



**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at the Unity Well Being Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire.**

**Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.20pm**

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Zafar Ali [Chair], Faraz Ahmad, Zulfiqar C Ali, Husnan Arshad, Ali Baig, Sadia Bashir, Wayne Blackburn, Rehan Hanif, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Nazeem Hayat, Mohammad Kamran Latif [Vice Chair], Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Mohammad Sakib, Russell Tennant, Yvonne Tennant, Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

**Absent Councillors:** Councillors George Adam, Omar Ahmed, Mohammad Aslam, Mashuq Hussain OBE and Atique Rehman.

**Non-Councillor (without voting rights):** Lancashire County Councillor: Mohammed Iqbal

**Officers:** Nick Harbour – Assistant Town Clerk [minute taker] and Frances Spencer – Administrator.

**Members of the Public:** None

2022/001  
(AC)

**CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

To receive the Chairman's opening remarks

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

All further comments are to be made in the Chairman's Annual Report.

Members noted the update.

2022/002  
(AC)

**MINUTES**

To approve the draft minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Proposed by Councillor Kamran Latif and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood

**RESOLVED:** That the draft minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 are approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2022/003  
(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.
- The Chairman noted that 2021/22 had continued to be a challenging time for everyone

	<p>due to Covid-19 and 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council has continued to be active in adding its own support during the pandemic, such as providing laptops for schools, food parcels and charitable support.</li> <li>• 2021 saw the Town Council play a part in key community events such as Pendle Festival of Culture, the starting of junior football coaching and an adult league, and the rebranding and launch of the Pride of Nelson Awards.</li> <li>• The Town Council organized various events, including hosting a screening of the Euro 2020 final alongside Nelson Cricket Club and the Lancashire Day Festival, as well as commissioning and delivering the Selina Cooper Project.</li> <li>• In 2022 a new bid from Historic England, about celebrating working class history, will be linked to the Selina Cooper Project.</li> <li>• The Chairman thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for continuing to ensure that the Town Council's functions are being delivered to a high standard – and this is evident from our auditors reports over the past few years. A temporary administrator has also started working in the office so support the Assistant until a new Town Clerk is appointed.</li> <li>• In 2022 the Town Council agreed to support the Nelson Town Deal board in the delivery of the Town Deal. The Town Council will be contributing £250,000 over 4 years towards the parks element of the deal. The Chairman stated it is important that the Council have a strong voice at the board so that it can help deliver the projects to the highest of standards.</li> <li>• The Town Council will continue to have new challenges with further services being passed down from Pendle Borough Council. The Council must ensure one eye is kept on the future of Pendle Borough Council and Pendle Leisure Trust.</li> <li>• The Chairman made a personal statement saying that leading the Town Council for the past 5 years has been one of the proudest moments of his life as a Nelsoner. He added it was an honour to be entrusted with the role of Chairman since 2017, as it is a position of such responsibility. Today however, the Town Council has hundreds interacting with Nelson Town Council online, it has a widely read newsletter and a diverse team of councillors who have all played a part in making Nelson Town Council what it is today.</li> <li>• The Chairman announced that as of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 there will be a new Chair and Vice Chair. The Chairman said it has been an honour to serve the people of Nelson as Chairman and thanked colleagues, staff and residents for their support. He asked that all continue this support of the new Chair and Vice Chair to make their experience worthwhile and productive.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors Sadia Bashir, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Nazeem Hayat, M Kamran Latif, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Neil Pearson-Asher, Mohammad Sakib, Ikram Ul-Haq, and the Assistant Town Clerk all made statements of appreciation and gave thanks to the Councillor Ali for his service to the Town Council as Chairman.</p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>
2022/004 (AC)	<p><b><u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u></b></p> <p><b>4.1 To receive questions from members of the public</b></p> <p>No members of the public were present at the meeting.</p> <p><b>4.2 To consider any local issues which are causing concern, brought forward by a member of the public</b></p> <p>No members of the public were present at the meeting.</p>

**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 19:20.