

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

20th May 2026

The meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 20th May 2026.

Present

The Mayor (Councillor B. Saru)

Councillors, N. Bagga, M. Bannister, J. Bartlett, M. Bird, J. Bonner, D. Boughan, A. Brassington, R. Brill, C. Cape, S. Carvell, J. Clarke, S. Coates-Jarman, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, G. Finch, S. Finch, B. Greenwood, J. Groves, W. Hancox, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, N. King, K. Kondakor, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, C. Morris, B. Pandher, C. Phillips, T. Sheppard, P. Smith, T. Venson, K. Wilson and M. Wright

Apologies received for D. Brown, W. Markham and C. Watkins

CL1 Election of Chair (The Mayor)

It was proposed by Councillor G. Finch and seconded by Councillor R. Brill that Councillor C. Cape be appointed Chair of the Borough Council of Nuneaton and Bedworth (to be styled Mayor) for the ensuing municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor P. Hickling and seconded by Councillor B. Hughes that Councillor T. Sheppard be appointed Chair of the Borough Council of Nuneaton and Bedworth (to be styled Mayor) for the ensuing municipal year.

A vote was taken.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor C. Cape be elected Chair of the Borough Council of Nuneaton and Bedworth (to be styled Mayor) for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor B. Saru then vacated the Chair and invested the newly elected Mayor with the Chain of office.

Having accepted the appointment, Councillor C. Cape, made and subscribed the declaration of acceptance of office and thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon him in electing him to the office of Mayor.

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR C. CAPE) IN THE CHAIR

CL2 Vote of Thanks

It was **RESOLVED** that

- a) i) the best thanks of this Council be tendered to Councillor B. Saru and Mrs Sharmila Saru for the able and courteous manner in which they fulfilled the duties of Mayor and Mayoress during the past Municipal Year; and
- ii) Councillor B. Saru presented to Council his donation to the parlour of a framed embroidered badge of his regiment in which he served as a Gurkha acknowledging his history and his embroidery business situated in Nuneaton Town Centre.
- b) the best thanks of this Council be tendered to Councillor T. Sheppard and Deputy Consort B. Sheppard for the able and courteous manner in which they fulfilled the duties of Deputy Mayor and Deputy Consort during the past Municipal Year;

CL3 Election of Vice-Chair (The Deputy Mayor)

It was proposed by Councillor J. Bonner and seconded by Councillor B. Hughes that Councillor T. Sheppard be appointed Vice-Chair of the Borough Council of Nuneaton and Bedworth (to be styled Deputy Mayor) for the ensuing municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor G. Finch and seconded by Councillor P. Smith that Councillor D. Boughan be appointed Vice-Chair of the Borough Council of Nuneaton and Bedworth (to be styled Deputy Mayor) for the ensuing municipal year.

A vote was taken.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor D. Boughan be appointed Vice-Chair of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (to be styled Deputy Mayor) for the ensuing Municipal Year.

The Mayor then invested the Deputy Mayor with the Deputy Mayor's badge.

Having accepted the appointment, Councillor D. Boughan made and subscribed the declaration of acceptance of the office and thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon her in appointing her to the office of Deputy Mayor.

CL4 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 29th April 2026, were confirmed, and signed by the Mayor.

CL5 **Declarations of Interests**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interests for this meeting are as set out in the schedule attached to these minutes. In addition, the following amendments were made:

Councillor G. Finch declared an Other Interest by way of him being a Member of Warwickshire County Council and appointed Leader.

Councillor M. Bannister declared an Other Interest by way of him being a Member of Warwickshire County Council and appointed a Cabinet Member.

Councillor S. Carvell declared an Other Interest by way of him being a Member of Warwickshire County Council.

CL6 **Announcements**

None

CL7 **Returning Officers report**

The Returning Officer announced the results of the recent Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council elections held on Thursday 7th May 2026 as shown below:

Conservative Party	9
Green Party	3
Labour Party	11
Reform UK	15

CL8 **Election of Leader**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Bannister and seconded by Councillor S. Carvell that Councillor G. Finch be nominated for the appointment of Leader

It was proposed by Councillor N. King and seconded by Councillor P. Hickling that Councillor B. Hughes be nominated for the appointment of Leader.

