



**Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>  
January 2025 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson,  
Lancashire**

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

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Naeem Akhtar, Zafar Ali, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Mohammad Aslam, Riaz Bashir, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Mohammed Rehan Hanif, Hassan Mahmood, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar and Marie Stone

**Absent Councillors:** Councillors Shabaz Ahmed, Iftikhar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Aqib Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Mohammad Kamran Butt, Tallaha Fiaz, Julie Green, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Ajmal Khan Ul Nisa and Sheila Wicks

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

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

**Members of the Public:** 1 member of the public present

2024/132 (TC)	<p><b><u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence.</p> <p>The Chairman asked Members to stand to observe the minutes silence.</p> <p>The one-minute silence was observed.</p>
2024/133 (TC)	<p><b><u>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u></b></p> <p>To receive the Chairman's opening remarks</p> <p>The Chairman for the meeting welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance as well as wishing them all a Happy New Year.</p> <p>He also gave his best wishes to Councillor Aslam who was in attendance who is dealing with a health issue.</p>
2024/134 (TC)	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b></p> <p>To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Stone and</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the apologies received from Councillors Shabaz Ahmed, Aqib Bashir, Julie Green and Sheila Wicks are approved and accepted.</p>

2024/135 (TC)	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u></b></p> <p>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>
2024/136 (TC)	<p><b><u>ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u></b></p> <p>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 were present to discuss item 16.</p>
2024/137 (TC)	<p><b><u>MINUTES</u></b></p> <p>To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11 December 2024 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Sarwar and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 11 December 2024 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2024/138 (TC)	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u></b></p> <p>To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personnel Committee 01 January 2025</li> </ul> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk stated that this meeting did not go ahead so no minutes were available for receipt.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2024/139 (TC)	<p><b><u>REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u></b></p> <p>To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors</p> <p><u>Borough Council</u></p> <p>No major updates from Borough Councillors. Councillor Ali did mention that the Police were in attendance at the most recent Pendle Borough Council meeting to discuss some recent incidents involving road traffic incidents.</p> <p>He also noted that there were a number of planning applications for Nelson which were mainly for dormer extensions.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to provide an update.</p>
2024/140 (TC)	<p><b><u>POLICE UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>To receive an update from a member of the local policing team 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>PCSO Donna Waterworth had emailed the Assistant Town Clerk to say she was unavailable</p>

	<p>for this meeting.</p> <p>Police had been at the recent Pendle Borough Council area committee meeting to discuss with Members there a number of incidents which have recently taken place in the town – mainly traffic related incidents.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Police are asked to attend this meeting at least quarterly if they can't make it each month to allow Town Councillors to share feedback they have received from residents with a member of the Police team.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2024/141 (TC)	<p><b><u>NELSON TOWN DEAL</u></b></p> <p>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 recent meetings had taken place over the festive break so no updates could be provided this month. He will have further updates at the February Full Council meeting.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2024/142 (TC)	<p><b><u>NOTICE OF VACANCY – BRADLEY WARD</u></b></p> <p>To receive confirmation of a notice of vacancy after Councillor Tallaha Fiaz has not attended a meeting of this Council nor had apologies accepted for six months and to authorise the next steps in the vacancy procedure.</p> <p>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> <p>Two applications were received in relation to the Southfield 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 Aslam and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Members note the notice of vacancy update and request that the Assistant Town Clerk notify the Pendle Borough Council elections team to start the advertising process for the vacancy in the usual manner.</p>
2024/143 (TC)	<p><b><u>VERNON STREET AND CATS PARK PLAY AREAS</u></b></p> <p>To receive an update around the previously approved works to be carried out at the Vernon Street and CATS Park Play Areas.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk informed Members that works to both Vernon Street and CATS Park Play Areas had now been completed. A couple of minor defects had been identified when some equipment was installed but these were sorted with the suppliers within 48 hours.</p> <p>Members had received positive feedback from residents surrounding the new equipment at both sites.</p> <p>At a future meeting, two more sites will be considered for improving in the next financial year.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>

