

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

21st January, 2026

An Extraordinary Council meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 21st January 2026.

Present

Mayor Councillor B. Saru
Deputy Mayor Councillor T. Sheppard

Councillors, E. Amaechi, M. Bird, J. Bonner, D. Brown, A. Bull, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, S. Dhillon, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, W. Hancox, J. Hartshorn, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, A. Khangura, N. King, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, C. Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, J. Sheppard, R. Smith, C. Smith, T. Venson, M. Walsh, C. Watkins, K. Wilson and M. Wright.

Apologies were received for Councillors S. Croft

CL50 **Declarations of Interests**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interests for this meeting are as set out in the schedule available to view on the website.

CL51 **Announcements**

None

CL52 **Public Participation**

Question 1 – County Councillor Keith Kondakor made the following statement:

I think it is unreasonable for the council to require my question or statement to be submitted in advance when so much can change before we get to public questions. 'A week is a long time in politics' has never been more true. Assuming that nothing has changed, will the leader accept that many in the borough, like me, would like the May 2026 elections to go ahead and understand why I think it is time for a new leader for this council, given his response to the letter from the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, Alison McGovern MP, asking for his view on holding the election this year.

Councillor C. Watkins, Leader of the Council, gave no response

CL53 Notice of Motion

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor K. Wilson moved the following motion as follows that was submitted in accordance with the Constitution Part 4A 3 4.3.1 (iv):

Disagreements over policy are part of the normal political process and elected officials should abide by the result of a democratic vote, regardless of their personal view on the subject. However, when the fundamental rights of citizens are denied, it is the duty of elected members to challenge any attempt to do so.

The right to vote has been fought for over centuries and is the cornerstone of our democracy. Any delay in elections must be justified and proportionate, as in the time of war or pandemic.

This Council believes that the government has not met the high threshold for delaying the local elections in May and the lack of a timetable for local government reform in Warwickshire means that no special circumstances exist for a delay.

The letter of the Leader of the Council dated 5 January 2026 to request a delay for the elections in Nuneaton and Bedworth fundamentally undermines the rights of the residents of our Borough in a way that surpasses normal disagreements over policy.

Therefore, this Council resolves that it has no confidence in the Leader of the Council and calls for his immediate removal from office.

Councillor S. Markham seconded the motion

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Roze, R. Smith, M. Walsh, K. Wilson and M. Wright (19)

AGAINST: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, C. Phillips, K. Price, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson, and C. Watkins (18)

ABSTENTION: None

RESOLVED that this Council has no confidence in Councillor Chris Watkins, Leader of the Council, and that he be immediately removed as Leader of the Council.

CL54 **Nominations for Leader**

Upon the removal of Councillor Chris Watkins from his position as Leader of the Council, the Mayor called to receive nominations from Council to hold the position of Leader of the Council.

Three nominations were received as follows:

Councillor S. Markham put forward **Councillor K. Wilson** to hold the position of Leader of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor J. Clarke

Councillor J. Bonner put forward **Councillor S. Hey** to hold the position of Leader of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor B. Hughes.

Councillor M. Wright put forward **Councillor M. Kondakor** to hold the position of Leader of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor R. Roze.

As per the Constitution rule 4.15.6. The voting was conducted in rounds until there is a majority of votes for one person. A recorded vote was taken on all rounds as follows:

Round 1

Recorded Vote for Councillor K. Wilson was received as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Smith, M. Walsh, and K. Wilson (16)

AGAINST: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, M. Kondakor, C.

Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson, C. Watkins and M. Wright (21)

ABSTENTION: None

Recorded Vote for Councillor S. Hey was received as follows:

FOR: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, C. Phillips, K. Price, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson and, C. Watkins (18)

AGAINST: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Roze, R. Smith, M. Walsh, K. Wilson and M. Wright (19)

ABSTENTION: None

Recorded Vote for Councillor M. Kondakor was received as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Kondakor, R. Roze, and M. Wright (3)

AGAINST: Councillors E. Amaechi, M. Bird, J. Bonner, D. Brown, A. Bull, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, S. Dhillon, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, W. Hancox, J. Hartshorn, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, A. Khangura, N. King, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, C. Phillips, K. Price, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, R. Smith, T. Venson, M. Walsh, C. Watkins and K. Wilson (34)

ABSTENTION: None

Councillor M. Kondakor with the fewest votes was removed from the nomination process.

Round 2

The remaining nominees Councillor K. Wilson and S. Hey then received a further voting round as follows:

Recorded vote for Councillor K. Wilson was received as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Smith, M. Walsh, and K. Wilson (16)

AGAINST: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, M. Kondakor, C. Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson, C. Watkins and M. Wright (21)

ABSTENTION: None

A recorded vote for Councillor S. Hey was received as follows:

FOR: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, M. Kondakor, C. Phillips, K. Price, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson, C. Watkins and, M. Wright (20)

AGAINST: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Roze, R. Smith, M. Walsh, and K. Wilson (17)

ABSTENTION: None

Councillor S. Hey received the highest majority of votes.

RESOLVED that Councillor S. Hey be appointed as Leader of the Council for his remaining term.

Mayor