It was proposed by Councillor K. Kondakor and seconded by Councillor M. Kondakor that Councillor K. Kondakor be nominated for the appointment of Leader.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

A vote on Councillor G. Finch for the appointment of Leader was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors N. Bagga, M. Bannister, J. Bartlett, M. Bird, D. Boughan, A. Brassington, R. Brill, C. Cape, S. Carvell, J. Clarke, S. Coates-Jarman, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, G. Finch, S. Finch, B. Greenwood, J. Groves, S. Markham, C. Morris, B. Pandher, P. Smith and K. Wilson

AGAINST: Councillors J. Bonner, W. Hancox, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, N. King, K. Kondakor, M. Kondakor, C. Phillips, B. Saru, T. Sheppard, T. Venson and M. Wright

ABSTENTIONS: None

A vote on Councillor B Hughes was taken on her nomination for Appointment of Leader as follows:

FOR: Councillors J. Bonner, W. Hancox, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, N. King, K. Kondakor, C. Phillips, B. Saru, T. Sheppard, and T. Venson

AGAINST: Councillors N. Bagga, M. Bannister, J. Bartlett, M. Bird, D. Boughan, A. Brassington, R. Brill, C. Cape, S. Carvell, J. Clarke, S. Coates-Jarman, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, G. Finch, S. Finch, B. Greenwood, J. Groves, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, C. Morris, B. Pandher, P. Smith and K. Wilson

ABSTENTIONS: Councillor M. Wright

A vote on Councillor K. Kondakor was taken on his nomination for appointment of Leader as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Kondakor and M. Wright.

AGAINST: Councillors N. Bagga, M. Bannister, J. Bartlett, M. Bird, D. Boughan, A. Brassington, R. Brill, C. Cape, S. Carvell, J. Clarke, S. Coates-Jarman, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, G. Finch, S. Finch, B. Greenwood, J. Groves, W. Hancox, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, N. King, S. Markham, C. Morris, B. Pandher, C. Phillips, T. Sheppard, P. Smith, T. Venson, and K. Wilson

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors J. Bonner, K. Kondakor, and B. Saru

RESOLVED that Councillor G. Finch be elected as Leader for the ensuing four year term.

CL8 **Composition and Membership of Committees and Appointments to Outside Bodies for 2026/2027**

It was **RESOLVED** that

- a) The Leader's appointments to and allocation of responsibilities for the Cabinet Portfolios, as given below, be noted:

A vote was taken, and this was carried.

Portfolio Holder	Member Appointed
Leader	Councillor George Finch
Deputy Leader and Finances, Enabling Services & Communities	Councillor Mike Bannister
Housing	Councillor James Bartlett
Planning, Enforcement and Public Services	Councillor Shane Coates-Jarman
Town Centre Regeneration and Business Development	Councillor Jake Groves
Leisure and Health	Councillor Bobbie Greenwood

- b) The composition of Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Panels.
Councillor G. Finch moved the following motion:

‘Mr Mayor, before moving to the composition of the of Committees and OSPs, I wish to move an amendment to the OSP structure which intends to reduce the number of OSP’s from four to three, and the proposed remit of each OSP as follows:

- ***Business, Regeneration & Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel – no change***
- ***Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel; and***
- ***Environment, Health and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel.***

I have available for members, the remits of each as a printout for the purposes of voting and this would need to be voted on before Full Council can consider the composition of Committees and OSP’s as this reduces the number of seats overall, therefore impacting the allocation of seats. On the basis this amendment to the OSP structure is carried, the composition of Committees and OSP’s would be as follows having consulted with the Monitoring Officer, noting the vacancy in the Camp Hill Ward:

- Conservative a total of 23 seats
- Green a total of 8 seats
- Labour a total of 26 seats
- Reform a total of 38 seats
- Vacancy a total of 2 seats’

