

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**4<sup>th</sup> December, 2019**

The meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held at the Town Hall, Nuneaton, on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

**Present**

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

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

Apologies: Councillors K. Brindley-Edwards and H. Walmsley.

CL36 **Minutes**

The Mayor informed Members of an error in regards to Minute CL33 (a), paragraph 2 and the following required amendment:

“Councillor M. Rudkin seconded the motion.”

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, as amended above, were approved and signed by the Mayor.

CL37 **Declarations of Interests**

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

CL38 **Announcements**

The Mayor brought Members’ attention to the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award 2019 that had been awarded to the Borough Council and was on display in the Chamber.

The Mayor also politely reminded Members that the meeting was of Nuneaton and Bedworth Council and not a husting for the pending general election.

CL39 **Public Participation**

**Question 1**

**Mr Lee Downs asked the following question of Councillor Neil Phillips, the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Health:**

“Can the council inform me why NBBC have changed the planning portal on their websites? which stops anyone from seeing maps, layouts and planning information.

“Can you please tell me how without these I can respond to planning applications?”

**Councillor Neil Phillips gave the following response:**

“Firstly, apologies to any resident that has had trouble getting on.

“We put in a new system. The old Microsoft system had to be replaced and updated. The basic problem was that old application forms, prior to the changeover, had to be redacted and checked before going on the new system. Anyone looking at old application forms had a problem whereby they weren’t able at that particular time to look at maps, plans, environmental concerns, etc. Any new applications and there isn’t a problem.

“We have to make sure that old applications that maybe coming forward to Planning Committee are updated; that’s a lot of work to redact and transfer them over. We won’t be going back to the old system as the new system works well. But we have to make sure that residents can get hold of the information they need. If people can’t find what they need they can ring Planning Officers and ask for information on a particular planning application and we will redact all the information and transfer it over. There is a button on the system that says ‘Old’, but we have so many planning applications that need to be updated to the new system. It is a safer system because the IT we used wasn’t safe going forward.

“It is a pain I know, but we will make sure that any applications going forward to Planning Committee are up to date well in advance so residents can look at them.”

Councillor K. Evans moved that in accordance with Paragraph 4A.9.8 of the Council’s Constitution the matter be referred to the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Phillips.

A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that the new Planning Portal be referred to Internal Overview and Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

## **Question 2**

**Mrs Michele Kondakor asked the following question:**

“We have had some great events in the Borough this year, including the recent events for the George Eliot bicentenary. Attendance has, however, been variable and seems to be directly related to the amount of publicity. As only a small proportion of people get a local newspaper or use social media, what steps are being taken to ensure that the efforts of those organising the events are rewarded by good publicity and hence, attendance?”

**Councillor Julie Jackson gave the following response:**

“We have indeed had a number of excellent events across the Borough during 2019 catering for a wide range of tastes and interests. Many of these have been delivered directly by the Borough Council, while for others we have played a supporting role to the event organisers.

“Some of the events have had an appeal to a wide range of people, while others have been aimed at a more niche potential audience, and so it is inevitable that attendance levels will differ between various events. However, it is clearly important that the Borough Council plays its part in ensuring that the advertising and publicity around events is as effective as it can be within the available resources we have.

“In terms of this we are continually assessing how we can get wider coverage of future events through social media channels and other in-line facilities such as news websites and indeed our own website. We are also working hard to build positive relationships with the local and regional media to get radio and TV coverage of events in the Borough and of course we make use of our ongoing relationships with community groups to get information out to our residents.”

## **Question 3**

**Mr Brian Walmsley asked the following question of Councillor Neil Phillips, the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Health:**

“At a recent Overview and Scrutiny Panel it was reported that the claimed waiting times for Autism Diagnosis, and Neurodevelopmental Service, has increased within North Warwickshire (which includes Nuneaton and Bedworth) from 44 weeks in July 2018, to 52 weeks in July 2019, with most Nuneaton and Bedworth families having to wait over two years, including one family having to wait four years.

“Surely this situation, during a child’s formative years, cannot be acceptable in this day and age?”

