

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE  
ON WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

Present: Councillor Jarvis in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Chambers, A Clews, D Clews, Davey, Dirveiks, Farrow, Gosling, Hayfield, D Humphreys, M Humphreys, Jenns, Jordan, Macdonald, McLauchlan, Morson, Moss, Parker, H Phillips, O Phillips, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, S Smith, Symonds, A Wright and D Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hancocks, Lees, Osborne, Parsons, Rose and L Smith

**48 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

**49 Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 1 December 2021**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**50 Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor announced:

- He had attended the finish line of Paddy Doyle's 700<sup>th</sup> Career physical fitness challenge and World Record cross country / speed march carrying a weighted backpack fund raising event at Atherstone Golf Club on 8 January 2022; and
- He would be attending the 822<sup>nd</sup> Atherstone Ball Game on 1 March 2022

**51 Questions Pursuant to Standing Order No 7**

The following questions were received pursuant to Standing Order No 7:-

M K Jewkes - Disability officer North Warks and Bedworth CLP

I've been asked by disabled residents of Atherstone to contact you in regard to the Atherstone public toilets and explain the position of local residents.

Many of us are extremely dismayed at the planned closure of said toilet block, this is due to the fact it is a prime location for our convenience being very central the town in general, something that doesn't seem to have crossed the minds of NWBC is we also have a right to keep our dignity intact which under human rights law is protected along with the equality act 2010. I saw mentioned the public being told to use toilets in local cafes and the Co-op supermarket, I'm sorry but this simply isn't good enough as for a start from discussions I've had so far I've

heard no mention of NWBC actually approaching these companies to request such a thing.

Not only are the rights of the disabled for dignity protected by the equality act but also there is the fact that as a public sector, such things that can directly impact any of the protected characteristics in the act MUST be consulted on. Within our constituency we have disabled of all kinds from invisible illnesses which can include anything from mental health issues to colostomy bags who would and do benefit from a disabled toilet right through to paraplegic people who actually need a changing bench in order to use our town, now currently there is nowhere with this facility that I'm aware of anywhere in the borough so that would place this as a priority to ensure that disabled people can get out even more and use our town. My opinion and that of all I have spoken to is that we need this facility in our community disabled people lose enough due to their conditions, in removing this and expecting the private sector to pick up the slack you would be failing your constituents.

The changing bench isn't just a facility to a paraplegic it's a necessity if they are to enjoy our Borough, I know this bench is 1 of the things that would be included in any refit and can see from minutes for many of you this is a cash saving exercise, however at the expense of the disabled people having access to what they need. I and my colleagues will be watching this closely and will look into ways to protect these facilities for local disabled people and mothers with young children. We shouldn't be asking the private sector to pick up the slack after a cost cutting exercise. So I have to ask what feasible options can you put forward that take all of the above into consideration?

#### Michael Pitts

I would like to know how the council can justify the closing of the only public toilets in the town when the area is trying to attract new tourism, trade and change people's travelling habits ie use public transport.

The response from Councillor Caroline Symonds, Chairman of the Resources Board was:-

The Council has taken the difficult decision to close the public conveniences in Station Street, Atherstone due to the costs of continuing to operate and maintain them when the pressures on the Council's budgets remain very high. While the capital costs of making essential improvements could be partially met through grant funding the ongoing revenue costs remained prohibitive. The Council has not taken this decision lightly and had explored other options for keeping the toilets open.

One of the reasons why this decision was taken was because alternative public facilities exist a short distance from the Station Street site (at the main Council Offices and Atherstone Leisure Centre). Both these provide safe accessible facilities within fully staffed public buildings free from the antisocial behaviour which affects stand-alone public conveniences. The toilets are designed for disabled users, and as such mean that suitable facilities remain accessible within the town centre, even following the closure of the Station Street site. In addition

to the toilet facilities provided by the Council at its own buildings, there are several private sector providers within Atherstone.

Finally, although the public conveniences in Station Street will close at the end of March, the Council continues to explore alternative ways in which the building might be operated as a local amenity incorporating public access to toilet facilities and work has already begun on developing potential options.

