

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

28th January, 2026

An Extraordinary Council meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 28th January 2026.

Present

Mayor Councillor B. Saru

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

Apologies were received for Deputy Mayor Councillor T. Sheppard and councillors W. Hancox, R. Smith, K. Wilson, M. Walsh, T. Cooper, J. Gutteridge, S. Dhillon and A. Khangura.

CL55 **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. In addition the following interests were declared:

- Councillor S. Markham declared an interest by way of her nominating Kenneth Whitehead to receive the Honorary title of Freeman of the Borough;
- Councillor B. Saru declared an interest by way of him nominating Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO to receive the Honorary title of Freeman of the Borough;
- Councillor L. Cvetkovic declared an interest by way of him nominating Eric Tunncliffe to receive the Honorary title of Freeman of the Borough.

CL56 **Announcements**

None

CL57 **Public Participation**

None

CL58 Nomination of Honorary Freeman – Kenneth Whitehead

Kenneth Whitehead was nominated by the Civic Honours Sub-committee held on 26th November 2025 to receive the Honorary title of Freeman in recognition for his services to Nuneaton and Bedworth as Chairman of the Bedworth Armistice Parade Committee and serving the community for over 40 years. Furthermore, he was instrumental in the planning and creation of the Peace Podium in Bedworth building a movement rooted in remembrance, pride and community unity

Councillor S. Markham moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor D. Brown.

RESOLVED that

- a) Mr Kenneth Whitehead be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in recognition of his distinguished service to Nuneaton and Bedworth and that his name be enrolled on the Freeman's roll.
- b) the common seal of the Council be affixed to the enrolment of Mr Kenneth Whitehead on the said Freeman's roll and to the certificate to be presented to him on his admission as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough
- c) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree an expenditure figure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services for the purposes associated with the appointment.

CL59 Nomination of Honorary Freeman – Eric Tunnicliffe

Eric Tunnicliffe was nominated by the Civic Honours Sub-committee held on 26th November 2025 to receive the Honorary title of Freeman in recognition for his services to Nuneaton and Bedworth as Chairman of the Bedworth Lions and raising essential funds to support local charities and community organisations for 50 years. In addition, he was awarded the Melvyn Jones Fellowship award for his outstanding contribution to humanitarian services in 2024.

Councillor L. Cvetkovic moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor S. Markham.

RESOLVED that

- a) Mr Eric Tunnicliffe be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in recognition of his distinguished service to Nuneaton and Bedworth and that his name be enrolled on the Freeman's roll.
- b) the common seal of the Council be affixed to the enrolment of Mr Eric Tunnicliffe on the said Freeman's roll and to the certificate to be presented to him on his admission as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough
- c) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree an expenditure figure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services for the purposes associated with the appointment.

CL60 Nomination of Honorary Freeman – Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO

Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO was nominated by the Civic Honours Sub-committee held on 26th November 2025 to receive the Honorary title of Freeman in recognition of his services to Nuneaton and Bedworth by way of him being a Major in the Queen's Gurkha Regiment and honoured as a Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer and, awarded the Member of the Royal Victorian Order. Since his retirement, he continues to contribute as a Chief Advisor to the British Gurkha Veterans Association in addition to supporting young people and the elderly in the wider community.

Councillor B. Saru moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor S. Hey.

RESOLVED that

- a) Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in recognition of his distinguished service to Nuneaton and Bedworth and that his name be enrolled on the Freeman's roll.
- b) the common seal of the Council be affixed to the enrolment of Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO on the said Freeman's roll and to the

certificate to be presented to him on his admission as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough

- c) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree an expenditure figure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services for the purposes associated with the appointment.

CL61 **Nomination of Honorary Freeman – John Burton**

John Burton was nominated by the Civic Honours Sub-committee held on 26th November 2025 to receive the Honorary title of Freeman in recognition for his services to Nuneaton and Bedworth by way of him being a preserver of local history for 50 years in respect of his large collection of historical photographs, author of several local historical books, President of the Bedworth Society, Chairman of the George Eliot Fellowship, Treasurer of the George Eliot Visitor Centre and Chairman to the Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre.

Councillor B. Hughes moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor C. Watkins.

RESOLVED that

- a) Mr John Burton be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in recognition of his distinguished service to Nuneaton and Bedworth and that his name be enrolled on the Freeman's roll.
- b) the common seal of the Council be affixed to the enrolment of Mr John Burton on the said Freeman's roll and to the certificate to be presented to him on his admission as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough
- c) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree an expenditure figure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services for the purposes associated with the appointment.

Mayor