



**Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at the Unity Well Being Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire**

**Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.10pm**

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Zafar Ali [Chair], Faraz Ahmad, Omar Ahmed, Ali Baig, Sadia Bashir, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Mashuq Hussain OBE, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sakib, Mohammad Sarwar, Russell Tennant, Yvonne Tennant, Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

**Absent Councillors:** Councillors George Adam, Zulfiqar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Wayne Blackburn and Nazeem Hayat

**Non-Councillor (without voting rights):** Mohammed Rehan Hanif

**County/ Borough Councillors (without voting rights):** None

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

**Members of the Public:** None

2021/101  
(TC)

**ONE MINUTE SILENCE**

The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence

The one-minute silence was observed.

2021/102  
(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 began by reminding Members that the Pride of Nelson Awards are due to take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November at the Fence Gate Inn. All Members are expected to attend the event to celebrate the achievements of the residents and businesses of the town over what has been a tricky two years for everybody.

The Town Council will also have representatives at the Remembrance Sunday service and all Members are welcome to attend.

Members may have also received enquiries from residents in relation to the football coaching scheme which is due to recommence over the winter months. This is going to take place indoors at Marsden Heights. Councillor Hussain is just awaiting confirmation from the school around the available dates but Members can inform residents that the scheme will be going ahead once this has been confirmed.

2021/103 (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 Zafar Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the apologies received from Councillors George Adam, Zulfiqar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Wayne Blackburn and Nazeem Hayat are approved and accepted.</p>								
2021/104 (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>None.</p>								
2021/105 (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>None.</p>								
2021/106 (TC)	<p><b><u>MINUTES</u></b> To approve the draft minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 13 October 2021 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councillor Hussain, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 13 October 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>								
2021/107 (TC)	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u></b> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="316 1308 1396 1451"> <tr> <td>• Finance and General Purposes</td> <td>27 October 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Unity Well Being Management</td> <td>27 October 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Personnel</td> <td>03 November 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• EO Events, Promotional and Marketing</td> <td>03 November 2021</td> </tr> </table> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Michelle Pearson-Asher, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft minutes listed above are approved on block as a true and accurate record.</p>	• Finance and General Purposes	27 October 2021	• Unity Well Being Management	27 October 2021	• Personnel	03 November 2021	• EO Events, Promotional and Marketing	03 November 2021
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2021/108 (TC)	<p><b><u>CASUAL VACANCY – WALVERDEN VACANCY</u></b> To receive written applications for the office of Town Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill in the existing vacancy for the Walverden ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates addressing the council will be asked to step forward by the Chair in alphabetical name order (by surname)</li> <li>• Candidates to be given five minutes maximum to introduce themselves, give information on their background and explain why they wish to become a member</li> <li>• Process will be carried out in public session and there will be no private discussion between members</li> <li>• Where the council is discussing the merits of candidates and inevitably their personal attributes, this could be prejudicial and the Council should resolve to exclude the press and public</li> </ul>								

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is required to proceed to a vote with each candidate being proposed and seconded by the councilors in attendance and a vote to be taken by a show of hands. A recorded vote may be requested by any member.</li> <li>• In order for a candidate to be elected, it will be necessary for them to have absolute majority of votes cast (50% + 1 of the votes available at the meeting)</li> </ul> <p>One application was received in relation to the Walverden vacancy. The candidate was invited to this meeting to speak before existing Councillors to explain why they would like to become a Councillor.</p> <p>The 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 Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hussain, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Mohammed Rehan Hanif meets the criteria set out in the Co-Option Policy and is elected to the vacant position in the Walverden ward.</p> <p>All Councillors present at the meeting voted and this was a unanimous decision.</p> <p>Mohammed Rehan Hanif was therefore co-opted onto the Town Council in the Walverden ward and signed off the relevant paperwork and took up his seat on the Council.</p>
2021/109 (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 Ali informed Members of the latest items to be discussed at the Nelson Area Committee. A planning application had been submitted at the ambulance station whereby a 5m high fence around the site was proposed. Residents neighbouring the site were against this. Pendle Borough Council are also looking at issuing a CPO on the Pendle Rise Shopping Centre site. The Town Deal is beginning to pick up momentum and a meeting will take place around this later this week.</p> <p>At the recent Policy and Resources meeting, Councillors were informed that Pendle Leisure Trust have begun their review of services. Members felt that it is important that services are kept open for local residents, including the ACE Centre. Members were asked to contact either Pendle Leisure Trust directly or the leader of the Council with their views.</p> <p>A conversation then took place around the issue with fireworks. Members felt that more needs to be done in the summer months next year in the build up to bonfire night to help reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour around the Borough.</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>
2021/110 (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>Unfortunately, no Police were able to attend the meeting due to an incident in the town occurring earlier this afternoon.</p>