Mr Chris Davey

I work different shifts how am I expected to get a car parking ticket when I have come off a night shift? Am I to get back up at 8am to purchase a ticket and then go back to bed. I don't think so. Surely a residents parking permit would be the sensible option?

Dawn Davey

Can the Council confirm that residents that have nowhere else to park e.g Innage Terrace, Atherstone will be issued with a parking permit? With rising food, energy and fuel bills this is just another expense! Have people who work shifts been considered as it has been noted that a ticket is required from 8am?

To add insult to injury there is an admin fee of 20p per transaction for the parking charges at the above car park. So not only does my daughter have to pay for the privilege of parking outside her own property but has to pay an admin fee for each ticket?

Please sort a permit out as a matter of urgency for constituents that have nowhere else to park. These parking charges have not taken into consideration the constituents who have nowhere else to park!

Liz Davey

Did the Borough Council consider the needs of all Atherstone residents to park their cars when they introduced on street parking enforcement and access to parking permits. There are some houses eg Innage Terrace which were built without any parking facilities, but these residents are not eligible to apply for parking permits? Why are these residents excluded? How can the Council justify a charge of £150 per quarter for such permits when the actual cost of administering and issuing such permits must be far less? Is it the intention of the council to make Atherstone a less affordable place to live for residents who are not fortunate enough to have a place to park their cars? It has also been noted that for the 2 free hours you receive, a ticket needs to be issued meaning residents who work shifts/on days off will have to be up before 8am to display this, would you do this?

RingGo has gone live today - I am trying to purchase the free 2 hours - there is no option for the ticket? There is also a charge of 20p for using the app? This is not displayed on the boards is this an admin fee?

Alexandra Phillips

My question is in relation to the parking charges which are soon to come into force across the borough. Please ask the following:

What considerations, and financial allowances are being put into place for those that a) work within the areas where parking charges will soon be implemented, where the cost of parking is detrimental to their finances and could be seen as an additional tax on their wages and; b) those who have caring needs which require long term visitation of external personnel for their care needs and for which the new car parking charges will reduce the time of care that they are able to attain or an increase to already high care costs?

The response from Councillor Caroline Symonds, Chairman of the Resources Board was:-

The Council has been working for some time to bring in Civil Parking Enforcement to tackle dangerous and disruptive parking within the Borough. In order to manage the consequences of implementing CPE on-street, the Council has brought in new parking regulations for its off-street car parks. Those changes will increase the efficiency and availability of parking within the Borough. While free parking has been retained in all car parks, some charges have been introduced to partially off-set ongoing maintenance and enforcement costs.

Residents in areas such as Innage Terrace will be able to continue to park overnight in the Council's long stay car parks free of charge. Charges apply during the day from 8am to 6pm but two-hour charge-free periods are available during those times. Tickets do not need to be displayed in the vehicle as long as the user has registered the stay in the RingGo app. The Council understands the impact on shift workers and other customers in a similar position and we are currently working with our technology providers to see how the process for regular users might be simplified. The app is free to use and only the cost of parking is charged meaning parking costs (including free periods) are the same whether obtained via the app or at a Pay & Display machine. App users can opt for reminders via SMS for which a 20p charge is levied but this is entirely optional. For residents and visitors who need to park during the day for work or other commitments, season tickets are available at less than two-thirds of the standard charge.

52 **Minutes of Planning and Development Board – 6 December 2021, 10 January and 7 February 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor Morson and

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Development Board held on 6 December 2021, 10 January and 7 February 2022 be approved and adopted.**

**53 Minutes of Special Sub-Group – 7 December 2021 and 11 January 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor D Clews seconded by Councillor Jenns and

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 7 December 2021 and 11 January 2022 be approved and adopted.**

**54 Minutes of Community and Environment Board – 17 January 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor M Humphreys and

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Environment Board held on 17 January 2022 be approved and adopted.**

**55 Minutes of the Resources Board – 24 January 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Symonds, seconded by Councillor T Clews and

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Board held on 24 January 2022 be approved and adopted.**

**56 Minutes of the Alcohol and Gambling Licensing Committee – 25 January 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Jenns, seconded by Councillor Moss and