Councillor M. Bannister seconded the motion.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors N. Bagga, M. Bannister, J. Bartlett, M. Bird, D. Boughan, A. Brassington, R. Brill, C. Cape, S. Carvell, J. Clarke, S. Coates-Jarman, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, G. Finch, S. Finch, B. Greenwood, J. Groves, S. Markham, C. Morris, B. Pandher, P. Smith and K. Wilson

AGAINST: Councillors J. Bonner, W. Hancox, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, N. King, K. Kondakor, M. Kondakor, C. Phillips, B. Saru, T. Sheppard, T. Venson and M. Wright

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLVED that

- i) the structure of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be reduced from four to three;
 - ii) the remits of the three OSP's be agreed as follows:
Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP
Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing OSP
Environment, Health and Leisure OSP; and
 - iii) the composition of the committees and OSPs be agreed as follows noting the vacancy in Camp Hill ward:
 - Conservative a total of 23 seats
 - Green a total of 8 seats
 - Labour a total of 26 seats
 - Reform a total of 38 seats
 - Vacancy a total of 2 seats'
- c) The Membership of Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Councillor G. Finch moved the following motion:

'Noting the previous agenda item and change to the composition of Committees, the Monitoring Officer has informed me of the impact on each group because of the three OSP Structure approved in the previous item. For the benefit of Full Council, it is as follows :

- Conservatives: no change for committees and as for the 3 OSP's remaining, there are 2 seats per panel.
- Greens: no change for committees and as for the 3 OSP's remaining, there is 1 seat per panel.

- Labour: no change for committees and as for the 3 OSP's remaining, there are 2 seats for two panels and 3 seats for one panel proposed to be the Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing OSP.
- Reform: no change for committees and as for the 3 OSP's remaining, there are 4 seats for two panels and 3 seats for one panel which is proposed to be the Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing OSP.
- That leaves the vacancy at 2 seats, one for the Officer Remuneration Panel and one seat for Shareholder Committee.

Furthermore, I'd also like to propose an amendment to the Constitution to reword the Chair and Vice Chairmanships for OSP's and some Committees.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution is as follows:

Audit and Standards, Licensing, Planning Committees

The Council will appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee at Annual Council unless a change is required during the Municipal Year.

The Committee shall be politically balanced and will comprise of eleven (11) Members and have a quorum of five (5).

If at any meeting neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair are present, the Members present will appoint a Chair for that meeting from any member of that committee.

Council Shareholder Committee

The Council will appoint the Chair and Vice Chair at Annual Council unless a change is required during the Municipal Year.

The Committee shall be politically balanced and will comprise of six (6) Members and have a quorum of three (3).

If at any meeting neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair are present, the Members present will appoint a Chair for that meeting from any member of that committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Panels

WHO CHAIRS OSP MEETINGS?

The Council will appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of each OSP at Annual Council unless a change is required during the Municipal Year.

If at any meeting neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair are present, the Members present will appoint a Chair for that meeting from any member of that committee.'

Councillor M. Bannister seconded the motion.

An adjournment was taken to consider the motion and its implication to Membership of the Committees and Panels commencing 7.30pm to 7.55pm.

A recorded vote was taken on the amendment to constitution to reword the Chair and Vice Chairmanships for OSP's and some Committees

FOR: Councillors N. Bagga, M. Bannister, J. Bartlett, M. Bird, D. Boughan, A. Brassington, R. Brill, C. Cape, S. Carvell, J. Clarke, S. Coates-Jarman, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, G. Finch, S. Finch, B. Greenwood, J. Groves, S. Markham, C. Morris, B. Pandher, P. Smith and K. Wilson

AGAINST: Councillors J. Bonner, W. Hancox, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, N. King, K. Kondakor, M. Kondakor, C. Phillips, B. Saru, T. Sheppard, T. Venson and M. Wright

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLVED that the constitution be updated as above.