“Will the Portfolio Holder please write to the Warwickshire Health and Well Being Board, seeking an urgent review of the situation, in order to stop this current trend of increasing waiting times, and introduce measures to reverse this trend so that our Nuneaton and Bedworth

families can be helped by having children assessed at an early stage, so that these children can have better life chances.”

**Councillor Neil Phillips gave the following response:**

“It really saddens me, and probably saddens everyone else in the Chamber tonight, that this issue is happening in 2019. To know that it often takes years to even get on the waiting list for an autism assessment and during all this time and the lengthy wait that the child is not coping at school, getting bullied and developing even more severe mental health issues.

“RISE, the new acronym for CAHMS, reported that waits had risen to 52 weeks. When I made a quick enquiry to the Nuneaton Autism Help site it showed that families are waiting in excess of 2 years; it’s not acceptable. What seems to be distorting the figures is when children find themselves in hospital after complete mental health breakdown or suicide attempt they are put on the waiting list for a day and then receive an assessment a day later.

“Whilst I am concerned and agree with the questioner, the reality seems to be much bleaker than that. Madam Mayor, as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board, I will write to the chair and try to seek an urgent review to this situation. It’s not good enough.

“If the questioner would like to talk to me afterwards I need to get a little more information before I go to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to put the letter together.”

**Question 4**

**Mr Karl Mayer asked the following question of Councillor Neil Phillips, the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Health:**

“Could the portfolio holder for Planning explain to me how this council advertised the current concept plan consultation to get this borough’s residents to attend the concept exhibitions and why the Woodlands Working Men’s club was not used as an exhibition venue for the concept plans and yet the Chess club in Camp hill was, given there is no development site for camp hill in the local plan?”

**Councillor Neil Phillips gave the following response:**

“The drop in sessions were originally arranged so that there would be one held in each locality area. A further 3 events were held at the request of Local Councillors at Nuneaton Academy, Whitestone and Weddington. A conscious decision was taken not to hold these in premises where alcohol would also be sold. The consultation events were for all the Supplementary Planning Documents being considered and not just the concept Plans and so it was correct that they were held in all localities.

“There were drop in sessions at Goodyers End School and at Bedworth Civic Hall both of which were well attended. As well as separate ones at Hawkesbury and Bulkington. In total 11 drop in sessions were held. Sessions were advertised on the Council’s website. The Council’s social media accounts and localities officers were also made aware we used social media.

“As normal, Policy planning officers are available 9 to 5 Monday to Friday at the Town Hall for queries on the documents either face to face or on the telephone and there are also email channels to the team for other queries.”

### **Question 5**

#### **Mr Lubs Cvetkovic made the following statement:**

“The latest Borough plan consultation on the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) has once again been an abject failure. Cllr Phillips and Katherine Moreton seem to once again have ignored the advice giving to them by their fellow Cllrs (Evans, Brown and Kondakor) as well as several residents who have been active participants in engaging with the whole Borough Plan Process.

“You did not advertise or publicise the events more widely, you did not use social media or local community forums. Areas directly affected such as woodland received no direct consultation meeting.

“The team running the meetings were, through no fault of their own unaware of what had been said during the hearings and were unable to give clear information to residents who attended.

“The SPD are not fit for purpose, and appear as a way of trying to get back in to the plan some of the more unpopular measures. An example of this can be seen in HSG7, at the Stage two hearings WCC Highways department said Bramcote Close was not suitable as an access point in to the site. However in the SPDs Bramcote Close has been included once again as a primary access point....why were officers not taking notes of this during the hearings! When raised with the consultation team they had no knowledge of this intervention by WCC and when asked to report this were unwilling to do so saying we should include it in our representations.....once again I am underwhelmed by the tardiness and lack of interest and support from this “Council and the indifference of some of the officers to residents.

“Secondly there is still no sign of the review of housing numbers, as asked for in a petition signed by 6,615 residents and as democratically voted and adopted by this Council. In the meantime applications from developers have started to come in. Let me remind you the term used was “immediate review” ....that means straight away not in 6 months’ time a year or longer.