**a Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Alcohol and Gambling Licensing Committee held on 25 January 2022 be approved and adopted; and**

**b That the final draft Gambling Licensing Statement of Principles be adopted as Council Policy.**

57 **Minutes of the Taxi and General Licensing Committee – 25 January 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Jenns, seconded by Councillor M Humphreys and

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Taxi and General Licensing Committee held on 25 January 2022 be approved and adopted.**

58 **Minutes of the Executive Board – 14 February 2022**

In moving the minutes of the meeting Councillor D Wright, seconded by Councillor Symonds, gave notice of his alteration of the motion comprising Minute No 47 (The Proposed 3 Year Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Minute No 49 (General Fund Revenue Estimates 2022/23 and Setting the Council Tax 2022/23).

Minute No 46 – The Capital Strategy – It was proposed by Councillor D Wright and seconded by Councillor Symonds that the Capital Strategy be approved.

In accordance with Standing Order No 11(3) the recorded vote was as follows:

**For** – Bell, D Clews, T Clews, Davey, Hayfield, D Humphreys, M Humphreys, Jarvis, Jenns, Jordan, Macdonald, Moss, Parker, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, S Smith, Symonds, A Wright and D Wright (20)

**Abstain** – Chambers, Dirveiks, Farrow, Gosling, McLauchlan, Morson, H Phillips and O Phillips (8)

Minute No 47 – The Proposed 3 Year Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25 – It was proposed by Councillor D Wright and seconded by Councillor Symonds that recommendation **b** be replaced by the following:

- b That the 3 Year Capital Programme for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25, as set out in Appendix B to the report of the Management Team amended by the table below, be adopted; and

<b>Amendments / Growth</b>	<b>2022/23 £000</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Atherstone Leisure Complex – to remove the roof replacement scheme	(252,170)	
Maya Restaurant – to remove the roof replacement scheme	(120,000)	

Provision for a Leisure / 4G scheme at Sheepy Road, subject to generating additional capital funding and a sustainable revenue business case		372,170
Provision for Leisure facilities in Atherstone - to be used in bids for external funding for a replacement facility (capital funding from the business rate reserve)		3,000,000
To provide additional car parking in Coleshill, subject to the revenue implications of any proposed scheme being affordable (capital funding from the business rate reserve)	600,000	400,000
Provision of a replacement Leisure Facility in Polesworth, subject to a sustainable business case (borrowing costs to be included in the MTFs from 2024/25)		3,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227,830</b>	<b>6,772,170</b>

- c That the prudential indicators set out in Section 9 of the report, as amended by the revised recommendation b given above, be approved.

*Recommendation a remains as set out*

In accordance with Standing Order No 11(3) the recorded vote was as follows:

**For** – Bell, D Clews, T Clews, Davey, Hayfield, D Humphreys, M Humphreys, Jarvis, Jenns, Jordan, Macdonald, Moss, Parker, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, S Smith, Symonds, A Wright and D Wright (20)

**Abstain** – Chambers, Dirveiks, Farrow, Gosling, McLauchlan, Morson, H Phillips and O Phillips (8)

Minute No 48 – General Fund Revenue Estimates 2022/23 – It was proposed by Councillor D Wright and seconded by Councillor Symonds that the revised budget for 2021/22 be approved.

In accordance with Standing Order No 11(3) the recorded vote was as follows:

**For** – Bell, D Clews, T Clews, Davey, Hayfield, D Humphreys, M Humphreys, Jarvis, Jenns, Jordan, Macdonald, Moss, Parker, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, S Smith, Symonds, A Wright and D Wright (20)

**Against** – Chambers, Dirveiks, Farrow, Gosling, McLauchlan, Morson, H Phillips and O Phillips (8)

Minute No 49 – General Fund Revenue Estimates 2022/23 and Setting the Council Tax 2022/23 – It was proposed by Councillor D Wright and seconded by Council Symonds that recommendation **g** be replaced by the following:

- g That the comments of the Corporate Director Resources on the minimum acceptable level of general reserves, together with the additional wording in the final paragraph given below, be noted;

Therefore, I am of the view that the budget proposed for 2022/23 does provide for an adequate level of reserves, and this will be maintained over the Medium Term, provided the Council adheres to its approved Medium Term Financial Strategy and delivers the required reductions in net expenditure **and only progresses the additional capital schemes provided the associated revenue costs are affordable.**

*recommendations a, b, c, d, e, f and h remain as set out*

Additional borrowing costs of £132,350 for a replacement Polesworth Leisure Facility from 2024/25 will increase the overall need to reduce other expenditure by £100,000, with the target for 2024/25 increasing by £150,000 and the target for 2025/26 reducing by £50,000.

