment to present the General Fund budget 2024/25 proposal on behalf of the Labour Group which was seconded by Councillor J. Sheppard as follows:

LABOUR GENERAL FUND BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 21st

February 2024

- (a) That the General Fund draft revenue budget 2024/25, attached as Appendix A, be recommended to the Council for approval.
- (b) That the Council Tax requirement for 2024/25 is determined as £10,460,006.65 and the District Council Tax for 2024/25 be increased by £5 for a Band D property.
- (c) To include the following budget changes as detailed below:

	£'000
Initial Deficit / (Surplus)	493
<u>Growth:</u>	
Additional Customer Services Officer – 1FTE	32
<u>Savings / Additional Funding:</u>	
2% Savings across service areas (Excluding Environment)	(412)
Planning Performance Agreements	(60)
Increase on Council Tax Base	(21)
Fees and Charges Increases	(19)
River Cleaning Income	(7)
	(8)
Mobile Phone Savings	
Car Parks Season Tickets Increases	(3)
(Surplus) / Deficit	(5)

- (d) The additional customer services officer is to accommodate the town hall opening from 9-5 Monday to Friday.
- (e) The 2% savings target has been set for service managers to find efficiencies across the board excluding any services which facilitate environmental activity.
- (f) The revised budget position is a surplus of £5,095.
- (g) Additional income targets have been set for planning to achieve in relation to planning performance agreements. There is a current risk around this being difficult to achieve with the resourcing of the team.
- (h) Fees and Charges increases are proposed at 3% increase across all areas except licensing, car parks and green waste. Other increases have been included for gambling licences and mobile home sites at 5%.
- (i) Car park season tickets increases are based on a £5 increase to season tickets only.
- (j) River cleaning income is expected to be generated from offering the service to other organisations or places where a river flows through. There is a risk around this piece of work based on the scope of delivery and what the authority can charge.
- (k) Mobile phone savings would need to be identified from cutting specific service usage. There is a tender exercise underway at the moment and the submissions for the contract will impact on the achievability of the saving.
- (l) Where any potential staffing implications of the savings above, the Council's Management of Change policy will be followed.
- (m) That the Labour General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25 of £19,022,108 be recommended to Council for approval.
- (n) That the budget surplus of £5,095 be added to the General Fund Balances to support the savings programme in future years.

APPENDIX A – LABOUR - Opposition General Fund Budget Summary

General Fund	2023/24 Approved Budget	2023/24 Budget (Recharge Changes)	2024/25 Final Budget
	£	£	£
Business & Regeneration	1,920,660	1,024,334	1,096,131
Finance & Corporate	4,527,564	10,922,797	12,093,985
Health & Environment	3,206,894	2,253,122	2,676,217
Housing & Communities	1,555,978	(367,080)	(348,945)
Planning & Regulation	(224,929)	(1,596,336)	(1,873,707)
Public Services	7,594,458	6,343,788	6,638,308
Portfolio Total	18,580,625	18,580,625	20,281,989
Central Provisions	1,235,500	1,235,500	1,151,755
Depreciation & Impairment	(3,096,530)	(3,096,530)	(3,096,530)
Contributions To/From Reserves	(936,251)	(936,251)	(1,435,806)
Financing of Capital Expenditure	470,000	470,000	1,125,000
PWLB Premiums	21,120	21,120	21,120
Investment Income	(460,000)	(460,000)	(582,508)
Minimum Revenue Provision	654,000	654,000	580,290
External Interest	438,000	438,000	976,798
Total Council Net Expenditure	16,906,464	16,906,464	19,022,108
Council Tax	(10,039,237)	(10,039,237)	(10,460,006)
New Homes Bonus	(1,361,266)	(1,361,266)	(1,180,874)
General Government Grants	(143,405)	(143,405)	(552,494)
Business Rates Retention	(5,124,733)	(5,124,733)	(5,529,042)
NDR Collection Fund (surplus)/ deficit	(159,299)	(159,299)	(1,351,683)
Council Tax Collection Fund (surplus)/ deficit	(81,868)	(81,868)	46,896
Total Funding	(16,909,808)	(16,909,808)	(19,027,203)
(Surplus) / Deficit	(3,344)	(3,344)	(5,095)

Councillor K. Wilson moved an adjournment to consider the alternative budget put forward by the Labour Group at 8.00PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8.15PM.

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

FOR: Councillors K. Kondakor, N. Phillips, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, E. Shiers and M Wright

AGAINST: Councillors R. Baxter-Payne, B. Beetham, D. Brown, J. Clarke, T. Cooper, J. Coventry-Moreton, S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, K. Evans, C. Golby, M. Green, J.

Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, S. Markham, G. Moreton, B. Pandher, J. Singh, R. Smith, M. Tromans, R. Tromans, M. Walsh, and K. Wilson

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Labour Group budget amendment was lost

The Conservative budget was then the substantive motion

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

A vote was taken.

The procedural motion was carried.

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

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

AGAINST: Councillors K. Kondakor, N. Phillips, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, E. Shiers and M Wright

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLVED that

- a) the forecast outturn position for the General Fund for 2023/24 be noted;
- b) the Council Tax requirement for 2024/25 of £10,556,339, an increase of 2.99% on a Band D, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 be approved;
- c) the NNDR1 has been completed and submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and included within the Budget for 2024/25 with a precept for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council;
- d) any increases in Fees and Charges for 2024/25 as shown at Appendix 3 of the report be approved;

- e) the net General Fund Revenue expenditure budget of £19,133,536 be approved (Appendix 1 of the report);
- f) the enhanced recruitment control measures implemented during September 2023 remains in place with approval to recruit being requested from Management Team and Cabinet; and
- g) Delegated Authority be given to the Strategic Director – Housing and Communities and the Communities and Community Safety Manager in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Business and Regeneration to undertake procurement activities to deliver against the 2024/25 priorities set out as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

v) Housing Revenue Account Budget 2024/25

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor C. Golby, presented the recommendations made at Cabinet held earlier on 21st February 2024, in respect of the above and moved the recommendations for council approval.

Councillor S. Croft seconded the motion

Councillor E Shiers moved the Labour Housing Revenue Account 2024/25 budget as shown below as an amendment. Councillor J. Sheppard seconded the amendment.

- a) That the HRA Revenue budget 2024/25, attached as Appendix B, be recommended to the Council for approval.
- b) That a rent increase on dwellings of 7.7% is agreed and recommended to council for approval.
- c) That an increase on service charges of 3% is agreed and recommended to council for approval.

Appendix B

Labour HRA Revenue Budget Summary

HRA	Service	2024/25 Final Budget
	Supervision & Management - General Total	£7,349,679
	Supervision & Management - Special Total	£3,899,323
	Repairs & Maintenance Total	£6,118,725
LX00	Cost of Capital Charge	£0
LX01	Depreciation	£8,724,000
LZ01	Interest Payable	£2,004,396
	Capital Financing Costs Total	£10,728,396

	Income Total	-£31,293,564
LZ04	Appropriations to / (from) MRR	£290,600
LZ06	Capital Expenditure funded by HRA (CERA)	£2,492,620
LZ07	Appropriations to/ (from) Revenue Reserves	-£5,444
	Appropriations Total	£2,777,776
	Support Services (Pay Award Provision)	£419,664
	Total HRA	£0

A vote was taken on the amendment

The amendment was lost

The Conservative HRA Budget became the substantive motion.

A recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion

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

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

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLVED that

- a) the forecast outturn position for the HRA for 2023/24 be noted;
- b) the amended budget for 2023/24 across service areas to take account of recharges be approved;
- c) the net budget position of £0 for 2024/25 be approved;
- d) a rent increase on dwellings of 7.7% be approval; and
- e) Fees and Charges for the HRA (Appendix 2 of the report) be approved.

vi) Capital Budget 2024/25

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, presented the recommendations made at Cabinet held earlier on the 21st February 2024, in respect of the above and moved them for Council approval.

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the motion.

Councillor E Shiers moved the Labour Capital Budget 2024/25 budget as shown below as an amendment. Councillor T. Sheppard seconded the amendment.

General Fund Capital

- The proposed General Fund Capital Budget for 2024/25 of £54.38m, as shown at Appendix C below, be recommended to the Council for approval.
- Additional £100k for Environmental projects to be funded from General Fund Capital Contribution.

Housing Revenue Account Capital

- The proposed Housing Revenue Account Capital Budget for 2024/25 of £22m, as shown at Appendix D below, be recommended to the Council for approval.
- The Contingency budget be reduced to £174k.
- The PIR Electrical works be reduced to £367k.
- The Slabs to Tarmac be reduced to £278k.
- The above reductions be recommended to Council for approval to ensure the revenue contribution to capital is reduced to balance the HRA Revenue budget.