“I found it laughable when I heard that the Labour Parliamentary candidate for Bedworth ( Claire Breeze) has been delivering leaflets which have made 5 promises to residents the first of which states “I will oppose the Councils housing plan.”

“Further to this the Rugby and Bulkington Labour Parliamentary Candidate (Debbie Bannigan) sent me Labours imaginatively named policy document “Land for the many” on housing. I particularly enjoyed chapter 5. Especially the bit which says “ creating a new model, in which development is led by democratically-accountable bodies with a duty to serve the public interest, working in partnership with local people, landowners and others . It also means empowering residents to help design their homes and surrounding infrastructure, putting people at the heart of development.” Let’s be honest you have done none of this from day you submitted the plan to the public. You have put upon us your vision and ignored our views and opinions.

“This Labour group is out of step with its residents, it is out of step with Parliamentary candidates and it is out of step with its own party’s national strategies. You aren’t here for the many, you aren’t here for the few, you are here to serve only yourselves.”

#### CL40 **Special Urgency Decisions**

**RESOLVED** that Members note that a Special Urgency Decision was taken on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, regarding the Draft Bedworth Town Centre Visioning Document – Public Consultation.

#### CL41 **Business from the Council Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 – Agenda Item 14 e)**

##### Notice of Motion

Councillor K. Wilson moved the following motion:

“This Council resolves to amend the Constitution at Part 9 and insert the following Paragraph as 9A.1(F) ...

“The Mayor is to attend mandatory training with the Director for Arts, Leisure and Democracy on the Constitution, rules of debate and the Mayor’s role in chairing meetings. Such training is to be held prior to the first substantive meeting of the Council following the Annual General Meeting; to ensure that the new Mayor is fully equipt and competent in the professional delivering of Council business.”

“Following the enactment of point one above, the Mayor for the municipal year 2019/20 shall be required to undertake the training as set out in the constitutional amendment above by the next Full Council.”

Councillor J. Gutteridge seconded the motion.

A recorded vote was taken on the motion as follows:

FOR : Councillors 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 and K. Wilson

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

ABSTENTION: None.

The motion was lost.

#### CL42 **Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council submitted her report on behalf of Cabinet. The report highlighted matters considered at the Cabinet meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, and also details of reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority Board, which had a direct impact on NBBC, namely the Board meetings of 13<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the report be noted; and
- b) Councillor I. Lloyd, Portfolio Holder for Arts and Leisure, provide Councillor K. Evans with a written response to his questions regarding the Glendale Live system.

#### CL43 **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**

Under the Electoral Administration Act 2013, the Council is required to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

The Returning Officer submitted a report to inform Members of the comments received from a recent consultation exercise in respect of polling districts and polling places. The responses to the consultation were detailed in Appendices A(1) and A(2) attached to the report. Appendix B reported comments received from disability groups and Appendix C provided a list of polling stations.

Councillor J. Jackson, moved the recommendations as set out on page 47 of the agenda.

Councillor N. Phillips seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) thanks be passed on to Elections officers;
- b) the schedule of polling districts and polling places, as amended, attached at Appendix C to the report be approved and published in accordance with the statutory requirements; and
- c) the Returning Officer be asked to consider the additional proposal arising from the consultation, and a further report outlining the conclusions be brought to a future meeting of the Council.

CL44 **Overseeing and Scrutinising the Exercise of the Borough Council's Shareholding in, and the Establishment and Operation of, the Local Authority Owned and Operated Sub-Regional Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)**

The Executive Director – Operations and the Executive Director – Resources, submitted a report presenting suggestions for establishing a robust way for the Council to scrutinise and oversee the establishment and operation of the local authority owned and operated Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) located in Coventry, and to assess how the Council's shareholding in the new Asset Co. is exercised.

Councillor J. Sheppard moved the recommendations as set out at section 2 of the report.

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) half yearly reports be presented by the Executive Director – Operations to the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Panel in regard to the establishment and ongoing operation of the local authority owned and operated Sub-Regional Materials Recycling Facility; and
- b) other partner Councils be approached to set up a Joint Shareholder Committee to enable regular scrutiny of how their shareholdings in the new Asset Co. are being exercised to take place.

