



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

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.30pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Zafar Ali [Chair], George Adam, Faraz Ahmad, Omar Ahmed, Zulfiqar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Ali Baig, Wayne Blackburn, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Fiona Holland, Mashuq Hussain OBE, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Mohammad Sarwar, Mohammad Sakib, Russell Tennant, Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors Sadia Bashir, Nazeem Hayat, Michelle Pearson-Asher and Nigel Pearson-Asher

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): PC Lorna Bolton, Sgt Lyanne Smedley, County Councillor Azhar Ali and Borough Councillor Yvonne Tennant

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

Members of the Public: None

2020/117
(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 noted that Covid-19 cases are now coming down both nationally and in the local area. The Pendle area recently recorded the lowest number of cases in the North West, and praised all those who are helping in the fight against Covid-19.

Members noted the update.

2020/118
(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 Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood, and

RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Sadia Bashir, Michelle Pearson-Asher and Nigel Pearson-Asher are approved and accepted.

2020/119
(TC)

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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.

None declared.

2020/120 (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>
2020/121 (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 Adam reported that a handful of smaller planning applications were on the agenda at the latest Nelson Area committee meeting for things such as dormer windows and small extensions which were all approved. Also approved was the application for the new Police building at Lomeshaye.</p> <p>Borough Councillor Yvonne Tennant stated that an application at the former cash and carry on Every Street had been refused at both the Area Committee and the Policy and Resources committee.</p> <p>Councillor Ali noted that the land next to the Unity Wellbeing Centre has now been cleared of fly-tipping and is looking much better. He asked that thanks to the Waste Services Team at Pendle Borough Council be noted. He also gave a brief update on the High Street Project. Progress is being made around the 'click and collect' application which will be offered to shops to enable residents to shop online and collect their goods.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>County Councillor Azhar Ali gave the following updates in terms of what has been happening at County level in the past few weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The precept level has increased and there will be a 3.99% increase for residents to pay. • Traffic calming measures are due to be installed at both Chapel House Road and Larch Street in the next few weeks. • £219,000 has been allocated for highways works (resurfacing) on Scotland Road, Meredith Street and Leeds Road. • A campaign has started to look at getting traffic calming measures installed on Hibson Road in the form of average speed cameras. <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2020/122 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10 February 2021 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Adam and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 10 February 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2020/123 (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 introduced the new Sergeant for Nelson, Lyanne Smedley, who will be looking to attend future meetings of the Council and build up a good relationship between the Police and Councillors.</p> <p>PC Bolton had prior to the meeting circulated the February 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>A one day trial is due to take place next week where officers will be around various speeding hotspots throughout Pendle with a speed gun, looking to deter offenders in these areas. If the trial is successful, the force will look to implement more of this type of exercise.</p> <p>Lancashire Road Safety Partnership are also doing some good work around speeding related offences. Members are urged to contact this group with any future offences and asked that any residents with similar concerns do the same.</p> <p>A serious assault had occurred earlier in the day at Camden Street. PC Bolton asked that if any residents come to Councillors with details that could help with the case that they get in touch with the local Police.</p> <p>Members asked that the Police be particularly vigilant when Ramadan is just around the corner in terms of speeding vehicles. Historically, vehicle offences seem to be quite high around the time of this celebration. PC Bolton noted the comments and said she would be getting extra patrols out and about on the day.</p> <p>Members noted the update and thanked both PC Bolton and Sgt Smedley for their attendance.</p>
<p>2020/124 (TC)</p>	<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>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>The vaccination roll out continues to build momentum and the statistics show that it appears to be lowering the number of infections and deaths in Nelson and across the country as a whole.</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. Now that the better weather is coming, Councillors noted that residents have been reporting people accessing the sites. The Police have been requested to monitor this until restrictions are lifted and people are allowed to use them again.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2020/125 (TC)</p>	<p><u>AGAR APPROVAL – 2019/20</u> To review and approve the draft AGAR report for 2019/20. This document needs to be approved by the Full Council then the appropriate notification period must be advertised.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk had recently been speaking to the External Auditor and was asked that this item be placed on a Full Council agenda for approval. Previously, Members of the Full Council had been asked to note the report and send it to the Finance Committee for signing off. The report in fact requires a resolution at Full Council for all sections of the AGAR to be signed</p>

