



**Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire**

**Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.55pm**

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Mohammad Kamran Butt, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Rehan Hanif, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Marie Stone, Mohammad Ajmal Khan UI Nisa and Sheila Wicks

**Absent Councillors:** Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Naeem Akhtar, Shabaz Ahmed, Iftikhar Ali, Zafar Ali, Aqib Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Tallaha Fiaz, Julie Green, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Hassan Mahmood, Anam Nawaz, Atique Rehman and Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar

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

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

**Members of the Public:** Waqar Ahmed (Those From Distant Lands Project)

2023/155 (TC)	<p><b><u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u></b> The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence.</p> <p>The one-minute silence was observed.</p>
2023/156 (TC)	<p><b><u>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u></b> 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>
2023/157 (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 Hanif and Seconded by Councillor Stone and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the apologies received from Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Shabaz Ahmed, Iftikhar Ali, Zafar Ali, Sughra Bibi, Julie Green, Hassan Mahmood and Anam Nawaz are approved and accepted.</p>

2023/158 (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>
2023/159 (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>One member of the public present to discuss item 12 on the agenda.</p>
2023/160 (TC)	<p><b><u>MINUTES</u></b> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10 January 2024 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Aslam and Seconded by Councillor Stone and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 10 January 2024 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2023/161 (TC)	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u></b> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance and General Purposes Committee 31 January 2024</li> <li>• Unity Well Being Management Committee 31 January 2024</li> </ul> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hanif and Seconded by Councillor Anwar, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.</p>
2023/162 (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>No major updates from Borough Councillors. Councillors Anwar and Aslam noted that a planning application for a new wedding venue at the top of Halifax Road had been deferred to the March Area Committee meeting whilst further information is collected. A decision will be made on this application at the March Area Committee.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to provide an update.</p>
2023/163 (TC)	<p><b><u>CLIMATE EMERGENCY ISSUES</u></b> 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 were raised at the meeting but there was one item further on this agenda (item 15) which was climate related.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>

<p>2023/164 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>POLICE UPDATE</u></b>  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>The Assistant Town Clerk had called PC Jemima Hill before the meeting who informed him that nobody would be available to attend tonight’s meeting. PC Hill is actually leaving the area in the next couple of weeks and has promised to send on contact details for her replacement who can then be invited to attend future meetings of this Council.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2023/165 (TC)</p>	<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>No Members present had an update on the latest with the Town Deal Project. It is hoped that Councillor Ali will be in attendance at the next Full Council meeting to provide an update in March.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2023/166 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>‘THOSE FROM DISTANT LANDS’ – VIDEO AND BOOK PROJECT</u></b>  To consider part funding of the project to go towards a video, book and exhibition being created by Respect and Dignity Arts which will highlight the early South-Asian migrant experience in East Lancashire.</p> <p>Wawar Ahmed was in attendance at the meeting to give a presentation to Members in relation to a funding request for the Town Council’s support on the upcoming ‘Those From Distant Lands’ project. The project will consist of a video, book and exhibition being created by Respect and Dignity Arts which will highlight the early South-Asian migrant experience in East Lancashire.</p> <p>The project cost is for £22,000 and currently the organisation have £9,000 secured from Lancashire County Council and are exploring other avenues to gain the additional £13,000 required for the project to go ahead.</p> <p>The project will be supported by over 40 local students of high school age and the skills they will develop will also be carried over to similar projects which will look to benefit the area over the coming years. Participants in the video and book will also be from Nelson and the surrounding area, and they will be able to tell their families story and give information on when they settled in Nelson.</p> <p>Once the video and book are completed, exhibitions are also planned to showcase the project in other cities in the UK out of Lancashire – including Manchester, Birmingham and London.</p> <p>Members present were in agreement that the project was an excellent idea and were happy to contribute towards the project, but felt that rather than give the full remaining balance needed to start the project, they felt that £7,000 would be a generous contribution and that the project organisers be asked to source the remaining £6,000 from other grant funding bodies. The £7,000 would only be released once evidence that the remaining shortfall of £6,000 is submitted to the office.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hanif and Seconded by Councillor Anwar, and</p>

