



**Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 10th
February 2021 via ZOOM**

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.10pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Zafar Ali [Chair], George Adam, Omar Ahmed, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Sadia Bashir, Wayne Blackburn, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Fiona Holland, Mashuq Hussain OBE, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher, Mohammad Sarwar, Russell Tennant, Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Zulfiqar Ali, Ali Baig, Laura Blackburn, Nazeem Hayat and Mohammad Sakib

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

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

Members of the Public: None

2020/103
(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 are still quite high both nationally and in the local area. The total number of deaths across the country has now passed 100,000. He asked that Members keep in mind those suffering from the causes of the pandemic. He also noted the sad passing of a popular local GP, Dr Khan.

Councillor Laura Blackburn had written to the Chairman and to the office to provide her resignation with immediate effect. The reasons stated were 'family and health reasons'. Whilst the resignation will need to be ratified on a separate agenda item at the next meeting, the Chairman asked that Councillor Wayne Blackburn pass on his thanks to Councillor Laura Blackburn for all her hard work over the last two years whilst she has been a Councillor for Nelson Town Council, and that the Council wish her all the best for the future.

Members noted the update.

2020/104
(TC)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councillor Hussain, and

RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Zulfiqar Ali and Mohammad Sakib are approved and accepted.

2020/105 (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>
2020/106 (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>
2020/107 (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 at the latest Nelson Area Committee meeting. One contentious application was submitted around a cash and carry which is operating on Every Street. Residents have made various complaints about the business, however given the site is at a former factory building, the applicant needn't have applied for change of use as the new business falls under the same use class as the previous one. The application was rejected at the meeting, however it will be going to the Policy & Resources committee meeting next week to be discussed further.</p> <p>The possibility of implementing a 'virtual high street' as discussed at the previous meeting is still under consideration. The idea is so that customers can interact with shopkeepers online, make orders and pay for goods via the internet. Mike Williams of Pendle Borough Council is investigating the idea further and will have an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Ali has again pressed Pendle Borough Council to speed up matters relating to the untidy land next to the Unity Wellbeing Centre. The Enforcement Team are currently working on this, but the issue has now been going on for over 12 months.</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.</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>
2020/108 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13 January 2021 (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 13 January 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>

2020/109 (TC)	<p><u>POLICE UPDATE</u> To receive an update from PC Lorna Bolton around the latest issues happening in and around Nelson</p> <p>PC Lorna Bolton had prior to the meeting circulated the January crime statistics for Nelson. Figures showed a significant decrease in crimes across the town – largely down to the fact that the national lockdown is in place due to Covid-19.</p> <p>The main area that showed an increase in numbers was around anti-social behaviour – again down to the lockdown and people being spoken to about congregating in groups in areas they should not be in.</p> <p>To help combat ASB in Nelson and throughout Pendle, a new initiative is now in place named ‘In The Know’ – whereby members of the public and local Councillors, businesses and organisations are encouraged to report any issues they may have. PC Bolton requested that Councillors sign up to this initiative to help the Police manage ASB around the town.</p> <p>In relation to anti-social drivers, the Police are also on with a campaign to crack down on this issue. A number of streets have been identified across the town where this is taking place and the Police will be monitoring these areas more closely over the coming weeks and months.</p> <p>Members noted the update and thanked PC Bolton for her time.</p> <p>Action: Councillors wishing to join the ‘In The Know’ initiative are requested to send their details to PC Bolton via email and they will be added to the mailing list.</p>
2020/110 (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 100,000 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 over thirteen 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 had recently resolved to fund a Laptop Initiative Project to assist schools with the provision of devices to allow students who are currently having to have school lessons online at home. 80 laptops were purchased and shared equally amongst those schools who requested to participate in the project.</p> <p>Members noted the update and thanked the Working Group members who had been involved with the Laptop Initiative Project.</p>
2020/111 (TC)	<p><u>BUDGET FOR 2021/22</u> To review and approve the draft budget for 2021/22 as set out by the Budget Working Group appointed at the December 2020 Full Council meeting.</p> <p>The Budget Working Group had previously met to set up a draft budget for 2021/22 for Members to review. Although the Council currently have no Responsible Finance Officer in place, the Assistant Town Clerk was in attendance along with Karen Watling, who is the Interim Chief Finance Officer for Pendle Borough Council. Karen was able to offer suggestions to the Working Group to ensure that everything was in order.</p>