[Councillor K. Kondakor requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.]

CL45 **Recommendations from Cabinet and other Committees**

a) **Local Council Tax Support Scheme**

Councillor Julie Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Civic Affairs, reported on recommendations made by Cabinet at its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, in respect of the above, and moved a motion for their approval.



Councillor K. Kondakor seconded the motion.

[Councillor D. Gissane left the Chamber at 7:38 p.m. and did not participate in the consideration or vote on this or any further agenda items.]

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

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

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTION: None

The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for April 2020 onwards reduce the minimum contribution required from 20% to 15%;
- b) the technical changes set out in section 5.2 of the Cabinet report be approved;
- c) and the resultant costs as set in the report be reflected in the Council Tax base for 2020/21.

**b) Treasury Management 2019/20 Mid-Year Review**

Councillor J. Jackson, Leader of the Council, reported on the recommendations made at the Cabinet meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, in respect of the above and moved a motion for their approval.

Councillor N. Phillips seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion was won.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the report be noted per the requirements of the CIPFA Code;
- b) the changes to the prudential indicators as detailed within the report and summarised at Appendix A be approved;
- c) the updated General Fund Capital Programme at Appendix B be approved.

CL46 **Notice of Motions**

**a) Cross Party Climate Working Group**

Councillor J. Jackson moved the following motion:

“This Council declares a climate emergency and in doing so commits to:

- establishing a cross party working group to investigate and subsequently advise on the actions and timescales required to make the Council’s activities carbon neutral by 2030. The working group will report initial findings and recommendations back to Cabinet within 4 months with the ability to invite a relevant external expert as appropriate;
- engaging with partner councils (specifically Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire’s 5 District and Borough Councils), local businesses, environmental groups and residents to inform our future actions; and
- call on government to provide the resources and where required the powers to enable Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to help deliver the UK’s carbon reduction targets.”

Councillor N. Phillips seconded the motion.

Councillor K. Evans moved the following amendment:

“After ‘call on Government to provide the resources and where required the powers to enable Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to help deliver the UK’s carbon reduction targets’ insert the following bullet points:

1. Commits to request the Leader of the Council to review the current Green Bin charge which, at present, is causing the mass fly tipping of green waste around the Borough.
2. Commits to request the Portfolio Holder for Arts & Leisure to conduct a formal investigation, into why the Parks Department did not bid for the Governments ‘Urban Tree Challenge Fund’ for more trees, which would have reduced the amount of carbon emissions in the Borough.
3. Commits to request the Executive Directors to appoint a designated Climate Change Champion at Director level, to lead on the Council’s response to the climate emergency declaration.
4. Commits to ban the issue of single use plastics in Nuneaton Town Hall and the Bedworth Civic Hall.
5. Commits to give its support to Cabinet for the proposal from Glendale to install communal composting bins in the Borough.
6. Commits to request the Planning Department to produce a light pollution strategy for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.
7. Commits to request the Executive Directors to publish a report to Full Council outlining what steps the Council intends to carry out, regarding the introduction of electric vehicles into the

Council's fleet, and, the use of renewable energy to source the Council's energy.

8. Commits to request the Executive Directors to provide annual reports to Full Council, detailing the progress made by the Council in reducing its carbon footprint.

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the amendments.

A recorded vote was taken on Councillor Evan's amendments, as follows:

FOR: Councillors D. Brown, S. Croft, K. Evans, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, K. Kondakor, A. Llewellyn-Nash, B. Pandher, R. Smith, R. Tromans and K. Wilson

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

ABSTENTION: G. Daffern, M. Rudkin, A. Sargeant and J. Sargeant.

The amendment was lost.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion, which was carried.

