



**Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at the Unity Well Being Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire**

**Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 9.00pm**

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Zafar Ali [Chair], George Adam, Faraz Ahmad, Omar Ahmed, Mohammad Aslam, Ali Baig, Sadia Bashir, Wayne Blackburn, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Mashuq Hussain OBE, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sarwar, Mohammad Sakib, Russell Tennant, Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

**Absent Councillors:** Councillors Zulfiqar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Sadia Bashir, Nazeem Hayat, Michelle Pearson-Asher and Nigel Pearson-Asher

**Non-Councillor (without voting rights):** None

**County/ Borough Councillors (without voting rights):** Cllr Iqbal

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

**Members of the Public:** 4 members of the public

2021/042 (TC)	<p><b><u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u></b> The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the one-minute silence is extended to a two-minute silence as a mark of respect for those who lost their lives in the Srebrenica atrocities. The organisation Remembering Srebrenica had recently been in touch with the Council highlighting that the remembrance week was currently taking place.</p> <p>The two-minute silence was observed.</p>
2021/043 (TC)	<p><b><u>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u></b> To receive the Chairman's opening remarks</p> <p>The Chairman began by congratulating the England football team on reaching the Euro 2020 final. The players had done the country proud and had brought together not only Nelson residents but the entire country with their efforts. This was demonstrated in the event the Council had organised by putting up a large screen at Nelson Cricket Club for residents to come down and enjoy the game.</p> <p>Unfortunately, a minority of people around the country had racially abused some of the players on social media following the defeat on penalties. He condemned this type of behaviour from those who reacted this way. This was echoed by all Councillors present.</p> <p>He also commented around the two vacancies currently available on Nelson Town Council.</p>

	<p>Two applications have been received for the vacancy in Marsden West – a meeting of this Council will be called to invite the applicants in to present why they feel they would be a good Councillor. The vacancy in Walverden had been advertised to see if any residents felt the need to call an election – nothing had been received by the Town Council office nor the Elections team at Pendle Borough Council so this position will also be filled by co-option. This will be advertised in due course.</p>
2021/044 (TC)	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councillor Aslam, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the apologies received from Councillors Sadia Bashir, Michelle Pearson-Asher and Nigel Pearson-Asher are approved and accepted.</p>
2021/045 (TC)	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u></b> 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>Councillor Sakib declared an interest in item 11 (Bamford Street).</p>
2021/046 (TC)	<p><b><u>ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u></b> 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>Four members of the public along with Councillor Iqbal of Pendle Borough Council were present in relation to item 17B.</p> <p>The residents in attendance had asked that Cllr Iqbal come down to this meeting and speak on their behalf. Complaints had been raised that a Town Councillor had allegedly been deliberately trying to set residents against one another about what should happen with a piece of disused land on Poplar Street.</p> <p>The land in question was a former play area which was removed in 2010 due to budget cuts. It had recently been declared surplus to requirements at the Pendle Borough Council Policy &amp; Resources committee, and residents had been talking amongst themselves about how to make best use of the area. Some wanted it to be used as private land and others wanted it to be restored as a play area.</p> <p>The residents in attendance stated that there had been serious falling out amongst the families in the area following alleged misinformation being provided by a Town Councillor.</p> <p>Councillor Iqbal stated the disagreement had now been resolved and another discussion has taken place since and residents are now in agreement that this Town Council are asked to take over ownership of the land and investigate the possibility of restoring the land to a play area as it formally was.</p> <p>Members thanked the residents for taking the time to come down to the meeting and raise their concerns about the conduct of one of the Councillors, and agreed to bring item 17b forward on the agenda to consider the request made by the residents. Members condemned such behaviour by and Town Councillor and stated that any further issues would need to be investigated thoroughly.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Blackburn and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad, and</p>

