



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at the Unity Well Being Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.15pm

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

Absent Councillors: Councillors George Adam, Zulfiqar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Ali Baig, Wayne Blackburn, Nazeem Hayat, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher and Mohammad Sakib

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): Shakeeb Sohail and Bradley Burnie (Police)

County/ Borough Councillors (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: James Foy, Sharon Martin and Brad Martin

2021/142
(TC)

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence

The one-minute silence was observed.

2021/143
(TC)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

To receive the Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance.

The only remarks this month were to highlight the ongoing issues around Covid-19. Local schools, businesses and residents had all been severely impacted around the Christmas period. This Council as always recommends that people follow any advice as outlined by central government.

2021/144
(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 Zafar Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and

RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors George Adam, Mohammad Aslam, Ali Baig, Wayne Blackburn, Nazeem Hayat, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher and Mohammad Sakib are approved and accepted.

2021/145 (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>None.</p>
2021/146 (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>James Foy of local charity Curry on the Street was present for the meeting and spoke around the need for the charity to try to find a permanent base in Nelson Town Centre to try to support local people in need. The organisation currently support 50-60 people per week and they are hopeful of finding premises to allow these numbers to grow, should the need arise.</p> <p>Councillors praised the work being done by James and the team, who had recently been recipients of awards at the Pride of Nelson event. Members felt that the best initial way forward would be to build connections with local organisations, including Pendle Borough Council who will have a good idea of what buildings are vacant in the town centre.</p> <p>Action: Councillor Faraz Ahmad to arrange a meeting between Town Councillors and Curry on the Street representatives to discuss the matter further in terms of finding a suitable, permanent location for the charity to operate from.</p>
2021/147 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 08 December 2021 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 08 December 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2021/148 (TC)	<p><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance & General Purposes 15 December 2021 <p>Proposed by Councillor Latif and Seconded by Councillor Hussain, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved on block as a true and accurate record.</p>
2021/149 (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 Ahmad updated Members that nothing of major significance was brought up at the most recent Nelson Area Committee meeting. Four minor planning applications were considered, three of which were approved.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p>

	No County Councillors were present at the meeting to provide an update.
2021/150 (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>PCSO Shak Sohail ran through the latest crime statistics from December for all areas of Nelson. The main highlight coming from the report was that crime in general, including anti-social behaviour incidents, had reduced again.</p> <p>The main issues the Police have been working towards combatting are speeding, anti-social behaviour and drug related issues. The statistics show that targeting these areas are working, with each of them reducing in the number of incidents being reported.</p> <p>Two new officers have also joined the Nelson team in recent weeks, which is again good news for the town.</p> <p>Councillors noted that in certain areas, some people have been spotted appearing to sell and also smoke drugs from their vehicles. PCSO Sohail suggested that Councillors and representatives of the team meet up to walk the areas of concern to deter this type of activity, and if people are caught doing it, they can of course be prosecuted.</p> <p>Members thanked PSCO Sohail and noted the update.</p> <p>Action: PCSO Sohail and Councillors to discuss the areas which appear to be hotspots for drug misuse and target these areas for regular monitoring to try to deter any further incidents.</p>
2021/151 (TC)	<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 remain quite high 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 there is no longer a need to take a PCR test after testing positive on a lateral flow test.</p> <p>Councillors are reminded to ask residents to do their best to ensure residents in their ward are adhering to any guidance published by central government.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2021/152 (TC)	<p><u>PARKS – FUNDING REQUEST</u> To approve a matched funding request from Pendle Borough Council of £50,000 per year over the next five years to support the improvements of the parks element of the Nelson Town Bid. A presentation was made by Phil Riley at the previous meeting of this Council and it was resolved that a decision be made at this meeting once Members had a chance to digest the information and have any questions/ queries clarified (Previously circulated).</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated the information provided by Phil Riley at the last meeting for Members to digest before being asked to consider the request. No questions were raised to the Assistant Town Clerk or Phil Riley in relation to the proposal and all those in attendance were happy with the details in the documents circulated.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That the contribution request of £50,000 per year over the next five years to</p>

	support the improvements of the park elements of the Nelson Town Bid is approved.
2021/153 (TC)	<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 informed Members that work continues at Pendle Borough Council in relation to the Town Deal. Feasibility studies and focus groups are currently in progress and these are likely to be ongoing for a number of weeks.</p> <p>The Chairman has been present at a number of meetings in relation to the Town Deal and had requested that the Borough Council do more to keep the public in the loop with progress updates of the deal. The Borough have now stated that increased updates will be given in the local press, on the Council website and via social media.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2021/154 (TC)	<p><u>PENDLE CEMETERY SITE – REQUEST</u> A request has been submitted by Pendle Borough Council to explore the possibility of testing grounds at allotment sites owned by Nelson Town Council to potentially be used as cemeteries. Members are asked to decide whether to grant permission to the Borough Council to explore this matter further.</p> <p>David Walker of Pendle Borough Council had requested that sites at Walton Lane and Marsden Hall Road North be tested for the potential use of burials. It is estimated that the current land authorised for burials will be full by 2026, so Pendle Borough Council have been tasked with finding new or extending current locations.</p> <p>Councillors were mindful that allotment holders would need to be taken into consideration and consulted should the site prove to be appropriate. All were in agreement that the land could be tested which may well rule the sites out in any case, providing the Borough Council covered these costs.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That Pendle Borough Council are authorised to test the ground at the requested sites. Should the ground prove appropriate for use, another item is to be brought back to this Council to consider any further requests.</p>
2021/155 (TC)	<p><u>BUDGET FOR 2022/23</u> To receive an update from the Budget Working Group who were tasked with the setting of the budget for the financial year 2022/23 to be brought to this Council for approval. Pendle Borough Council have asked that a finalized version be authorised before Friday 04th February for the setting of the precept.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that the Budget Working Group are still finalising a draft version of the budget for 2022/23. Once this is complete, it will be going to the Finance and General Purposes committee at the end of January for review, then brought before the meeting of this Council in February for approval.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2021/156 (TC)	<p><u>BACK STREET PROJECT</u> To receive an update from the Vice-Chairman in relation to the Back Streets Project.</p> <p>The Vice-Chairman reported that work has now begun on Barkerhouse Road and Brunswick Street. Now that the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate project has been completed, it is hoped that</p>

	<p>the Back Streets project will pick up speed and works can begin on the streets identified during the coming months.</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>
2021/157 (TC)	<p><u>PENDLE PRIMARY SCHOOLS FREE SWIMMING INITIATIVE 2022/23</u></p> <p>To receive details from Pendle Leisure Trust with regards to the timetable in relation the free swimming initiative for school children. At the previous meeting, Members had agreed to the funding request of £12,901.50 subject to being satisfied with the proposed timings.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That this Council are satisfied with the proposed timings of sessions for school children and that the release of the previously agreed contribution is authorised for payment.</p>
2021/158 (TC)	<p><u>QUEEN'S JUBILEE</u></p> <p>To discuss what the Town Council would like to do to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, due to take place in June 2022.</p> <p>At the previous meeting of this Council, an item was requested to go on this agenda in relation to the Queen's upcoming jubilee, due to take place in June 2022, and to decide if/ how the Council should mark the occasion.</p> <p>Deputy Lieutenant Buchanan of the Armed Forces Support Group had recently been in contact with Councillors with some suggestions as to how the town may wish to commemorate the event. Members agreed that setting up a meeting with the Armed Forces Support Group and any other interested parties would be an appropriate way forward.</p> <p>Action: Members of the Events, Promotional and Marketing committee to arrange a meeting with those who have expressed an interest in holding an event to discuss potential ideas.</p>
2021/159 (TC)	<p><u>LAND NEXT TO UNITY HALL</u></p> <p>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>No further updates have been received this month in terms of the last next to Unity Hall. Councillor Ali noted that he had previously requested this item be brought to the attention of the Policy & 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>
2021/160 (TC)	<p><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u></p> <p>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></p>

	<p>The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated the November and December 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. The maintenance team from Pendle Borough Council have now installed these at all sites.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u> No further updates around the transfer of parks services. As resolved earlier in this meeting, the Town Council have agreed to support the Nelson Town Bid parks project with a £50,000 contribution per year over the next five years.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>Additional Services</u> The Budget Working Group will look at the additional services list provided by Pendle Borough Council and come back to this meeting with suggestions of any further services for Members to consider.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p>
2021/161 (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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Community Masjid venue assistance
2021/162 (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 09th February 2022 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 8.15pm.</p>