



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 13th January 2021 via ZOOM

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.25pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Zafar Ali [Chair], Faraz Ahmad, Omar Ahmed, Mohammad Aslam, Sadia Bashir, Wayne Blackburn, Fiona Holland, Mashuq Hussain OBE, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Mohammad Sarwar, Russell Tennant and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors George Adam, Zulfiqar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Ali Baig, Laura Blackburn, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Nazeem Hayat, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher, Mohammad Sakib and Ikram Ul-Haq

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): PC Lorna Bolton

Officers: Nick Harbour – Assistant Town Clerk [minute taker]

Members of the Public: None

2020/090
(TC)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

To receive the Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance.

He first noted that Covid-19 cases continue to rise both nationally and in the local area. Daily cases are now exceeding 1,500 per day, over 36,000 people are now in hospitals across the country and the total number of deaths across the country stands at over 84,000. He asked that Members keep in mind those suffering from the causes of the pandemic.

Lancashire County Council have now got back to the office giving the go-ahead for the new benches to be installed. The order will be placed later this week and the benches should all be in place by the end of January.

The Chairman had also invited PC Lorna Bolton to the meeting who is the new Community Beat Manager for Nelson. PC Bolton introduced herself and briefly gave an update around the work she and the team are hoping to achieve in Nelson. It had been noted that Nelson was grossly understaffed in terms of Police over the last couple of years. Positions have all now been filled, meaning that the Police presence in and around the town centre should now be back up to full capacity. The main three priorities which the team are looking to tackle are speeding vehicles, anti-social behaviour and drug misuse. PC Bolton stated she is keen to work with local councillors to tackle these problems and hopes to attend all future Full Council meetings where possible.

Action: PC Bolton to circulate her email address and contact number to all Members, and to provide crime statistics for Nelson at future meetings.

2020/091 (TC)	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Zulfiqar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher and Mohammad Sakib are approved and accepted.</p>
2020/092 (TC)	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u> To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from members on matters to be considered at the meeting. Officers are required to make a formal declaration about council contracts where the employee has a financial interest.</p> <p>None declared.</p>
2020/093 (TC)	<p><u>ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u> To adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes to allow members of the public to make representation on the business of the agenda for the meeting. No resolutions can be under public participation.</p> <p>No members of the public were present at the meeting.</p>
2020/094 (TC)	<p><u>REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u> To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors</p> <p><u>Borough Council</u></p> <p>Councillor Ali reported that a handful of smaller planning applications were on the agenda. There has been a notable increase in the amount of change of use applications to turn residential properties into business use in areas outside of the town centre. These are generally rejected by planning officers who seem keen to keep all businesses in and around the town centre.</p> <p>Public toilets in the town centre was also on the agenda. This was only briefly discussed but talks are ongoing, and the item will come back to a future agenda.</p> <p>A working group has also been formed to look at the re-opening of the town centre in a safe manor given the situation with Covid-19. Residents need to feel safe when they are using town centre businesses. Several different aspects are being looked at whilst the virus continues to rage – this includes the possibility of implementing a ‘virtual high street’ where customers can interact with shopkeepers online, make orders and pay for goods via the internet.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>County Councillors were invited to the meeting, but unfortunately none were present to provide an update. This meeting clashed with a Labour Working Group meeting, in which both invited County Councillors were involved at.</p> <p>Action: The Assistant Town Clerk to again request that County Councillors attend the next meeting, and if they cannot make it to provide a written update which can be passed on to Town Councillors.</p>

2020/095 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 09 December 2020 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Latif and Seconded by Councillor Hussain, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 09 December 2020 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2020/096 (TC)	<p><u>UPDATE ON COVID-19</u> To receive an update around the action being taken in relation to the Covid-19 issue.</p> <p>Sadly, the UK death total has now exceeded 84,000 people. The Town Council continue to work alongside Pendle Borough Council and other local support services to keep safe residents of the local area as best as possible.</p> <p>Encouraging news is that a vaccine has now started to be rolled out to certain groups of people across the country, with close to three million now having had at least one dose of the vaccine.</p> <p>The MUGA's and play areas remain closed for the time being. Cleansing of the sites has now ceased. This can start again at any point should the town council require.</p> <p>Members of the Unity Wellbeing Management Committee met on 25th November 2020 and resolved to keep the Unity Well Being Centre closed to the public for the time being. This will be reviewed at their next meeting. The Catering Co-Ordinator continues to work and has been preparing meals for vulnerable residents. These are being distributed by volunteers from the Salvation Army and Nelson Community Masjid. The Town Council also provided £2,800 to go towards Christmas Boxes for vulnerable residents in the town.</p> <p>Members then went on to discuss the issues around school closures and the effects on residents. Whilst the closures are of course inconvenient to all, it was highlighted that some will be more effected than others. Schools are doing their best to help students learn from home via online lessons and tests, but unfortunately, not all residents have the devices needed to allow this. Some families won't have any device at all, others will just have a mobile phone which is not really practical for online teaching, and others may only have one smartphone belonging to the parents and have multiple children in the house, meaning there is no way they would have enough time on the device to complete the work set by teachers. The Government have promised to assist schools with countering these problems, but as yet there are numerous schools in Nelson who have had little/ no support and it's the students who are suffering because of this.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That the following course of action be taken by the Council to help combat the issues around school closures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A working group is formed consisting of Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Omar Hamed, Zafar Ali, Sadia Bashir, Mashuq Hussain and County Councillors Azhar Ali and Mohammed Iqbal • The Council write to MP Andrew Stephenson asking what action the Government are taking to support families who don't have access to the devices required for online learning • That the Assistant Town Clerk writes to all Nelson schools to ask how they are managing with the problem and how much support they require to meet the shortfall in devices needed for online learning
2020/097 (TC)	<p><u>BUDGET FOR 2021/22</u> To receive an update from the Budget Working Group in terms of the budget setting for 2021/22.</p> <p>The Budget Working Group are due to meet next week to finalise a draft budget for 2021/22.</p>

