



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 at the Unity Well Being Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire.

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.10pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Zafar Ali [Chair], Faraz Ahmad, Zulfiqar Ali, Mohammad Aslam, Ali Baig, Sadia Bashir, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sarwar, Mohammad Sakib, Russell Tennant, Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors George Adam, Omar Ahmed, Husnan Arshad, Wayne Blackburn, Nazeem Hayat, Fiona Holland, Mashuq Hussain OBE, Michelle Pearson-Asher and Nigel Pearson-Asher

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: None

2021/001
(AC)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

To receive the Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance, noting it was good to see other Councillors again for the first face-to-face public meeting in over a year due to Covid.

He also informed those present that for the foreseeable future, Full Council meetings as well as all the other committee meetings will take place in the Unity Well Being Centre. Pendle Borough Council are not yet allowing meetings to be held in the Council Chambers at Nelson Town Hall. A Zoom link can be provided if Members wish to listen to the meetings, but they will not be marked as present, nor will they have any voting rights on any of the items being discussed.

Members noted the update.

2021/002
(AC)

MINUTES

To approve the draft minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on the 8th April 2019

Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councilor Latif, and

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 8th April 2019 are approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2021/003
(AC)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

To receive the annual report of the Town Council from the Chairman, Councillor Zafar Ali

Councillor Zafar Ali highlighted some of the key achievements and priorities that the Council have been working towards over the last 12 months:

- The Chairman opened with expressing how proud he is to have been the Chairman of the Town Council and thanked all Councillors for their contributions in dealing with all the challenges that have arisen over the past 12 months.
- 2020/21 has been a challenging time for everyone due to Covid-19. The Chairman stated that the thoughts and prayers of all at the Town Council are with all those who have suffered with the virus, and particularly to those who have lost loved ones.
- On behalf of the Town Council, the Chairman expressed thanks to all the key workers who have been on the front lines assisting residents in the fight against Covid-19.
- The Council had some tough decisions to make during 2020/21 because of Covid-19. Things like closing the MUGA's and play areas and the Unity Well Being Centre were seen as unfortunate but a necessity to help keep residents of the town as safe as possible whilst attempts were made to get the virus under control.
- The Council are looking forward to a much more positive year for 2021/22. Events will be back on in the town centre, the Unity Well Being Centre will reopen and the Council are looking forward to seeing residents once again enjoy parties, community groups and other social occasions which are frequently held in the building. The Revive Café will also be opening back up for residents to visit later on in the year.
- Lots of things delayed due to the virus are also due to commence soon, including repairs to various back streets across the whole of the town. The Council will also resume talks with Pendle Borough Council in terms of taking over the ownership of the three parks in Nelson.
- Lastly, the Chairman thanked all Councillors and staff of Nelson Town Council for their hard work throughout the year.

Members noted the report.

2021/004
(AC)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4.1 To receive questions from members of the public

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

4.2 To consider any local issues which are causing concern, brought forward by a member of the public

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

4.3 To consider any other business brought forward by or with the consent of the Chairman

No other business was brought forward.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 19:10.