The updated financial strategy is shown below and the new resolution reflects the change.

#### **Note for Information**

The impact of the proposals on balances and the level of savings is shown below.

#### **Revised Medium Term Financial Forecast (with Amendments)**

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
<b>Board Requirements</b>	<b>10,076</b>	<b>9,758</b>	<b>10,057</b>	<b>10,160</b>	<b>10,459</b>
Growth	-	-	-	132	132
Covid-19 Grants	(338)	-	-	-	-
Use of earmarked reserves	(300)	-	-	-	-
Investment Income	(102)	(323)	(449)	(402)	(418)
Financing Adjustment	(868)	(722)	(558)	(502)	(445)
e/m res – contribution from HRA	(50)	(50)	(40)	-	-
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>8,418</b>	<b>8,663</b>	<b>9,010</b>	<b>9,388</b>	<b>9,728</b>
Council Tax	(4,579)	(4,784)	(4,965)	(5,150)	(5,340)
NDR Baseline	(1,922)	(1,922)	(1,961)	(1,999)	(2,040)
NDR – Additional rates	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)
Section 31 Grant – business rate multiplier	(100)	(158)	(158)	(158)	(158)
New Homes Bonus	(577)	(723)	-	-	-
Lower tier Grant	(82)	(86)	(88)	(90)	(91)
Services Grant	-	(132)	(135)	(138)	(141)
Collection Fund Surplus	9	(80)	(97)	(109)	(114)



<b>Use of Balances</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>1,344</b>
Required reductions in expenditure 2023/24	-	-	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Required reductions in expenditure 2024/25	-	-	-	(250)	(250)
Required reductions in expenditure 2025/26	-	-	-	-	(100)
<b>Use of Balances</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(6)</b>
<b>Balances at the Year End</b>	<b>1,804</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>1,432</b>

In accordance with Standing Order No 11(3) the recorded vote was as follows:

**For** – Bell, D Clews, T Clews, Davey, Hayfield, D Humphreys, M Humphreys, Jarvis, Jenns, Jordan, Macdonald, Moss, Parker, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, S Smith, Symonds, A Wright and D Wright (20)

**Abstain** – Chambers, Dirveiks, Farrow, Gosling, McLauchlan, Morson, H Phillips and O Phillips (8)

It was proposed by Councillor D Wright, seconded by Councillor Symonds and

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 14 February 2022 be approved and adopted.**

59 **Common Seal**

It was proposed by Councillor D Wright and seconded by Councillor T Clews and

**Resolved:**

**That the Chief Executive be authorised to affix the Common Seal to any Orders, Deeds and Documents as necessary to give effect to the decisions of the Council, including any passed during part of the meeting which is held in private, in accordance with Article 11.05 of the Articles of the Constitution.**

60 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Resolved:**

**That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.**

**61 Confidential Extract of the Minutes of the Planning and Development Board – 10 January and 7 February 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor Hayfield and

**Resolved:**

**That the confidential extract of the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Development Board held on 10 January and 7 February be approved and adopted.**

**62 Confidential Extract of the Minutes of the Special Sub-Group – 7 December 2021 and 11 January 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor D Clews, seconded by Councillor Hayfield and

**Resolved:**

**That the confidential extract of the minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 7 December 2021 and 11 January 2022 be approved and adopted.**

**63 Confidential Extract of the Minutes of the Resources Board – 24 January 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Symonds, seconded by Councillor D Humphreys and

**Resolved:**

**That the confidential extract of the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Board held on 24 January 2022 be approved and adopted.**

**Chairman of the next ensuing meeting  
of the Council**