Following the agreed change in the constitution nominations were taken for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair as follows:

Labour Group:

Audit and standards
Councillor J. Bonner (Chair)

Licensing:
Councillor T. Sheppard (Chair)

Planning:
Councillor W. Hancox (Chair)

Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP:
Councillor P. Hickling (Chair)

Environment, Health and Leisure OSP:
Councillor B. Hughes (Chair)

Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing OSP:
Councillor C. Watkins(Chair)

No Vice-Chairs were put forward.

Conservative Group:

Audit and Standards:

Councillor L. Cvetkovic (Chair),
Councillor D. Brown (Vice-chair)

Licensing:

Councillor M. Bird (Chair),
Councillor J. Clarke (Vice-Chair)

Planning:

Councillor K. Wilson (Chair),
Councillor L. Cvetkovic (Vice-Chair)

Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP

Councillor J. Clarke (Chair)
Councillor M. Bird (Vice-Chair)

Environment, Health and Leisure OSP

Councillor S. Markham (Chair)
Councillor B. Pandher (Vice-Chair)

Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing OSP

Councillor D. Brown (Chair)
Councillor T. Cooper (Vice-Chair)

Councillor K. Kondakor proposed a motion that the Chair's and Vice-Chairs be from different political parties.

Councillor M. Kondakor seconded the motion

A vote was taken on the motion

The vote was lost.

A vote was taken on the appointments of Chair and Vice Chairs.

It was **RESOLVED** that the appointments of Chairs and Vice Chairs be agreed as follows:

Audit and Standards:

Councillor L. Cvetkovic (Chair),
Councillor D. Brown (Vice-chair)

Licensing:

Councillor M. Bird (Chair),
Councillor J. Clarke (Vice-Chair)

Planning:

Councillor K. Wilson (Chair),
Councillor L. Cvetkovic (Vice-Chair)

Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP

Councillor J. Clarke (Chair)

Councillor M. Bird (Vice-Chair)

Environment, Health and Leisure OSP

Councillor S. Markham (Chair)

Councillor B. Pandher (Vice-Chair)

Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing OSP

Councillor D. Brown (Chair)

Councillor T. Cooper (Vice-Chair)

Following the appointment of Chair's and Vice Chairs the following Membership of Committees and OSPs were proposed as follows:

Appeals (10)

- proposed by Councillor K. Wilson, seconded by Councillor M. Bannister

Councillors: M. Bannister, J. Bartlett, J. Bonner, A. Brassington, W. Hancox, S. Markham, W. Markham, T. Sheppard, P. Smith, M. Wright

Notes:

1. 5 members will be selected from the pool as required.
2. The Chair will be appointed at each particular meeting.

A vote was taken on the Membership of Appeals Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Appeals Committee be agreed as above.

Audit and Standards Committee (11)

- proposed by Councillor S. Markham and seconded by Councillor G. Finch

Councillor L. Cvetkovic (Chair),
Councillor D. Brown (Vice-chair)

Councillors: J. Bonner, A. Brassington, C. Cape, S. Carvell, T. Cooper, B. Hughes, M. Kondakor, C. Phillips, C. Morris.

A vote was taken on Membership of Audit and Standards Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Audit and Standards Committee be agreed as above.

Licensing (11)

- proposed by Councillor G. Finch and seconded by Councillor K. Wilson

Councillor M. Bird (Chair),
Councillor J. Clarke (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: N. Bagga, A. Brassington, C. Cape, S. Coates-Jarman, B. Hughes, N. King, W. Markham, T. Sheppard, M. Wright

A vote was taken on the Membership of Licensing Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Licensing Committee be agreed as above.

Planning Applications (11)

- proposed by Councillor K. Wilson and seconded by Councillor G. Finch

Councillor K. Wilson (Chair),
Councillor L. Cvetkovic (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: J. A. Bartlett, D. Boughan, S. Carvell, W. Hancox, P. Hickling, K. Kondakor, S. Markham, C. Morris, T. Venson

A vote was taken on the Membership of Planning Applications Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Planning Applications Committee be agreed as above.

Councillor L. Cvetkovic moved a procedural motion in line with the constitution Part 4A.12 (m) to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting beyond three hours until the business of the meeting has been concluded.