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That item 17b be brought forward for Councillors to discuss the possibility of investigating taking ownership of the former play area site on Poplar Street.</p> <p>Please see item 2021/058 (TC) for the outcome of this request.</p>
2021/047 (TC)	<p><b><u>MINUTES</u></b> To approve the draft minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 09 June 2021 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councillor Aslam, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 09 June 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2021/048 (TC)	<p><b><u>REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u></b> To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors</p> <p><u>Borough Council</u></p> <p>Councillor Sakib noted that Nelson Area Committee had received a planning application for a new dormer extension. These are generally refused at the committee on planning grounds. He did state that this needs to be looked at given the high increase in house prices and people not being able to afford to buy bigger homes. They need to have the opportunity to extend the ones they already live in and in most cases, it's impossible to build outwards so options need to be available to build upwards.</p> <p>Councillor Ali noted that some items have been requested to be looked at by Nelson Area Committee, including lighting at the McMillan Nursery site, widening of the road at Holme Street/ Scotland Road and speed calming measures at Chapel House Road. Councillor Ahmed also requested that it be passed on to Nelson Area Committee that speed calming measures be looked at outside the Spar shop following a serious incident and numerous reports of speeding vehicles.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors were present at the meeting to provide an update.</p>
2021/049 (TC)	<p><b><u>POLICE UPDATE</u></b> To receive an update from PC Lorna Bolton around the latest issues happening in and around Nelson and to discuss the most recent crime figures for Nelson</p> <p>PC Bolton was unavailable for the meeting and Sgt Smedley was not in attendance.</p> <p>The Chairman did note that from some recent statistics provided by the Police that there has been another increase in ASB cases. These are largely down to breaking of Covid-19 restrictions, which are due to end next week so the next statistics should hopefully show a decrease.</p> <p>Councillor Hussain stated that the Police and some voluntary groups had been doing some excellent work in Colne looking to tackle anti-social behaviour and incidents being reported had now decreased dramatically. The same team are going to work in a Brierfield hotspot in the coming weeks. He suggested that the Town Council could approach this same team to work in any areas of Nelson that Members thought were a particular hotspot.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>

2021/050 (TC)	<p><b><u>UPDATE ON COVID-19</u></b> To receive an update around the action being taken in relation to the Covid-19 issue.</p> <p>Lockdown restrictions are due to be lifted on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. It's hoped that now the vast majority of people over the age of 18 have been offered the vaccination and received at least one dose. This should hopefully take pressure off the NHS in terms of hospital admissions. That said, 42,000 new cases were registered recently, which is an alarming number, but the vast majority of people are recovering at home within a few days of illness.</p> <p>It was decided at the recent Unity Well Being Management committee that the centre would be taking bookings for parties from 01<sup>st</sup> August 2021, assuming that the restrictions are fully lifted next week.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2021/051 (TC)	<p><b><u>FOOD FESTIVAL 2021</u></b> To consider a request for £5,000 Scott Dawson's to support the planned Food Festival in Nelson Town Centre due to take place in September 2021.</p> <p>The Events, Promotional and Marketing committee had recently asked Scott Dawson's to provide some more information in relation to the event which had now been submitted. They also asked that any food shop in Nelson who wished to have a stall could do so for no charge, to which Scott Dawson's agreed. Members also agreed there would be a need to work closely with Scott Dawson's and other local businesses in the build up to the festival taking place.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the request for £5,000 to go towards the running of the Food Festival 2021 is approved and that Scott Dawson's are requested to work closely with the Town Council and local businesses in the build up to the event.</p>
2021/052 (TC)	<p><b><u>BAMFORD STREET</u></b> To discuss and send feedback to Pendle Borough Council following the request for consultation on the Bamford Street Section 104 Agreements and Easements received via email to the town council office.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the documents presented by Pendle Borough Council be signed off by Nelson Town Council to allow United Utilities to go ahead with the works required. There is to be no cost involved for the Town Council, and it is also requested that added into the document is a paragraph stating that should Pendle Borough Council either cease to exist/ merge with another organisation in the future, that Nelson Town Council take no responsibility for the site.</p>
2021/053 (TC)	<p><b><u>SREBRENICA MEMORIAL WEEK</u></b> To consider ways of supporting the Srebrenica Memorial Week following a request received from a representative of Remembering Srebrenica, a charitable organisation funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth &amp; Development Office.</p> <p>Remembering Srebrenica had recently been in touch with the Chairman to ask that the Town Council consider ways of supporting the Srebrenica Memorial Week. The week of support was drawing to a close but Councillors did extend the minutes silence at the start of the meeting to two minutes as a mark of respect.</p> <p>Councillors discussed in detail the need to support and raise awareness of such atrocities that are happening in the world.</p>