	<p>off by the Chairman of the Council. The 30 day public notice approval would also need to start again.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councillor Hussain, and RESOLVED: That Full Council formally approves the Annual Governance Statement Assertions (Section 1) and the approval of all sections of the AGAR report as presented and that the Chairman signs off the relevant paperwork.</p>
2020/126 (TC)	<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>At the last meeting of the Full Council, it was resolved that the Parks Working Group would meet with Philip Mousdale and Parks Officers to discuss in detail the possibility of transferring the parks across to the Town Council and obtain a thorough report if costs of running the parks (other than the general maintenance costs included in the draft Service Level Agreement).</p> <p>This meeting has yet to take place.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Town Council could ask the various 'Friends of' groups who operate at Marsden Park, Walverden Park and Victoria Park for their input into any potential transfer of services.</p> <p>Action: The Parks Working Group to meet with Philip Mousdale and Parks Officers to discuss this matter further. The Assistant Town Clerk to contact the local 'Friends of' groups to ask if they would like to assist the Town Council moving things forward.</p>
2020/127 (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. Scott Whalley has now provided three quotes for works on back streets in Nelson for Members to review</p> <p>Members were made aware of the costings which had been sent over by Scott Whalley in terms of works to be carried out at Walverden Terrace, Back Dover Street and Midland Street and Lomeshaye Road and St Marys Street. No formal resolution was made around the costings and this will be reviewed at the next Finance and General Purposes meeting later this month.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2020/128 (TC)	<p><u>ST PHILIP'S/ ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD, BARKERHOUSE ROAD – NOTICE OF CLOSURE</u> To consider the request by St John with St Philip's Church to apply for the closure of St John's churchyard and the transfer of responsibility for maintenance. The Town Council are required to review and approve the request.</p> <p>A document had been sent to the Town Council offices requesting that a transfer of responsibility of the churchyard at St John's with St Philip's Church be handed to the Town Council. It was suggested by Members that this type of application is usually dealt with by Pendle Borough Council.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Sakib and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood, and RESOLVED: That the document is passed to Pendle Borough Council and brought before the Nelson Area Committee for further discussion.</p>
2020/129 (TC)	<p><u>MEETING SCHEDULE – 2021/2022</u> To approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2021/22.</p>

	<p>The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated a proposed meeting schedule for all Town Council and committee meetings for the upcoming year. Members were asked to review and approve the schedule for 2021/22.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That the proposed meeting schedule for the year 2021/22 be approved subject to the following one amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Town Meeting be moved from Wednesday 14th April 2021 to Wednesday 12th May 2021
2020/130 (TC)	<p><u>COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW</u> To set out the Council's position on the Community Governance Review.</p> <p>Pendle Borough Council are currently reviewing the boundary lines for both the Borough and Town Council's. The proposal seemed to suggest that Town Council's consider a realignment of their ward boundaries to match up with the new Borough Council setup.</p> <p>Members agreed that this was an exercise that didn't really need to take place for the ward boundaries for the Town Council. The proposals appear to have sections of Clover Hill going into Brierfield and Marsden East covering Colne. A similar exercise was conducted in 2019 and Councillors could see no fundamental reason for another change two years later.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Ul-Haq, and RESOLVED: That the Town Council objects to the realignment proposals as set out in the review, and that a working group is formed consisting of representatives from each ward to discuss the matter further and report back to the May Full Council meeting. Councillors on the working group will be Councillors George Adam, Zafar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Wayne Blackburn, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Mohammad Kamran Latif and Russell Tennant.</p> <p>Action: The Assistant Town Clerk to write to Pendle Borough Council stating the Town Council wish to object to the proposal.</p>
2020/131 (TC)	<p><u>PENDLE LOCAL PLAN UPDATE</u> To discuss the Town Council's position in terms of areas identified in the Pendle Local Plan for potential development sites in Nelson.</p> <p>Pendle Borough Council are currently reviewing their Local Plan and identifying sites across the Borough for future housing developments. Pendle Borough Council are looking at areas in Nelson, namely sites at Gibb Hill and Halifax Road for potential housing development.</p> <p>The two identified sites are the last of the greenfield areas in Nelson. Residents in these areas have raised concerns to many of the Town Councillors, Borough Councillors and County Councillors about the impact any housing developments will have to the local area. As well as the risk of losing the last of the greenfield sites in the town, other issues also come into play. Protected species of wildlife live in these areas. The site at Gibb Hill is also the only green space between Nelson and Colne and any development there would potentially see the new roads be used as a rat run to get between the two towns. Residents of Nelson are also having to travel further afield to get to places like doctors and dentists already. More houses would mean longer waiting lists for this type of service in the town.</p> <p>Councillors were unanimous in opinion that the Town Council should on behalf of residents of the town object to residential plans for both Gibb Hill and Halifax Road sites.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood, and RESOLVED: That the Town Council write to Pendle Borough Council with the following</p>

	<p>comments and proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Town Council are against any housing developments for the Gibb Hill site. The Town Council propose that the site undergoes a Community Asset Transfer for £1.00 to the Town Council to enable the area to be protected from any housing developments in the future for community interest purposes, with a view to develop the area into a country park (subject to funding requests). • That the Town Council are against any housing developments for the Halifax Road site. The Town Council propose that the site undergoes a Community Asset Transfer to the Town Council for £1.00 to enable the area to be protected from any housing developments in the future for community interest purposes. • That the John Willman's site in Nelson is changed from industrial usage to residential usage to allow potential housing developments to take place there.
<p>2020/132 (TC)</p>	<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 February 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. Residents have been seen starting to congregate on these sites now the weather is getting better. The Police have agreed to monitor these sites more closely over the coming weeks until lockdown restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>New signage with the Town Council logo and contact details is due to be ordered and hopefully will be installed before the MUGAS and Play Areas re=open.</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>
<p>2020/133 (TC)</p>	<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"> • St Philip's/ St John's Churchyard, Barkerhouse Road – Notice of Closure • Community Governance Review • Pendle Local Plan Update
<p>2020/134 (TC)</p>	<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 14th April 2021 at Nelson Town Hall.</p> <p>With the next meeting having been scheduled for 14th April 2021, the upcoming elections mean that the new date for the next meeting will be 12th May 2021 in line with Purdah regulations.</p>

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 8.30pm.

Signed Chair:

Dated: