



**Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire**

**Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.45pm**

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Naeem Akhtar, Iftikhar Ali, Zafar Ali, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Mohammad Aslam, Sughra Bibi, Tallaha Fiaz, Julie Green, Rehan Hanif, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Atique Rehman, Marie Stone, and Sheila Wicks

**Absent Councillors:** Councillors Shabaz Ahmed, Husnan Arshad, Aqib Bashir, Mohammad Kamran Butt, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Hassan Mahmood, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar and Mohammad Ajmal Khan UI Nisa

**Non-Councillor (without voting rights):** None

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

**Members of the Public:** Kath Stewart and Elaine Butterworth (St John's Churchyard Group)

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| 2023/137<br>(TC) | <p><b><u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u></b><br/>The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence.</p> <p>The one-minute silence was observed.</p>   |
| 2023/138<br>(TC) | <p><b><u>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u></b><br/>To receive the Chairman's opening remarks</p> <p>The Chairman for the meeting welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance.</p> <p>He also spoke about the news being reported from the conflict in Israel and Palestine and how such a loss of innocent lives was abhorrent and hopes that peace is reached in this and all other ongoing conflicts around the world.</p> |
| 2023/139<br>(TC) | <p><b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b><br/>To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Aslam and Seconded by Councillor Stone and<br/><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the apologies received from Councillors Shabaz Ahmed, Mohammad Kamran Butt, Mohammad Kamran Latif and Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar are approved and accepted.</p>                |

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| 2023/140<br>(TC) | <p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u></b><br/>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 Wicks declared an interest on item 14 as she is part of the St John’s Churchyard charity.</p>  |
| 2023/141<br>(TC) | <p><b><u>ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u></b><br/>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>Two member of the public present to discuss item 14 on the agenda.</p>  |
| 2023/142<br>(TC) | <p><b><u>MINUTES</u></b><br/>To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13 December 2023 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Nawaz and<br/><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 13 December 2023 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>   |
| 2023/143<br>(TC) | <p><b><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u></b><br/>To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance and General Purposes Committee <span style="float: right;">20 December 2023</span></li> </ul> <p>The Chairman highlighted that the above meeting did not take place so there were no minutes to receive.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>  |
| 2023/144<br>(TC) | <p><b><u>REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u></b><br/>To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors</p> <p><u>Borough Council</u></p> <p>No major updates from Borough Councillors. Councillor Aslam did note that discussions were taking place around the lack of bus services in the Every Street area of the town but these are in the very early stages and an update can be provided at the next meeting of this Council should any further developments take place between now and then.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to provide an update.</p> |
| 2023/145<br>(TC) | <p><b><u>CLIMATE EMERGENCY ISSUES</u></b><br/>An item to identify and consider council initiatives which will help deal with the climate emergency through Nelson Town Council’s functions, facilities and any other remit.</p> <p>No new items suggested.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>   |

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| <p>2023/146<br/>(TC)</p> | <p><b><u>POLICE UPDATE</u></b><br/> To receive an update from PC Jemima Hill 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 in attendance at this meeting to provide a verbal update into the latest crime levels across the town.</p> <p>Councillor Aslam did have to hand a copy of the December crime statistics which he updated Members with. Overall, crime figures had gone down across the town, with the exception of assaults and thefts in Southfield which had unfortunately increased from the previous years comparison.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>   |
| <p>2023/147<br/>(TC)</p> | <p><b><u>NELSON TOWN DEAL</u></b><br/> To discuss the Nelson Town Deal and prepare for ways to which Nelson Town Council can assist with the process.</p> <p>Councillor Ali informed Members that no meetings had taken place in relation to the Town Deal Project since the last meeting of this Council so no further updates could be provided. One is due to take place later this month so Councillor Ali will be able to provide an update at the February Full Council meeting.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>  |
| <p>2023/148<br/>(TC)</p> | <p><b><u>KINGS CORONATION ORCHARD FUNDING</u></b><br/> To consider locations to put forward to Pendle Borough Council for areas in Nelson which could benefit from the Kings Coronation Orchard Funding project. Pendle Borough Council have received £19,000 to be spent in the Borough to go towards community orchards.</p> <p>Pendle Borough Council have received £19,000 for the Kings Coronation Orchard Fund Project and have asked all Town Council's in the Borough for suggestions on locations for sites in their respective towns.</p> <p>Members discussed this and were in agreement that the best locations for Nelson would be around the gateway to the town centre entrances, including Manchester Road, Carr Road and Railway Street. It was also suggested that the green area up on Vernon Street could be a good spot for new trees given the play area is due to be redeveloped in 2024.</p> <p>Slight concerns were raised around the falling fruit from the trees and the potential mess this could create, as well as the possibility that young children could pick the fruit and eat it when it wasn't fully ripened. They asked that this be taken into consideration when selecting what types of trees are planted.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Nawaz, and<br/> <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Assistant Town Clerk is to submit an email response to Pendle Borough Council highlighting the sites identified above for consideration, as well as mentioning the concerns around the falling fruit.</p> |
| <p>2023/149<br/>(TC)</p> | <p><b><u>BEAT THE STREET</u></b><br/> Following the presentation from Sarah Dunne around the Beat the Street initiative being introduced in local towns across East Lancashire at the last meeting of the Council, the appropriate paperwork has now been circulated for Members to consider a £5,000 contribution to the project to assist with health and well being of residents of Nelson.</p>   |

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|                          | <p>Following on from the presentation made at the last meeting by Sarah Dunne from Active Lancashire in relation to the 'Beat the Street' project, Members had received the report from the scheme which had taken place in Burnley last year and were happy that the initiative was well received by residents there and that it was a worthwhile project for Nelson to undertake to assist with the health and wellbeing of all residents across the town should they wish to participate.</p> <p>The additional funding request of £5,000 would ensure that all wards across the town were covered.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad, and<br/> <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the request for £5,000 for the Beat the Street initiative to take place to cover the whole of Nelson is approved.</p>  |
| <p>2023/150<br/>(TC)</p> | <p><b><u>ST JOHN'S CURCHYARD</u></b></p> <p>To receive a request from the Friends of St John's Churchyard charity in relation to works ongoing at the site and consider supporting the safety assessment costs for £2,000 which need to take place on over 7,000 graves at the site which need reviewing.</p> <p>Kath Stewart and Elaine Butterworth (St John's Churchyard Group) were in attendance at the meeting to discuss the St John's Churchyard and plans for the future of the site.</p> <p>The site is currently maintained by volunteers and is well used by visitors for varying reasons, including exercise and to socialize with other residents of the town. The group are always looking for additional volunteers to assist with maintaining the site and are working alongside other local agencies including Building Bridges and the Community Payback Team.</p> <p>They were asking for support from the Town Council in terms of raising awareness of the group to assist with finding further volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the site, and also if the Town Council would be willing to contribute towards supporting the safety awareness costs which will be £2,000 which is needed to check over 7,000 graves at the site to ensure they are all safe and don't cause a hazard to visitors.</p> <p>Town Councillors discussed the site and many had been up to the Churchyard themselves and praised the ongoing work by the team and said they would encourage residents in their respective wards to visit the site and see if any of their residents had the capacity to volunteer. In terms of the financial contribution, this could be reviewed at the next Finance and General Purposes committee meeting when relevant documents had been submitted to the office.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hanif and Seconded by Councillor Anwar, and<br/> <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillors are requested to speak to residents to encourage them to volunteer at the site and that the financial request is to go before the Finance and General Purposes committee in January for Members to consider.</p> |
| <p>2023/151<br/>(TC)</p> | <p><b><u>BUDGET FOR 2024/ 25</u></b></p> <p>To review and approve the draft budget for 2024/25 as set out by the Budget Working Group appointed at the November 2023 Full Council meeting. Pendle Borough Council have asked that a finalized version be authorised before Friday 02<sup>nd</sup> February for the setting of the precept</p> <p>Members present had all received a copy of the draft budget for 2024/25 as prepared by the Assistant Town Clerk and members of the Budget Working Group. The Assistant Town Clerk</p>   |

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|                          | <p>and Councillors Ahmad, Ali and Hanif had also met with various employees of Pendle Borough Council in recent weeks to discuss costs for next year, particularly around the parks services.</p> <p>Councillor Ali talked through the alterations to the budget from the previous year, and stated that the precept would be increased by 5% This would be the first increase in three years. All present were in agreement that this was appropriate, given the 100% contribution which will be made to the parks services to maintain all three parks in the town.</p> <p>All present unanimously agreed to the draft presented at this meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Nawaz, and<br/> <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft budget for the financial year 2024/25 is approved and accepted as presented.</p>   |
| <p>2023/152<br/>(TC)</p> | <p><b><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u></b><br/> 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><u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u></p> <p>A site meeting took place in December between the Assistant Town Clerk, a number of Councillors and Phil Riley from Pendle Borough Council to discuss options for improvements to be made at both CATS Park play area and Vernon Street play area. Both of these play areas are in need of equipment upgrades.</p> <p>Phil is currently working on some options which will be submitted to the office and presented to Full Council in the new year for Members to discuss.</p> <p>It is hoped that four of the play areas in Nelson can be upgraded in 2024.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u></p> <p>As resolved earlier in the meeting, Nelson Town Council will be contributing 100% of the costs to maintain the three parks in Nelson. This will start in April 2024.</p> <p>Members noted the above updates.</p> |
| <p>2023/153<br/>(TC)</p> | <p><b><u>ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA</u></b><br/> To notify the Assistant Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <p>None.</p>   |
| <p>2023/154<br/>(TC)</p> | <p><b><u>DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</u></b><br/> The date of the next meeting of the Council is due to be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.</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 7.45pm.</p>  |

Signed Chair: .....

Dated: .....