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Nelson Town Council are to contribute £7,000.00 to the project, subject to the remainder of the shortfall for the total cost of the project being found first.</p>
<p>2023/167 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024/ 25</u></b> To receive and approve the draft meeting schedule for 2024/ 25.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk had previously circulated a draft meeting schedule for the year 2024/2025 for Member approval.</p> <p>It was suggested that full council meetings only take place in July and December with no committee meetings, along with the month of August having no meetings as proposed. This would give officers time to take annual leave and catch up on other administrative matters at key times in the year. Should a committee meeting be required for any emergency item we can always call an extraordinary meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Hanif, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft meeting schedule as presented before this committee is approved and accepted for 2024/25 with changes to incorporate only Full Council meetings in July and December.</p>
<p>2023/168 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>NORTH WEST IN BLOOM ENTRY</u></b> To consider whether the Council would like to enter the 2024 North West In Bloom competition. The Council received a Silver Award in the competition in 2023.</p> <p>Members were all in agreement that the Town Council are to once again apply for the Britain in Bloom competition for 2024. The Events, Promotional and Marketing Committee are asked to discuss the project at their next meeting to look to get more community involvement in place which will hopefully push up this year's score as the Council look to improve on the Silver award received for the last three years.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Hanif and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Nelson Town Council enter the Britain in Bloom competition for 2024 for the town centre category award.</p>
<p>2023/169 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>GIB HILL NATURE RESERVE</u></b> To discuss the Gib Hill Nature Reserve and consider the Town Council's involvement in future plans for the site.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk informed Members that he had recently attended a meeting involving Pendle Borough Council and Colne Town Council representatives around the upkeep of the Gib Hill Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Gib Hill Nature Reserve falls between the Nelson and Colne boundary so the two Town Councils were being asked to support the maintenance of the site and for ideas on the best way forward. It was suggested at the meeting that big fees be paid directly to Pendle Borough Council for maintenance work and other projects, that a "Friends of Gib Hill Nature Reserve Group" is formed and financially backed by both Councils, which would allow the group to apply for match funding grants from organisations which Councils themselves can not directly apply to. It was agreed that this was a sensible approach and suggested that £5,000.00 from each Council could go to the Friends Group to start the project off.</p> <p>A number of volunteers already work up at the site so the numbers of people wanting to be involved in the group would be high and lots of work could get done at the site to ensure that it is kept clean and tidy for residents of both towns to enjoy.</p> <p>It was agreed at the meeting to present the idea to members of each Council for</p>

	<p>consideration.</p> <p>A general maintenance budget of £1,500.00 from each Council was also discussed which would go to Pendle Borough Council to cover things like hiring diggers which volunteers would not be able to operate themselves.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Hanif, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Nelson Town Council are to support the formation of a “Friends of Gib Hill Nature Reserve Group” and contribute a match funding figure of £5,000.00 alongside Colne Town Council to go towards the running of the group, as well as £1,500.00 to go to Pendle Borough Council for annual maintenance costs.</p>
2023/170 (TC)	<p><b><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u></b></p> <p>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 January had been received and circulated to Members. No major issues were identified.</p> <p>Councillor Aslam did pass on some information to the Assistant Town Clerk regards to an incident in the town centre which he asked that the CCTV monitoring team at the Hub investigate.</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>As yet, Phil has not sent across the options. Members asked that the Assistant Town Clerk contact Phil to chase the options so that things can be put in motion for works to start as soon as possible in hope that the play areas can be ready for when the weather turns nicer later in the spring.</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>The Assistant Town Clerk had contacted the Parks department around an issue with the new safety surfacing at Marsden Park. The team are going out to take a look at the site early next week.</p> <p>Members noted the above updates.</p>
2023/171 (TC)	<p><b><u>ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA</u></b></p> <p>To notify the Assistant Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <p>None.</p>
2023/172 (TC)	<p><b><u>DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting of the Council is due to be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</p>

Members noted the date of the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.55pm.

Signed Chair: .....

Dated: .....