**RESOLVED** that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council declares a climate emergency and in doing so commits to:

- a) establishing a cross party working group to investigate and subsequently advise on the actions and timescales required to make the Council's activities carbon neutral by 2030. The working group will report initial findings and recommendations back to Cabinet within 4 months with the ability to invite a relevant external expert as appropriate;
- b) engaging with partner councils (specifically Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire's 5 District and Borough Councils), local businesses, environmental groups and residents to inform our future actions; and
- c) call on government to provide the resources and where required the powers to enable Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to help deliver the UK's carbon reduction targets.

**Councillor K. Wilson moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4A.21 to suspend standing orders, as the maximum time for the meeting should not normally exceed 3 hours and that this amount of time had passed.**

Councillor S. Gran seconded the Procedural motion.

**RESOLVED** that Standing Orders be suspended in order to continue the meeting until all business was completed in full.

**b) Transforming Bedworth cross party working group**

Councillor K. Wilson moved the following motion:

"This council requests the Executive Directors to prepare a report for the next available cabinet to establish a Transforming Bedworth cross-party working group to take forward the regeneration of Bedworth Town Centre, and invites Warwickshire County Council to join as equal participants in the working group."

Councillor J. Jackson seconded the motion.

Councillor K. Evans moved the following amendment:

"After paragraph one, insert the following paragraphs:

"This Council expresses its concern that the public consultation agreed by Cabinet on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, is being carried out over Christmas and the General Election. Therefore, Council requests the Leader of the Council to extend the public consultation by two weeks."

"and

"This Council requests the Leader of the Council to instruct Officers to hold two public consultation events at Bedworth Civic Hall, to be funded from unallocated reserves."

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the amendment.

A recorded vote was taken on Councillor Evans' amendment, as follows:

FOR: Councillors D. Brown, S. Croft, K. Evans, C. Golby, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, K. Kondakor, A. Llewellyn-Nash, B. Pandher, A. Sargeant, J. Sargeant, R. Smith, R. Tromans and K. Wilson.

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

ABSTENTION: None.

The amendment was lost.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion, which was carried.

**RESOLVED** that the Council requests the Executive Directors to prepare a report for the next available Cabinet to establish a Transforming Bedworth cross-party working group to take forward the regeneration of Bedworth Town Centre, and invites Warwickshire County Council to join as equal participants in the working group.

[Councillor K. Kondakor requested that it be recorded that he abstained from the vote on the substantive motion.]

[Councillor K. Evans requested that his vote in favour of the substantive motion be recorded.]

## CL47 **Questions by Members**

### **Question 1**

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

“The Council have recently abolished there Planning Portal and brought in a new complicated system, where Councillors and Residents are unable to view essential maps and planning documents. Already since its launch, I’ve been contacted by 18 residents, who are bitterly angry that the Council have in effect banned them from viewing the necessary documents needed, to respond to Planning consultations. Can I ask the Portfolio Holder why my request for the Communications team to create a video showing people how to use the new system has been denied, and why the Council has refused to scrap the system and go back to the old one?”

**Councillor Neil Phillips provided the following response:**

“The Planning area of the Council’s web site previously sat within an environment which was no longer being supported by Microsoft, which meant that updates to its security and other functions were no longer available and would therefore be vulnerable in terms of attack. It also means that the Council’s Public Services Network (PSN) compliance was restricted.

“The new system directly interrogates the Council’s Planning back office system without any need for details to be exported and uploaded to the web site.

“The new facility does allow for the viewing of Plans which is automatic for all the applications submitted since the system changed. With the other older applications or those already determined and due to data protection legislation, the details have to be first redacted. This is obviously very resource intensive and is why at the moment there is a request button on the portal that allows customers to expedite the uploading of any particular application can be therefore fast tracked.

“There was a technical error when the system first went live, where when searching by address and then selecting the relevant application the documents associated with the application were not showing. I understand that this has now been resolved.

"I have requested that the applications yet to be determined are redacted as well as the larger older applications as these are the ones we have the most request for. Unfortunately it is very time consuming; the changes do need to be in and at this particular time I do not feel there is a need for a YouTube video."

