



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.50pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Mohammad Kamran Latif (Chair), Faraz Ahmad, Zafar Ali, Zulfiqar Chaudhry Ali, Mohammad Aslam, Ali Baig, Wayne Blackburn, Rehan Hanif, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Mashuq Hussain OBE, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sakib, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Russell Tennant, Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors Omar Ahmed, Husnan Arshad, Nazeem Hayat, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher and Yvonne Tennant

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): Azhar Ali

County/ Borough Councillors (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: None

2022/123 (TC)	<u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u> The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence. The one-minute silence was observed.
2022/124 (TC)	<u>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u> To receive the Chairman's opening remarks The Chairman welcomed all those present, thanked them for their attendance and wished them a Happy New Year.
2022/125 (TC)	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Hannah-Wood and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher and Yvonne Tennant are approved and accepted.

2022/126 (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>
2022/127 (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>Three members of the public present – all applicants for the casual vacancies later on in the agenda.</p> <p>No questions raised at this stage.</p>
2022/128 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14 December 2022 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 14 December 2022 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2022/129 (TC)	<p><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and General Purposes Committee 21 December 2022 <p>Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Hussain, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.</p>
2022/130 (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 Ali gave a brief update as to the latest happenings at Pendle Borough Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley Committee met recently and discussed various planning applications for the area. The central committee no longer meets to discuss planning applications and this will be better for residents as Councillors from that area can make a more informed decision on the areas they represent. • The budget for the above committee is likely to be reduced from around £100,000 to £90,000 in cost cutting exercises at the Borough level. • £2,500 was approved to match the Town Council's contribution to go towards alterations to the cenotaph in the town centre. <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to provide an update.</p>
2022/131	<p><u>CLIMATE EMERGENCY ISSUES WORKING GROUP UPDATE</u></p>

(TC)	<p>A standing item to receive an update from the Climate Emergency Issues Working Group to identify and discuss any issues in which this Town Council can help to combat any climate issues arising.</p> <p>The Climate Emergency Issues Working Group had not met since the last meeting of the Council so no new update was available.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2022/132 (TC)	<p><u>POLICE UPDATE</u> To receive an update from PCs Jemima Hill and/or Thomas Schofield around the latest issues happening in and around Nelson and to discuss the most recent crime figures for Nelson</p> <p>No Police were in attendance at this meeting to provide an update and no crime figures had been received at the office.</p> <p>The Police were also not in attendance at the most recent meeting of Pendle Borough Council.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2022/133 (TC)	<p><u>CO-OPTION PROCEDURE – WALVERDEN WARD</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 Walverden ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates addressing the council will be asked to step forward by the Chair in alphabetical name order (by surname) • Candidates to be given five minutes maximum to introduce themselves, give information on their background and explain why they wish to become a member • Process will be carried out in public session and there will be no private discussion between members • 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 • Council is required to proceed to a vote with each candidate being proposed and seconded by the councillors in attendance and a vote to be taken by a show of hands. A recorded vote may be requested by any member. • 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) <p>Two applications were received in relation to the Walverden vacancy. The candidates were invited to this meeting to speak before existing Councillors to explain why they would like to become a Councillor.</p> <p>The applicants 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 Latif and Seconded by Councillor Ul-Haq, and RESOLVED: That both candidates meet the criteria set out in the Co-Option Policy and a vote is to take place to elect one candidate to the vacant position in the Walverden ward.</p> <p>All Councillors present at this stage voted for the candidate they felt would best suit the position of Councillor for the Walverden ward.</p> <p>The votes were as follows:</p>

