



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 08th September 2021 at the Unity Well Being Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.30pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Zafar Ali [Chair], Faraz Ahmad, Omar Ahmed, Zulfiqar Ali, Ali Baig, Sadia Bashir, Wayne Blackburn, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Nazeem Hayat, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sarwar, Mohammad Sakib, Russell Tennant, Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors George Adam, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam and Mashuq Hussain OBE

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

County/ Borough Councillors (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: None

2021/061
(TC)

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence

The one-minute silence was observed.

2021/062
(TC)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

To receive the Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance. This was the first meeting since July following the August break.

Councillors had been out in force during the Good Neighbours Week alongside representatives from Nelson Community Clean Up and BPRCVS to tidy up various areas across the town. A further clean up is due to take place on 30th September at 12:00, starting at Nelson Library. The Chairman encouraged Councillors to attend if possible.

Events due to take place soon are the Pride of Nelson Awards (11th November) and the Selina Cooper Project launch (18th September). Members were again encouraged to attend these events. The Friday Night Football event is also proving very successful, with ten adult teams registered and over 150 children signed up for the training programme.

2021/063
(TC)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

	<p>Proposed by Councillor Zafar Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood, and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors George Adam, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam and Mashuq Hussain are approved and accepted.</p>
2021/064 (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>Councillor Tennent declared an interest in item 6 (a family member was under consideration for the vacancy in Marsden West ward).</p>
2021/065 (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>None.</p>
2021/066 (TC)	<p><u>CASUAL VACANCY – MARSDEN WEST VACANCY</u> To receive written applications for the office of Town Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill in the existing vacancy for the Marsden West ward</p> <p>Three applications were received in relation to the Marsden West vacancy. Each candidate was invited to this meeting to speak before existing Councillors to explain why they would like to become a Councillor. One applicant withdrew before the meeting took place and only one of the remaining two attended the meeting.</p> <p>The one applicant in attendance gave a detailed explanation as to why they wished to join the Council and what experiences they have which would help to enhance the Council.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Blackburn and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That Yvonne Tennant meets the criteria set out in the Co-Option Policy and is elected to the vacant position in the Marsden West ward.</p> <p>All Councillors present at the meeting voted and this was a unanimous decision.</p> <p>Yvonne Tennant was therefore co-opted onto the Town Council in the Marsden West ward and signed off the relevant paperwork and took up her seat on the Council.</p>
2021/067 (TC)	<p><u>CO-OPTION PROCEDURE</u> To discuss dates around the Co-Option of a new Councillor to fill the vacancy in the Walverden ward.</p> <p>The vacancy notice for the position of Councillor in the Walverden ward had previously been advertised on the Council website and noticeboard. Members of the public were requested to write to the elections team at Pendle Borough Council and see if an election needed to be called to fill the position. Ten signatures were required to hold an election, otherwise the Council could go ahead with the Co-Option Policy. Ten signatures were not received and therefore the Council are to now Co-Opt somebody into the role.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Zafar Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That the Co-Option rule be implemented, and that interested candidates are requested to put their name forward for the position. The vacancy will be advertised for 21 days in line with the Council’s Co-Option Policy procedure. Candidates will then be invited to the first</p>