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the motion

A vote was taken

The motion was carried.

Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny (9)

- proposed by Councillor G. Finch and seconded by Councillor K. Wilson

Councillor J. Clarke (Chair)
Councillor M. Bird (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: N. Bagga, D. Boughan, A. Brassington, C. Cape, N. King, K. Kondakor and P. Hickling

A vote was taken on the Membership of Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny be agreed as above.

Environment, Health and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny (9)

- proposed by Councillor J. Groves and seconded by M. Bannister

Councillor S. Markham (Chair)

Councillor B. Pandher (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: R. Brill, C. Cape, S. Finch, B. Hughes, P. Smith, C. Watkins, M. Wright

A vote was taken on the Membership of Environment, Health and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Environment, Health and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny be agreed as above.

Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing Overview and Scrutiny (9)

- proposed by Councillor M. Bannister and seconded by Councillor C. Morris

Councillor D. Brown (Chair)

Councillor T. Cooper (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: R. Brill, S. Finch, M. Kondakor, C. Phillips, B. Saru, P. Smith, C. Watkins

A vote was taken on the Membership of Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing Overview and Scrutiny.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing Overview and Scrutiny be agreed as above

Borough Plan (9)

- proposed by Councillor K. Wilson and seconded by Councillor L. Cvetkovic

Councillor S. Coates-Jarman (Chair)

Councillors: M. Bannister, L. Cvetkovic, G. Finch, J. Groves, K. Kondakor, B. Saru, T. Venson, K. Wilson

A vote was taken on Membership of the Borough Plan Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Borough Plan Committee be agreed as above

Officer Remuneration Panel (5)

- proposed by Councillor M. Bannister and seconded by Councillor K. Wilson

Councillor G. Finch (Chair)

Councillors: M. Bannister, B. Hughes, S. Markham, Vacancy

A vote was taken on Membership of the Officer Remuneration Panel.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Officer Remuneration Panel be agreed as above

Shareholder Committee (6)

- proposed by Councillor R. Brill and seconded by Councillor K. Wilson

Councillor K. Wilson (Chair)

Councillors: S. Coates-Jarman, B. Hughes, N. King, C. Morris, Vacancy

A vote was taken on membership of the Shareholder Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Shareholder Committee be agreed as above

- d) **RESOLVED** that the Outside Bodies be deferred for further consideration and consultation with the Group Leaders and, the Chief Executive be given Delegated Authority to finalise appointments.

- e) **RESOLVED** that the appointment of the following co-opted members be agreed as follows accounting for the reduction of Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Audit and Standards Committee

Mr Anthony Morgan

Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Mr Jon Healy

Environment, Health and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Mr Anthony Morgan

Communities, Corporate Resources and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Mrs D. Ross

CL9 **Member Allowances**

The Assistant Director – Democracy & Governance submitted a report on the above for council approval.

Councillor G. Finch moved the recommendations.

Councillor D. Boughan seconded the recommendations

RESOLVED that the Member Allowances be agreed as per the report

CL10 **Timetable of Committee Meetings 2026/27**

The Assistant Director – Governance and Democracy submitted a report of the timetable of meetings as set out in Appendix A of the report.

Councillor G. Finch moved the recommendations with the following additions:

- a) Full Council on the 8th July be moved to 1st July; and
- b) Delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer and Head of Paid Service to update timetable of meetings following the change in OSP structure

Councillor M. Bannister seconded the recommendations

Councillor B. Hancox moved the item be deferred until consultation with members has been undertaken.

Councillor B. Hughes seconded the motion.

A vote was taken

The motion was lost.

RESOLVED that

- a) the timetable of committee meetings as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved with the amendment of full council on the 8th July 2026 be moved to 1st July 2026; and
- b) Delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer and Head of Paid Service to update the timetable of meetings following the change in OSP structure.

CL11 **Scheme of Delegation**

RESOLVED that the Scheme of Delegation for the Executive functions, as set out in item 14a of the agenda as determined by the Leader be noted; and the Council functions, as set out in item 14b of the agenda, be approved.

Mayor