<p>2024/144 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>BUS SHELTERS</u></b></p> <p>To consider taking over the management of bus shelters in Nelson following a written request from Pendle Borough Council.</p> <p>Scott Whalley of Pendle Borough Council had approached the office to ask if Members would consider taking over the ownership of the bus shelters in the town. The Council had previously discussed this some years ago and at that stage had decided not to take them on.</p> <p>Members briefly discussed the request and the general feel of the meeting was that now could be a good time to take them on given the current financial position and the need for the shelters to be improved ever-increasing the longer they are left unattended.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Mahmood, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Council inform the Borough Council that they are prepared to consider the takeover of the bus shelters across the town but would first like sight of a condition report of the existing shelters.</p>
<p>2024/145 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>BUDGET FOR 2025/26</u></b></p> <p>To consider the draft budget as presented by the Budget Management Working Group.</p> <p>Members present had all received a copy of the draft budget for 2025/26 as prepared by the Assistant Town Clerk and members of the Budget Working Group.</p> <p>Councillor Ali talked through the alterations to the budget from the previous year, and stated that the precept in the draft would not be increased and the shortfall would come from the reserves. All present were in agreement that this was appropriate, given the current balance of the Council's account and the burden on residents with increases likely for all other household costs.</p> <p>Increases in budget lines included planned works to improve the Christmas Lights displays across the town, particularly around the Sagar Street area as it is one of the main gateways into the town. Also increased were lines in the Events budget lines, including holding the bi-annual Pride of Nelson Awards later in 2025.</p> <p>All present unanimously agreed to the draft presented at this meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft budget for the financial year 2025/26 is approved and accepted as presented.</p>
<p>2024/146 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>WILDFLOWERS AT NETHERFIELD ROAD</u></b></p> <p>To consider the installation of wildflower strips on the land at Netherfield Road. Pendle Borough Council currently have £400 for the project and request that the Town Council match this to make one of the main gateways into the town more attractive for visitors and residents.</p> <p>Phil Riley had approached the Council to suggest planting some more wildflowers on Netherfield Road to help make the gateways to the town centre more attractive for residents and visitors.</p> <p>All Members present were in agreement that the ones already in place just past the kickabout area looked good. Feedback from residents on those ones was also good and therefore were in favour of a similar idea being implemented further up the road into the suggested areas.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Council provide match funding of £400.00 to install wildflower</p>

	<p>strips on Netherfield Road.</p> <p>Members also asked the Assistant Town Clerk to speak with Phil Riley about the possibility of some fruit trees being installed in the same area.</p>
2024/147 (TC)	<p><b><u>INSPIRE2BOX – FUNDING REQUEST</u></b></p> <p>To consider a funding request from Inspire2Box for £1,114.95 to part fund equipment for a new charity in Nelson who will be running boxing classes for local residents.</p> <p>Members were asked to consider a funding request from Inspire2Box to part-fund equipment for a new charity in Nelson who will be running boxing classes for local residents. The application form had been circulated.</p> <p>Members had a few questions they asked the representative from Inspire2Box to clarify, including projections for future numbers of attendees. The club hope to have up to 100 service users by the end of 2025 as many are already on the waiting list for when the premises and equipment available are expanded. This includes both boys and girls from the town.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Mahmood and Seconded by Councillor Aslam, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the funding request from Inspire2Box for £1,114.95 to part fund equipment for a new charity in Nelson who will be running boxing classes for local residents is approved.</p>
2024/148 (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 circulated and no major issues were identified.</p> <p>Members asked that the Assistant Town Clerk circulates a map of where all the current cameras owned by the Town Council are located.</p> <p><u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u></p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk had already mentioned that works to Vernon Street Play Area had now finished and that two more areas are due to be selected for improving at a future meeting of this Council.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u></p> <p>No new updates on Parks Services this month.</p> <p>Members noted the above updates.</p>
2024/149 (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>
2024/150 (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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.</p> <p>Members noted the date of the next meeting.</p>

	There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.45pm.
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Signed Chair: .....

Dated: .....