	<p>Once this has been carried out, it will be brought before Full Council to allow other Members to comment before deciding whether to approve the draft provided.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2020/098 (TC)</p>	<p><u>TRANSFER OF PARKS SERVICES FROM PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL</u></p> <p>To receive an update from the Parks Working Group in relation to the transfer of parks service and maintenance from Pendle Borough Council to Nelson Town Council.</p> <p>Members of the Parks Working Group along with the Assistant Town Clerk had recently held a second virtual meeting with Philip Mousdale to discuss the transfer of parks services from Pendle Borough Council to Nelson Town Council.</p> <p>It was previously agreed that Philip would provide further detail in relation to exact costings should the Town Council wish to consider the takeover. Philip came back with an estimated cost of £155,801 for 2021/22.</p> <p>Members had noted that there seemed to be a big difference between the 100% cost over the last four years and asked that Philip speak to the Parks department and Financial department to find out the reasons why.</p> <p>The Working Group had also asked that a Service Level Agreement would also need to be provided so that Members of the Council and members of the public also knew the exact details of services Pendle Borough Council would be providing should the Town Council wish to make the contribution. This is still outstanding but Philip said that he'd get one drafted in the next few days.</p> <p>It was also decided that if the Council do decide to take over the parks, that an independent surveyor is appointed to inspect all aspects of the parks (including rivers, ponds, trees) to ensure that no immediate problems are evident that would require further money to repair.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2020/099 (TC)</p>	<p><u>ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS – BACK STREETS</u></p> <p>To receive an update from Councillor Latif and the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to works set to be carried out on back streets around Nelson.</p> <p>At the last Full Council meeting, Members resolved for Councillor Latif and the Assistant Town Clerk to meet with Scott Whalley from Pendle Borough Council to arrange for a number of back streets in Nelson to be repaired.</p> <p>Councillor Latif informed Members that this meeting had now taken place. The estimated cost per back street block is between £12,000 to £15,000. Scott had provided a list of back streets in the town that he and his team had been out to see and felt that they were the priority areas in Nelson.</p> <p>With what remained in the budget for 2020/21, Councillor Latif and the Assistant Town Clerk selected a number of back streets for the Highways Team to prioritise. This was done on a ward level basis, ensuring that the money was allocated as equally as possible between the different areas of the town. The below list are the streets which will be covered in the 2020/21 budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walverden Terrace / Back 249-289 Brunswick Street • Back 70-80 Barkerhouse Road • Back 82-92 Barkerhouse Road • Back 94-108 Barkerhouse Road • Back Percy / Princess Street (Top Block)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Lomeshaye / St Mary's (bottom block) • Back Swaine / Lomeshaye (two blocks) • Back 273 – 291 Chapelhouse Road • Back Dover / Derby • Back Dover / Midland <p>The remainder of the list will be looked at in the financial year 2021/22 subject to Full Council approval.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2020/100 (TC)	<p><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u> To receive reports and consider any actions required in relation to transferred services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CCTV monitoring b) MUGAs/Play Areas c) Parks Services <p><u>CCTV monitoring</u> The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated the December CCTV monitoring report to Members. Nothing of major concern was included in the report this time.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u> The MUGAS and Play Areas are still closed due to Covid-19.</p> <p>New signage with the Town Council logo and contact details is due to be ordered and hopefully will be installed this financial year.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u> As discussed at item 2020/098(TC) earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p>
2020/101 (TC)	<p><u>ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA</u> To notify the Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021/2022 budget • Transfer of Parks Services from Pendle Borough Council
2020/102 (TC)	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</u> To note the date of the next Full Town Council meeting is to take place on 10th February 2021 at Nelson Town Hall.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was noted.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 8.25pm.</p>