Opposition General Fund Proposed Budget 2024/25

	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Forecasted Spend to Mar 2024	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Forecasted Budget	2026/27 Forecasted Budget
	£	£		£	£	£
Transforming Bedworth	18,612	18,612	6,928	0	0	0
Grayson Place	70,870,000	50,819,134	27,373,457	16,395,904	7,049,773	0
Bridge to Living	15,598,180	8,116,756	3,978,709	1,654,819	2,483,228	0
Weddington Cycle Lane	1,703,000	0	0	0	0	0
Museum	4,631,608	0	0	0	0	0
Parks Revival	1,062,492	1,750,000	144,193	1,605,807	0	0
Wheat Street Junction	3,703,000	390,000	0	0	390,000	0
George Eliot Visitor Centre	222,500	222,500	0	222,500	0	0
The Saints	1,870,090	1,870,090	1,870,090	0	0	0
Corporation Street/Queens Road Junction	7,083,000	390,000	0	390,000	0	0
Visiting Nuneaton Changing Perspectives	87,400	87,400	87,400	0	0	0
E-mobility Hub	302,800	302,800	0	302,800	0	0
CCTV Wireless Technology	52,957	52,957	138,957	0	0	0
Car Parking Machine Upgrades	300,000	300,000	0	300,000	0	0
Business & Regeneration	107,505,639	64,320,249	33,599,734	20,871,829	9,923,002	0
ICT Capital Programme	140,000	140,000	360,480	100,000	100,000	100,000
Changing Places	183,000	183,000	183,000	0	0	0
Camp Hill	25,000	25,000	250,000	25,000	0	0
Finance & Corporate	348,000	348,000	793,480	125,000	100,000	100,000
HEART	5,125,000	5,125,000	5,125,000	5,125,000	5,125,000	5,125,000

Empty Homes - Works in Default	40,000	40,000	0	40,000	40,000	40,000
Empty Property Loans	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	100,000	100,000
Green Homes LAD 3 and HUG 1	905,359	905,359	905,359	0	0	0
Homeless Hostel Conversion	200,000	200,000	75,000	125,000	0	0
Home Upgrade Grant 2	733,000	733,000	33,000	1,702,000	0	0
Safer Streets - Stubbs Pool/The Dingle	41,917	41,917	69,774	0	0	0
Lily Pad Fountain	35,000	35,000	39,660	0	0	0
New Road Park Improvements	50,000	50,000	75,000	0	0	0
Sherbourne Open Space Improvements	150,000	150,000	150,000	0	0	0
Stockingford Rec	45,000	45,000	45,000	0	0	0
Multi-storey Car Park Improvements	56,000	56,000	56,000	0	0	0
Museum Lift	150,000	150,000	150,000	0	0	0
Community Safety & Engagement Grant	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	0	0
Community Safety - Nomad Cameras	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	0	0
Attleborough - Community Park	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	0
Marlborough - Community Park	150,000	150,000	0	150,000	0	0
Sorrell Road - Community Park	125,000	125,000	0	225,000	0	0
Bedworth Market	716,184	716,184	0	716,184	0	0
Boundary Paddock Toilet Block Improvements	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	0
Housing & Communities	8,937,460	8,937,460	6,838,793	8,383,184	5,265,000	5,265,000
Major Repairs	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Vehicle & Plant Replacement	308,000	308,000	308,000	683,000	674,000	553,000
Environment Bill Food Waste Grant	0	0	0	981,000	0	0
Sub-Regional Materials Recycling Facility	4,874,894	4,874,894	4,874,894	0	0	0
Leisure Strategy	230,904	230,904	3,295	227,609	0	0
Play & Teenage Provision	4,710	4,710	0	0	0	0
Fly Tipping Cameras	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0
Bedworth Physical Activity Hub	27,500,000	30,600,000	1,719,355	20,216,451	8,664,193	0
Pauls Land Pavilion	10,500	10,500	0	10,500	0	0

Sandon Park/Jack Whetstone Pavilion	26,859	26,859	0	26,859	0	0
Cemetery Extension	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	0
Environmental Projects	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	100,000
Stockingford Community Centre Grant	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0	0
Community Centre Grants	55,000	55,000	55,000	0	0	0
Buttermere Recreation Ground Redevelopment	447,500	447,500	499,906	0	0	0
Ambleside Sports Club - Table Tennis Provision	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	0	0
Pingles LC Decarbonisation Scheme	3,914,614	3,914,614	0	1,957,307	1,957,307	0
Public Services	37,827,981	40,927,981	7,885,450	24,557,726	11,645,500	903,000
Miscellaneous Projects	92,000	92,000	0	100,000	100,000	100,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE	154,711,080	114,625,690	49,117,457	54,037,739	27,033,502	6,368,000