	<p>A report had been sent just before the meeting by PCSO Shak Sohail which the Assistant Town Clerk will circulate for Members to review. The main highlight coming from the report was that anti-social behaviour incidents had reduced again, which of course is good news.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Assistant Town Clerk to circulate the crime statistics to all Members.</p>
2021/111 (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>Figures are starting to creep up again in Nelson and Pendle, though the number of deaths being recorded is low. This is likely down to the large vaccination uptake in the local area.</p> <p>Reports in the national press state that leading experts are again emphasising the fact that wearing masks, frequently washing hands and getting the vaccination are important to ensuring that the NHS are not overrun with patients over what could prove to be a tough winter.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2021/112 (TC)	<p><b><u>NELSON TOWN DEAL</u></b> To discuss the Nelson Town Deal and prepare for ways to which Nelson Town Council can assist with the process.</p> <p>The Chairman informed Members that there is a meeting this coming Friday at Pendle Borough Council between the Town Deal Working Group. They will now start to look at the finer details of the project. It is likely that a five-year plan will be decided upon soon and the project can then get underway.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Assistant Town Clerk to circulate a weblink to Members with the minutes from the Town Deal meetings.</p>
2021/113 (TC)	<p><b><u>GIBB HILL</u></b> To discuss the future of Gibb Hill and the possibility of requesting a transfer of ownership from Pendle Borough Council.</p> <p>Another potential area of land that could be considered for a transfer of ownership was the land at Gibb Hill. Pendle Borough Council are currently reviewing their local plan, and it could be that they look to propose this area of land as a site for potential housing development.</p> <p>In the past, there were early discussions around a community asset transfer to both Nelson Town Council and Colne Town Council. Nothing has materialised on this since March but Members felt that this should be investigated again.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Yvonne Tennant, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillors Ali, Yvonne Tennant and all the Marsden Ward Councillors arrange conversations with representatives from Pendle Borough Council to pick up on the potential of a community asset transfer.</p>
2021/114 (TC)	<p><b><u>BACK STREET PROJECTS</u></b> To receive an update from the Vice-Chairman in relation to the Back Streets Project.</p> <p>The Vice-Chairman reported that no further developments have taken place this month in</p>

	<p>relation to the back street projects. A meeting is to be set up with Scott Whalley to look at prioritising the next lot of back streets to go to tender.</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.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2021/115 (TC)	<p><b><u>BUDGET FOR 2022/23</u></b> To consider forming a Budget Working Group to assist with the setting of the budget for the financial year 2022/23.</p> <p>Each year, a Budget Working Group is formed to assist with the setting of the next financial year's budget. Once the draft budget is agreed by the working group, it will be brought before the Full Council in early 2022 for other Members to review and approve.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Sakib, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillors Zafar Ali, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Mohammad Sakib and Ikram Ul-Haq are appointed to the Budget Working Group.</p>
2021/116 (TC)	<p><b><u>LAND NEXT TO UNITY HALL</u></b> As requested at the previous meeting, an item to receive an update around the condition of the private land next to the Unity Hall.</p> <p>Councillor Ali noted that he had requested this item be brought to the attention of the Policy &amp; Resources Committee at Pendle Borough Council. It is hoped that Pendle will continue to push for a CPO on the site. Councillor Ali will update Members again next month once the meeting at Pendle has taken place.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2021/117 (TC)	<p><b><u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u></b> To discuss the two upcoming events – the Pride of Nelson Awards to be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November and the Nelson Winter Festival to be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>As had already been mentioned earlier in the Chairman's Opening Remarks, the Assistant Town Clerk notified Members that the Pride of Nelson Awards are due to take place at the Fence Gate Inn on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 18:00. All Members are expected to attend the event.</p> <p>He also stated that the Nelson Winter Festival (Formerly known as Lancashire Day) is pencilled in for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November with a noon start. The Events, Promotional and Marketing Committee are continuing to work hard to get things in place for the event and again, it would be nice if all Members could attend for at least part of the day to assist.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2021/118 (TC)	<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> <li>d) Additional services to consider from Pendle Borough Council following a recent meeting with Pendle Borough Council Officer Philip Mousdale</li> </ul>

	<p><u>CCTV monitoring</u>  October monitoring reports have yet to be received at the office. This is due to their being a turnover of staff at the CCTV Hub in Blackburn. The Assistant Town Clerk will circulate the reports to Members as soon as they arrive.</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. The maintenance team from Pendle Borough Council are currently installing these at all sites. Around half of the signs are now up and the others should be done before the end of November.</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 again 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 Chairman and Assistant Town Clerk had also recently met with Philip Mousdale of Pendle Borough Council to discuss the potential transfer. As well as the known estimated £155,000 maintenance costs each year, it appears that there is also another estimated £70,000 in previously unidentified costings. Full details of these will be circulated in due course.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>Additional Services</u>  As mentioned in the Parks update, a list of costings for other services has now been provided by Pendle Borough Council. This had only been received two days prior to this meeting so a further discussion will take place at the next meeting of the Full Council to allow Members to digest the information provided.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p>
2021/119 (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> <p>None.</p>
2021/120 (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> December 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 8.10pm.</p>

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Signed Chair: .....

Dated: .....