## **Question 2**

**Councillor Damon Brown asked the following question of Councillor Julie Jackson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Civic Affairs:**

"The video of the last full Council meeting held in September 2019 was uploaded to the Council's YouTube page late. The Council stated the delay was in order that legal advice could be taken prior to uploading the video. Can the Leader of the Council please inform me how much the legal advice that was sought cost the Council, and therefore the taxpayer, and whether she believes this was an effective use of taxpayers' money?"

**Councillor Julie Jackson provided the following response:**

"The initial costs were about £200. However, to ensure that Counsel had a clear picture of the issues, further details were obtained which required additional clarification of the potential claims that could be brought against the Council for publishing defamatory material. The final cost of the advice was £1650.

"As for whether taking legal advice on a matter that might lead to a claim against the Council costing tens of thousands of pounds, yes, I do believe that this was an effective use of Council-tax payers' money. What would have been better, however, is that the issue had never occurred in the first place. To that end, I would ask all members to be mindful of their comments at Council and to avoid making any unguarded statements that might expose the Council to a legal challenge and to use the appropriate authorities to use"

## **Question 3**

**Councillor Anne Llewellyn-Nash asked the following question of Councillor Ian Lloyd, Portfolio Holder for Arts and Leisure:**

"Last month, I went into Bedworth Town Centre with Councillor Evans and Gran for lunch, we decided to try out the Civic Hall Bistro; we were told that the Civic Hall Bistro does not open on Saturdays, which is a clear contradiction to what the website states. When the Civic Hall and the Bistro continue to lose money every financial year, I have to ask myself why the Bistro does not open on Saturdays, the time of week you'd expect a restaurant to make a profit. Labour are running the Bistro into the ground, why not ahead of Budget setting try and put the Civic Hall Bistro out to tender? "

**Councillor Ian Lloyd gave the following response:**

“Neither the Civic Hall or the Bistro are losing money. Councillors set the policy and monitor that policy. It’s not for me or any political party’s role to run the everyday operations of the Civic Hall, that’s why the Council pays a Manager.

“Trading on a Saturday was not financially viable and I can vouch for that because I used to use it every Saturday as I took the mother-in-law up there and there was about eight people in there. Moving to the new trading days the predicted income is £3000 above the initial projected budget. This is sound financial management on behalf of the Manager, Tim Norton.

“Surely the first call of action is to notify the Duty Manager or the Civic Hall Manager of the mistake on the website. It’s not right that the member of staff that made the mistake should be the first to hear of it on Social Media. Councillor Evans went straight to twitter on 16/11/2019 at 13:24 p.m. but then did not formalise a complaint by email until 19:58 p.m. on 16/11/2019. So I can only come to the conclusion that the timeline of the complaint gave staff no opportunity to answer or be corrected on the website and that this type of action by the Conservatives is actually gutter politics that is continuously undermining the management and staff’s hard work at the Civic hall. It’s not just an attack on me but an attack on them.

“Misleading the public they should be ashamed on themselves. I suspect, and I’ll apologise if I am wrong now, they knew the website was wrong before they even went there and the whole thing sounds to me like a political stunt.”

**Question 4**

**Councillor Keith Kondakor asked the following question of Councillor Chris Watkins, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities:**

“The borough council’s doors and windows multi-year contract is reported to be worth around £2.5million and has the potential to provide considerable improvements to the warmth and wellbeing of our residents. However, in cases where doors and windows are not properly installed, homes can become cold, expensive to heat and unhealthy. It is therefore vital that the quality is monitored and work tested for draughts and heat loss. What testing does the council do to ensure proper insulation/fillers have been used around new doors/windows and how many complaints/rectification notices have been issued since this contract started?”

**Councillor Chris Watkins gave the following response:**

“The Council is investing significantly in its existing housing stock, the window replacement programme being just one example of this. The Council is installing new double glazed windows across its housing stock to improve the security, health and wellbeing of our tenants. The

installation of new windows also contributes to a reduction in heat loss from the home, subsequently helping to reduce energy bills and reduce carbon emissions.

“The glazing contract is overseen by a dedicated Clerk of Works who carries out regular site visits to inspect the works whilst the installation is in progress. The Clerk of Works also completes a final sign off on each individual property. This sign off is to ensure the quality of work and to pick up any snagging requirements as expected in all major installations. No rectification notices have been necessary, with only a small number of recalls for snagging rectification.