	meeting of the Full Council after the deadline has passed to allow interested parties to speak before Members, who can then vote on a new Member of the Council if they feel they meet the requirements of becoming a Councillor.												
2021/068 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 07 July 2021 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Blackburn and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 07 July 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>												
2021/069 (TC)	<p><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• Personnel</td> <td>21 July 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Finance and General Purposes</td> <td>28 July 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• EO Events, Promotional & Marketing</td> <td>04 August 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• EO Events, Promotional & Marketing</td> <td>18 August 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Environmental Improvements</td> <td>01 September 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Events, Promotional & Marketing</td> <td>01 September 2021</td> </tr> </table> <p>Proposed by Councillor Blackburn and Seconded by Councillor Bashir, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved on block as a true and accurate record.</p>	• Personnel	21 July 2021	• Finance and General Purposes	28 July 2021	• EO Events, Promotional & Marketing	04 August 2021	• EO Events, Promotional & Marketing	18 August 2021	• Environmental Improvements	01 September 2021	• Events, Promotional & Marketing	01 September 2021
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2021/070 (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 Sakib noted that the area committee had received a number of planning applications to review. The most notable of these was for the ambulance station on Rakeshouse Road which was deferred due to an outstanding noise report survey not arriving in time for the meeting.</p> <p>Mike Williams from Pendle Borough Council is also working with town council's across the Borough with some government funding he has received. It is hoped that Nelson will be able to tap into this resource for contributions for the Christmas Lights Switch On event and also to cover some of the costings for new barrier baskets for the town centre displays for spring 2022.</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. Councillor Sakib did however update Members on some good news in that there has been an increase in places at Primet High School, allowing 210 new starters next year, up from 165 this year.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>												
2021/071 (TC)	<p><u>POLICE UPDATE</u> 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 Borough Councillors present did state that they had been in a meeting recently with one of the local PCSO's which was quite positive. The force in Nelson have been working hard to engage more with local residents, this includes a programme where a Police presence meets with residents at Walverden Park each week to discuss any concerns that are raised.</p> <p>The statistics also show that crime levels are slightly down for August this year. Work is still ongoing to press for more resources for Police across the entire country.</p> <p>The Chairman also reminded Councillors who have yet to sign up to the Lancashire Talking initiative to do so to enable them to receive crime statistics for their ward, and also to allow them to report any issues residents may raise with them.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2021/072 (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>Figures are slowly starting to creep up again in Nelson and Pendle, though not at an accelerated rate as seen last year. This is likely down to the large vaccination uptake in the local area.</p> <p>Councillor Bashir noted that schools are now back to normal, and there are no more bubbles as there were earlier in the year. If any students show signs of symptoms, they are sent home.</p> <p>Councillor Michelle Pearson-Asher also noted that a new variant had been reported in the press and urged caution to other Members.</p> <p>The Unity Well Being Centre has now re-opened for bookings. The Caretaker is reminding customers to keep a distance where possible, to keep windows open for ventilation and all the other precautionary measures to try to keep the building as safe as possible for its users.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2021/073 (TC)</p>	<p><u>NELSON MARKET</u> To receive an update on the latest developments in relation to Nelson Markets.</p> <p>No further developments in relation to the Nelson Markets sites have emerged in the last month. This item will now be merged with the Nelson Town Deal, which will cover any updates on the market site.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2021/074 (TC)</p>	<p><u>NELSON TOWN DEAL</u> To discuss the Nelson Town Deal and prepare for ways to which Nelson Town Council can assist with the process.</p> <p>The Chairman gave an update around the Town Deal following a meeting a couple of weeks ago with the latest developments. As previously reported, the working group and Pendle Borough Council are currently looking at ways to recoup the £5,000,000 shortfall which was declined from the total bid. Current suggestions are some savings may need to be met from Wavelengths and the parks. The reduction in the grant is frustrating for all, particularly when other towns across the country were awarded more money than they originally requested.</p> <p>Judith Stockton of Pendle Borough Council has been invited along to the next Town Council meeting to talk through in details the proposals and try to answer any questions that Members</p>

	<p>may have.</p> <p>The Chairman also reminded Members that the Town Deal meetings are public meetings, and that they may wish to attend if they have any comments/ concerns from either themselves or the residents in their wards.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2021/075 (TC)</p>	<p><u>BACK STREET PROJECTS</u> To receive an update from the Vice-Chairman in relation to the Back Streets Project.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated the updated list of works to be carried out on the Back Streets Project.</p> <p>Councillors were reminded that if they have any further streets they would like to be passed on to Scott Whalley at Pendle Borough Council, to send the details through to the office before a meeting scheduled for this coming Friday.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2021/076 (TC)</p>	<p><u>ACE CENTRE</u> To discuss the uncertainty in relation to the future of the ACE Centre in Nelson Town Centre.</p> <p>The Chairman informed members that the future of the ACE Centre is currently looking bleak, and seems set for closure once the Covid-19 testing programme finishes later in the year. However, the Town Deal is linked with the Centre and various possibilities are still under consideration for the future of the building.</p> <p>Councillor Sakib noted that Pendle Borough Council are still looking out for potential investors, and also encouraged Pendle Borough Council Councillors press for further information on the future of the building.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2021/077 (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 d) Additional services to consider from Pendle Borough Council following a recent meeting with Pendle Borough Council Officer Philip Mousdale <p><u>CCTV monitoring</u> The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated the August 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> Pendle Borough Council have finished the annual audit of the Play Areas and MUGA's in August. The Assistant Town Clerk is awaiting the report with the findings of this years audit.</p> <p>New signage with the Town Council logo and contact details has now arrived and hopefully will</p>

	<p>be installed before the MUGAS and Play Areas re-open.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u> Members of the Parks Working Group had recently been out to visit the three parks in Nelson ahead of further discussions which are due to take place with Pendle Borough Council surrounding the transfer of services to the Town Council.</p> <p>Members stressed the importance of conducting an independent survey of each park to ensure that everything in there is currently safe and in working order, to ensure that no immediate costs are put on the town council in relation to matters which should have been already dealt with whilst still under ownership of Pendle Borough Council.</p> <p>The Working Group will be meeting again before any further discussions take place with Pendle Borough Council.</p> <p>It was also highlighted by Members that the local friends groups who help maintain the parks are kept in the loop with any potential developments as their continued work is vital in the upkeep of the parks across the town.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>Additional Services</u> Philip Mousdale has requested a meeting Pendle Borough Council and all Town Council's in the Borough to discuss the potential of further transfer of services.</p> <p>Additional services which the Town Council's of the Borough have been invited to take over include town centre benches, town centre sweeping, cemeteries and other services. As of yet, costings for these services have not been provided to the office so without these, no progress can be made yet.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p>
2021/078 (TC)	<p><u>ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA</u> To notify the Assistant Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <p>None.</p>
2021/079 (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 Wednesday 13th October 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 8.30pm.</p>