	<p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Blackburn, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Council stay in contact with representatives from Remembering Srebrenica and that an event be held next year to help support the organisation and raise awareness to residents about what happened. This could be in the form of a coffee morning at the Unity Well Being Centre, a candle lit vigil and promotion on the Town Council website/ social media. The Town Council will also approach local schools before the next memorial week to ensure there is awareness amongst young people in the area too.</p>
2021/054 (TC)	<p><b><u>NELSON MARKET</u></b>  To receive an update on the latest developments in relation to Nelson Markets.</p> <p>No update on the latest developments at the Nelson Markets sites.</p>
2021/055 (TC)	<p><b><u>NELSON MASTER PLAN</u></b>  To discuss the Nelson Master Plan and prepare a response from the Town Council to go to Pendle Borough Council.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the Master Plan and suggestions as to what else could be included for Pendle Borough Council to consider including in the document. Councillors broadly supported the content in the plan so far but had some further ideas they would like to see considered:</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councillor UI-Haq, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Council respond to the consultation with the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priority area should be the Pendle Rise Shopping Centre. Suggestions for improvements would be for a type of food court on the ground level with plenty of seating available outside the shops. This seems to work well at shopping centres like Blackburn and Preston.</li> <li>• More outdoor seating areas for residents to enjoy around the town centre (such as the areas outside Costa Coffee) ie street café's. Councillors noted that Burnley now has lots of these and town centres seem busiest in these areas.</li> <li>• Investigate ways to encourage people who work close to Nelson but not actually in the town centre to visit more often – such as staff who work on Lomeshaye Industrial Estate. Thousands of people will either visit or work at sites like this which could generate huge footfall to shops in the town centre.</li> <li>• Explore in detail the possibility of private investment.</li> <li>• Look at the possibility of a slightly out of town centre development (possibly around the units on Clayton Street) and ensure they are linked with the town centre in terms of signage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> The Assistant Town Clerk to respond to the consultation outlining the above suggestions for improvement.</p>
2021/056 (TC)	<p><b><u>BACK STREET PROJECTS</u></b>  To authorise the recommendation from Pendle Borough Council in relation to Phase Three of the back streets project in Nelson. These quotes relate to works to be carried out at Brunswick Street and Barkerhouse Road.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councillor Aslam, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the recommendation from Pendle Borough Council in relation to Phase Three of the back streets project in Nelson is approved.</p>
2021/057 (TC)	<p><b><u>PROMOTIONAL AND MARKETING INITIATIVES</u></b>  To discuss Promotional &amp; Marketing Initiatives relating to the Town Council.</p>

	<p>Councillors discussed the possibility of a rehaul of how the Town Council promotes itself and interacts better with residents. Following a recent event, a number of Councillors had been speaking to members of the public and it became apparent that not too many realised exactly what sort of services the Town Council provide.</p> <p>Various suggestions were made, including a revamp of the website, the potential to publish two newsletters per year instead of one, and the possibility of sourcing a local business to help create engaging videos showing the recent work that Councillors have been up to.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Sakib, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the above mentioned ideas are investigated in terms of cost and brought to a future Finance and General Purposes meeting for further discussions.</p>
<p>2021/058 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u></b>  To receive reports and consider any actions required in relation to transferred services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) CCTV monitoring</li> <li>b) MUGAs/Play Areas</li> <li>c) Parks Services</li> </ul> <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>Councillor Sakib also stated that a high number of incidents were occurring in the Regent Street/ Reedyford Road area of the town and requested the Council again look at the possibility of installing a new camera in the area.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u>  Pendle Borough Council are due to start the annual audit of the Play Areas and MUGA's in August. The Assistant Town Clerk had requested this date be brought forward but it wasn't possible. The MUGA's and Play Areas are still not officially re-opened to the public following their closure due to Covid-19.</p> <p>New signage with the Town Council logo and contact details has now been ordered and hopefully will be installed before the MUGAS and Play Areas re-open.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p>This section of the meeting was brought forward following the public participation at the start of the meeting:</p> <p>The Town Council were asked to look at the possibility of taking over ownership of land at Poplar Street and look to restore the land to a play area as it formally was. All Councillors present were in agreement that the request should be given serious consideration but would of course this would require further investigation around things such as cost.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Sakib and Seconded by Councillor Blackburn, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Council investigate the potential takeover of the land at Bradley Hall Road/ Poplar Street and to look at costings for putting new play equipment on the land.</p>

	<p><u>Parks Services</u> Philip Mousdale has requested a meeting between the Parks Working Group and Pendle Borough Council representatives to discuss the potential transfer of the parks to the Town Council.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Assistant Town Clerk to arrange a Zoom call between the Parks Working Group and Philip.</p>
2021/059 (TC)	<p><b><u>ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA</u></b> To notify the Assistant Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nelson Markets/ town centre</li> <li>• Marketing &amp; Promotional Initiatives</li> </ul>
2021/060 (TC)	<p><b><u>DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</u></b> To note the date of the next Full Town Council meeting is to take place on Wednesday 08<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at the Unity Well Being Centre.</p> <p>Members noted the date of the next meeting.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.00pm.</p>