“The returned satisfaction questionnaires identify that there is a positive response to the works from our tenants, with the majority returning a rating of good and very good.”

---

Mayor



## Council - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2019/2020

	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. Board member of Bulkington Village Centre  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		
	S. Croft	Employed at Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd	Treasurer of the Conservative Association	
	G. Daffern	Trainee teacher at Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry; Teacher of History, Etone College, Nuneaton	Co-opted Governor at Newdigate Primary School	
	S. Doughty	People in Action 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>	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	K. Evans	Employee of Academics Ltd	Executive Officer at the North Warwickshire & Bedworth Conservative Association Association Representative of Warwickshire Conservative Area Association	
	J. Glass	None	None	
	D. Gissane		Member of Warwickshire County Council	
	C. Golby		Member of Warwickshire County Council	
	S. Gran		Member of Warwickshire County Council	
	J. Gutteridge	Startin Tractors	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		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	Dispensation to speak and vote on matters that do not relate specifically to her husband's contract of employment.
			Non Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited	Dispensation to speak and vote
			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</li> </ul>	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority</li> </ul>	
	K.A. Kondakor		Member of Warwickshire County Council	
	A. Llewellyn-Nash	Employee of BMI Healthcare	Treasurer of Exhall Multi-cultural Group  Governor at Newdigate Primary and Nursery School, Bedworth	
	I. Lloyd		Non Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited.	Dispensation to speak and vote
			Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <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> </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	
			Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <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		Member of Warwickshire County Council Treasurer & Trustee of Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple; Coordinator of Council of Sikh Temples in Coventry; Secretary of Coventry Indian Community; Trustee of Sikh Monument	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Trust Vice Chair Exhall Multicultural Group	
	G.D. Pomfrett	None	None	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	<p>Member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A5 Sterling Group (Council Representative)</li> <li>• Nuneaton Labour CLP</li> <li>• The Fabian Society</li> <li>• The George Eliot Society</li> <li>• The PCS Union</li> <li>• Nuneaton Credit Union</li> </ul> <p>Non-Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited.</p>	<p>NABCEL – to speak and vote on any matter where the Council or Cabinet is asked to approve any funding arrangement; grant; or other legal instrument with the company but this dispensation shall not apply where any Non-Executive Director benefits from the arrangements in a personal capacity.</p>
	M. Rudkin	Employee of Coventry City Council	<p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A5 Member Partnership</li> <li>• PATROL Joint Committee</li> <li>• Warwickshire Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</li> <li>• Building Control Partnership Steering Group</li> </ul>	
	A. Sargeant		<p>Unite the Union</p> <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee</li> </ul>	
	J. Sargeant	SATCOL Charity Project Manager	<p>Member of Warwickshire County Council Chairman of The Nook (Nuneaton) Residents Association. Chair of Attleborough Community Matters group. Volunteer at Volunteer Friends Bulkington. Member of Nuneaton Carnival Committee</p> <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice Rights</li> </ul>	<p>To speak and vote on any matters related to the Salvation Army Charity (SATCOL) or related bodies, unless the matter directly affects the contract of employment of the Councillor</p>

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	J. Sheppard		<p>Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local.</p> <p>Director of Wembrook Community Centre.</p> <p>Member of the Management Committee at the Mental Health Drop in.</p> <p>Champion for Safeguarding (Children &amp; Adults)</p> <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <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>	<p>Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre</p>
	T. Sheppard	Employee of Dairy Crest	<p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel</li> </ul>	
	R. Smith		<p>Chairman of Volunteer Friends, Bulkington; Board member of Bulkington Village Community and Conference Centre Trustee of Bulkington Sports and Social Club</p>	
	J.A. Tandy		<p>Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local.</p> <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <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		

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
	H. Walmsley	Chief of Staff to Julian Knight MP Self-employed Public Relations Consultant.	Chartered Institute of Public Relations	
	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> <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	Dispensation to speak and vote