Opposition Housing Revenue Account Proposed Capital Budget

	Approved Budget 2023/24 £	Forecast Outturn 2023/24 £	Proposed Budget 2024/25 £
DECENT HOMES	1,900,000	1,680,932	1,200,000
ROOF COVERINGS/MODIFICATIONS	750,000	964,036	900,000
WINDOWS AND DOORS	700,000	833,347	800,000
SHELTERED ALARM CALL SYSTEM	18,000	0	40,000
DOOR ENTRY SCHEME	160,000	158,467	0
CCTV RENEWAL - GP FLATS	10,000	10,879	0
SHOP IMPROVEMENTS	0	0	15,000
NEW PROPERTIES - NEW BUILDS	4,539,000	1,376,730	6,032,768
NEW STREET	0	0	1,365,000
BYFORD COURT	3,011,000	2,312,644	458,720
CONVERSION OF HOMELESS HOSTEL	50,000	50,000	176,000
DECENT HOMES WORKS - HOMELESS HOSTELS	0	0	167,000
FIRE SAFETY WORKS	2,600,000	1,871,349	2,400,000
KINGSWAY HOUSE	0	8,000	0
196/198 CHURCH ROAD	0	167,000	0
ILU REMODELLING	150,000	0	150,000
NEW PROPERTIES ACQUISITION	512,500	513,000	0
VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS	1,750,000	1,750,000	0
LEVEL ACCESS SHOWERS	600,000	180,782	700,000
AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS	1,175,000	832,884	1,000,000
CENTRAL HEATING	1,000,000	927,200	720,000
GARAGES	30,000	15,000	15,000
SLABS TO TARMAC	124,000	212,760	278,410
LIFT RENEWAL WORKS	30,000	30,000	50,000
DISTRICT HEATING WORKS	310,000	310,000	150,000
PIR ELECTRICAL WORKS	400,000	67,800	369,910
VOIDS	760,000	938,593	800,000
STOCK CONDITION SURVEY	200,000	437,932	0
25 CHEVERAL PLACE	0	0	120,000
EWI	0	300,000	2,400,000
CONCRETE/STRUCTURAL REPAIRS	4,196,000	0	190,000

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS	190,000	170,200	0
HOUSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	10,000	0	0
CAPITAL SALARIES/CONSULTANCY	472,000	472,000	470,000
CONTINGENCY	200,000	174,000	173,910
CLEAVER GARDENS	0	0	360,000
WARM AIR UNITS	0	0	200,000
ELECTRIC STORAGE HEATING	0	0	300,000
	25,847,500	16,765,534	22,001,718

A vote was taken on the amendment

The amendment was lost

The Conservative Capital Budget 2024/25 became the substantive motion.

A recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion

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

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

ABSTENTIONS: None

vii) Council Tax 2024/25

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, presented the resolution setting the Council Tax for the Council's area for council approval

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the motion.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

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

AGAINST: Councillors K. Kondakor, and M Wright

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLVED that

- a) it be noted that on 31st January 2023 the amount of 40,085.8 has been calculated and determined as the Council Tax base for the year 2024/25 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 2024/25 is **£10,566,216.02**
- c) the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-
 - (a) **£ 112,811,108.62**
being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act;
 - (b) **£102,244,769.60**
being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
 - (c) **£ 10,566,216.02**
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) **£263.59**
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) it be noted that for the year 2024/25 **Warwickshire County Council** has indicated a precept requirement to the Council of **£69,596,565.10** and has indicated 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) it be noted that for the year 2024/25 the **Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner** has indicated a precept requirement to the Council of **£11,613,247.90** and has indicated 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) 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.

1	2	3	4	5
Valuation Bands	Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council	Warwickshire County Council	Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner	Council Tax 2024/25
	£	£	£	£
AR	146.44	964.55	160.95	1,271.94
A	175.73	1,157.46	193.14	1,526.33
B	205.01	1,350.37	225.33	1,780.71
C	234.30	1,543.28	257.52	2,035.10
D	263.59	1,736.19	289.71	2,289.49
E	322.17	2,122.01	354.09	2,798.27
F	380.74	2,507.83	418.47	3,307.04
G	439.32	2,893.65	482.85	3,815.82
H	527.18	3,472.38	579.42	4,578.98

g) the Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2024/25 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2024/25. 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:

Tina Jardim
Katie Hines

Jade Fuller

Sharon Payne

viii) Treasury Strategy 2024/25

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate, Councillor S. Croft, presented the recommendations made at Cabinet, in respect of the above, held earlier on 21st February 2024 and moved them for Council approval.

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the motion.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

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

AGAINST: Councillors K. Kondakor and M Wright

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Strategy Statement including all Prudential Indicators, the MRP policy and Annual Investment Strategy be approved.

CL76 Vote of Thanks

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

Mayor