	<p>Members of the Working Group were keen to ensure that there would be no raise in the precept this year for residents of Nelson, and therefore worked towards the same precept as the financial year 2020/21. This was achieved and the budget was set as similar to the previous year as possible in terms of what would be allocated where. The most notable difference was the events line budget. Due to the pandemic the country still finds itself in, Members slashed the event costings and will look to utilise that money on other projects – likely to be based around Covid-19 support for residents and local businesses.</p> <p>Members were asked if they were happy with the budget and if any amendments were proposed. One slight oversight was spotted whereby in the Ward Initiative Funding, the Marsden ward was allocated £1,000 – Marsden is now split into two wards (Marsden East and Marsden West) and it was agreed both areas should receive £1,000 for their Ward Initiative Projects. The £1,000 will be taken from the Special Projects budget line to ensure the budget remains balanced.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Blackburn, and RESOLVED: That the draft budget as provided by the Budget Working Group for 2021/22 is approved, to include the previously discussed amendment which will see two budget codes set up for Marsden (East and West) which will both be allocated £1,000. The £1,000 extra needed for this will be taken from the Special Projects budget line to ensure a balanced budget.</p>
<p>2020/112 (TC)</p>	<p><u>TRANSFER OF PARKS SERVICES FROM PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL</u> 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 virtual meeting with Philip Mousdale to discuss the transfer of parks services from Pendle Borough Council to Nelson Town Council.</p> <p>At the last Full Council meeting, Members had resolved to pay a 50% contribution towards the parks for 2020/21.</p> <p>Philip had provided a Service Level Agreement for 2021/22 with a view to asking Members if they would consider a 100% contribution for the upcoming year. The estimated cost in the SLA was for a figure of £155,801.</p> <p>Members had read the draft SLA and were not satisfied that the amount requested matched up with the services offered. Concerns were also raised around the potential double taxation of Nelson residents should Nelson Town Council contribute towards the parks maintenance. It was suggested that in the tax requested from Pendle Borough Council would already include money to cover parks maintenance.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councillor Blackburn, and RESOLVED: That Nelson Town Council pay a 50% contribution to the parks maintenance for 2021/22, and request that Pendle Borough Council amend the draft Service Level Agreement to show what services will be provided for the 50% contribution.</p> <p>With regards to any transfer of parks services to Nelson Town Council, Councillors agreed that further detailed talks would be necessary with Philip Mousdale and the Parks Officers to obtain a thorough report of the costs of running the parks (other than the general maintenance costs included in the draft Service Level Agreement).</p> <p>Action: The Parks Working Group to meet with Philip Mousdale and Parks Officers to discuss this matter further.</p>

2020/113 (TC)	<p><u>ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS – BACK STREETS</u> 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>No further progress has been made on the back street project in the last few weeks. The Council have requested quotes from Pendle Borough Council in line with the areas previously resolved at the last Full Council meeting.</p> <p>The reason for the slight delay is Pendle Borough Council officers are finishing off a large project on Lomeshaye Industrial Estate. This is due to be completed soon and then the officers will be able to source the costings for the back street project and these can then be brought to a future Full Council meeting for consideration.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2020/114 (TC)	<p><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u> To receive reports and consider any actions required in relation to transferred services.</p> <p>a) CCTV monitoring b) MUGAs/Play Areas c) Parks Services</p> <p><u>CCTV monitoring</u> The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated the January 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 2020/112(TC) earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p>
2020/115 (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"> • Resignation of Councillor Laura Blackburn
2020/116 (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 March 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 8.10pm.</p>