	<p>Anam Nawaz – 6 votes Manzar Iqbal – 9 votes</p> <p>Manzar Iqbal 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> <p>Members expressed their thanks to both candidates for applying for the vacancy and were highly impressed with both applicants.</p>
<p>2022/134 (TC)</p>	<p><u>CO-OPTION PROCEDURE – SOUTHFIELD WARD</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 Southfield ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates addressing the council will be asked to step forward by the Chair in alphabetical name order (by surname) • Candidates to be given five minutes maximum to introduce themselves, give information on their background and explain why they wish to become a member • Process will be carried out in public session and there will be no private discussion between members • 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 • Council is required to proceed to a vote with each candidate being proposed and seconded by the councillors in attendance and a vote to be taken by a show of hands. A recorded vote may be requested by any member. • 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) <p>One application was received in relation to the Southfield. 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 Latif, and RESOLVED: That Mohammad Adeel Qamar meets the criteria set out in the Co-Option Policy and is elected to the vacant position in the Southfield ward.</p> <p>All Councillors present at the meeting voted and this was a unanimous decision.</p> <p>Mohammad Adeel Qamar was therefore co-opted onto the Town Council in the Southfield ward and signed off the relevant paperwork and took up his seat on the Council.</p>
<p>2022/135 (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>Councillor Ali gave a brief update in relation to the town deal. The key updates from the latest town deal meeting were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pendle Borough Council have now allocated £13,000,000 for projects at Pendle Rise and Trafalgar House. • The CPO at Pendle Rise is ongoing. Ideas for what to use the building as are currently being discussed and a consultation with residents will also take place. • A decision is yet to be agreed on what the end use will be for Trafalgar House.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pendle Borough Council have recently employed two new people to take over key roles within the town deal after staff left just before the Christmas break. <p>He also reminded Councillor present and the public in attendance that the Town Deal meetings are open to the public should they wish to attend in the future. He also urged Councillors to share these updates with residents in their local ward.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2022/136 (TC)	<p><u>BUDGET FOR 2023/ 24</u></p> <p>To review and approve the draft budget for 2023/24 as set out by the Budget Working Group appointed at the November 2022 Full Council meeting. Pendle Borough Council have asked that a finalized version be authorised before Friday 04th February for the setting of the precept.</p> <p>Members present had all received a copy of the draft budget for 2023/24 as prepared by the Budget Working Group. The Assistant Town Clerk and Councillor Ali had also met with the head of Finance at Pendle Borough Council to go through the details of the draft.</p> <p>Councillor Ali talked through the minor alterations to the budget from the previous year, and stated that the precept would be kept the same as the previous year. All present were in agreement that this was appropriate, given the other increases residents will have to pay for in the coming financial year for things like the increase in energy bills.</p> <p>All present unanimously agreed to the draft presented at this meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That the draft budget for the financial year 2023/24 is approved and accepted as presented.</p>
2022/137 (TC)	<p><u>WARM AND WELCOME PUBLIC SPACES</u></p> <p>To discuss the warm and welcome public spaces project being held in the Revive Café for winter 2022.</p> <p>Councillor Ahmad gave a brief update on the Warm Hub. It has now been up and running for eight weeks.</p> <p>The number of users is increasing all the time which is encouraging news in that more and more people are hearing about the service. Some days over 20 people are attending.</p> <p>Tea, coffee, soft drinks and toast are all available at no charge to visitors. Newspapers, games and magazines are also provided. A new television has also recently been installed for people to watch when they visit.</p> <p>Nelson Community Masjid are also still attending from 5pm – 6pm to offer free hot meals to anyone wishing to have one.</p> <p>Decorating of the café area has now also been completed.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2022/138 (TC)	<p><u>STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING – FINDINGS</u></p> <p>16.1 Exclusion of the Press and Public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960. It is recommended that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.</p>

	<p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hannah-Wood, and RESOLVED: That no Press or Public be permitted to attend this section of the meeting. Only the Members of the Council are to participate in the meeting, with the Assistant Town Clerk in attendance as minute taker.</p> <p>16.2 To discuss the next steps forward in relation findings presented by Pendle Borough Council with regards to a Member of this Council</p> <p>REDACTED.</p>
2022/139 (TC)	<p><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u> To receive reports and consider any actions required in relation to transferred services.</p> <p><u>CCTV monitoring</u></p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk reported that CCTV monitoring report for December had been received and circulated to Members. No major issues were identified.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u></p> <p>New benches have arrived for the Play Area at Hodge House. These will be installed next week.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u></p> <p>As highlighted at the previous meeting, the public consultation around the parks has now finished and officers at Pendle Borough Council are still reviewing the findings.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2022/140 (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"> • Recycling for Schools
2022/141 (TC)	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</u> The date of the next meeting of the Council is due to be held on Wednesday 08th February 2023.</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 8.50pm.</p>