



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 09th April 2025 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.45pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Shabaz Ahmed, Iftikhar Ali, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Mohammad Aslam, Riaz Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Julie Green, Mohammed Rehan Hanif, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Marie Stone, Ikram UI-Haq and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors Naeem Akhtar, Zafar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Aqib Bashir, Mohammad Kamran Butt, Hassan Mahmood, Anam Nawaz, and Mohammad Ajmal Khan UI Nisa

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

Officers: Nick Harbour – Assistant Town Clerk [minute taker] Phil Riley – Pendle Borough Council

Members of the Public: None

2024/170
(TC)

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence.

The Chairman asked Members to stand to observe the minutes silence.

The one-minute silence was observed.

2024/171
(TC)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

To receive the Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman for the meeting welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance as well as hoping that those present had a happy Eid.

He also expressed his disappointment with only just over half of Members in attendance at the meeting.

2024/172
(TC)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Sarwar and

RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillor Zafar Ali are approved and accepted.

2024/173 (TC)	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u></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>
2024/174 (TC)	<p><u>ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u></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>None present.</p>
2024/175 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12 February 2025 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Sarwar and Seconded by Councillor Anwar and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 12 February 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2024/176 (TC)	<p><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u></p> <p>To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and General Purposes Committee 26 February 2025 • Personnel Committee 02 April 2025 <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Sarwar, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.</p>
2024/177 (TC)	<p><u>REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u></p> <p>To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors</p> <p><u>Borough Council</u></p> <p>Councillor Anwar mentioned that at the recent Pendle Borough Council Executive meeting, there are some changes expected in the way that some litter hotspots will be maintained. Currently, the mechanical sweepers are struggling to access some streets due to cars being parked all the way along pavements, making drains and the roadside inaccessible for the vehicles. The plan is that the mechanical sweepers will be reduced for these areas and more workers on foot will be out and about to try to combat the problems.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to provide an update.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2024/178 (TC)	<p><u>POLICE UPDATE</u></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>Councillors Anwar and Ahmad did state that there was due to be a consultation down at Nelson & Colne College in the near future to discuss various aspects of crime in the area.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p>ACTION: Councillor Ahmad to send the leaflet with the details of the event to the Assistant Town Clerk who can then circulate to all Members who can then attend if they wish to.</p>
2024/179 (TC)	<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>Phil Riley from Pendle Borough Council was in attendance to give an update around the parks side of the Town Deal. He was hopeful that by Christmas 2025 all of the works should have been completed.</p> <p>Walverden Park was now sorted in terms of the two playgrounds and the MUGA has now been resurfaced. Some issues have arisen in terms of vandalism and dog fouling. It was suggested that CCTV or further patrols from wardens could stop this.</p> <p>Marsden Park is almost finished too. Some final bits including floor markings for walkers are currently being considered. The play areas and MUGA have all been finished off and there is just some outstanding tarmac works to be finished which are currently out to tender. The bowling green and the tennis courts also still need re-fencing.</p> <p>Victoria Park is currently undergoing some drainage maintenance and the cycle track by the pavilion is also ongoing. Some Members asked about the possibility of some goalposts being installed on the grassed area of the park too. Phil will look into this.</p> <p>A couple of other ideas were also passed on to Phil for looking into, including some lighting at the Fleet Street MUGA and also looking at getting the probation service to become involved with assisting with the fences being painted at all the park sites where needed.</p> <p>Phil finished by thanking the Town Council for their contribution to the parks aspect of the Town Deal and for the Councillor support with certain developments at the different sites.</p> <p>Members noted the update and thanked Phil for his time.</p>
2024/180 (TC)	<p><u>NOTICE OF VACANCY – BRADLEY WARD</u> To receive an update around the Bradley ward vacancy.</p> <p>The Chairman gave a brief update in relation to the vacancy in the Bradley Ward.</p> <p>A bi-election was recently held on Thursday 27th March 2025 and Ikram Ul-Haq was successful in gaining election to this Council. All relevant papers had been signed. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ul-Haq to the Council and stated he was looking forward to working with him on upcoming projects.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2024/181 (TC)	<p><u>BACK STREET PROJECT</u> To receive an update in relation to the Back Streets Project.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk updated Members that the below recently approved phases of the scheme were due to start in early May:</p>

	<p>Phase 4 – Derby Street and Crawford Street Phase 5 – Carr Road and Vernon Street Phase 6 – Holly Street and Hilldrop Road</p> <p>The next section of streets will be brought to a future meeting of this Council.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk also reminded Councillors to suggest to residents who complain about their back street to contact Lancashire County Council (for adopted streets) and Pendle Borough Council (for unadopted streets) in the first instance to report problems.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2024/182 (TC)	<p><u>LAND AT POPLAR STREET</u> To review the contract provided by Pendle Borough Council in relation to the transfer of service of the land at Poplar Street, Nelson.</p> <p>Some time ago, residents had approached Members of this Council to ask about what could be done with some empty land on Poplar Street in Nelson. The land is currently owned by Pendle Borough Council who do not have any funding to do anything with the site. Members had previously resolved to investigate a potential transfer of service of the land to Town Council ownership.</p> <p>This has now been approved by Pendle Borough Council who have prepared the relevant documents for signing and now Members of this Council were asked to review them and if happy to sign them off to take ownership of the land.</p> <p>Members of this Council were happy to do this and look at ways of improving the land for residents in the area – namely by investigating costs for a small play area.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Green, and RESOLVED: That the contract for the takeover of the land at Poplar Street as prepared by Pendle Borough Council is signed off and work begins on looking at installing a small play area on the site.</p>
2024/183 (TC)	<p><u>EVENTS FOR 2025/ 26</u> To discuss the events for the upcoming financial year.</p> <p>Councillor Anwar gave a brief update around the upcoming events for Nelson for 2025/ 26.</p> <p>Discussions have been taking place with the This is Nelson team around the potential of arranging some collaboration of the various festivals which take place throughout the year, including the Festival of Culture and the Christmas Lights Switch On events.</p> <p>This will be discussed in more detail at the next Events, Promotional and Marketing committee and an update at a future Full Council meeting will be provided.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2024/184 (TC)	<p><u>NELSON FOOTBALL CLUB</u> To receive an update around the recent changes being implemented at Nelson Football Club.</p> <p>Councillor Anwar gave an update on Nelson Football Club having recently been invited down to the ground to take a look at their new facilities. She mentioned that new changing rooms and a tea room had been installed at the ground and the club were keen to attract new supporters to attend games.</p>

	<p>They are currently in second place in the league and look likely to be heading into a playoff looking to gain promotion to the Northwest Counties Premier League.</p> <p>Councillor Anwar asked that Members help to promote the club and its new facilities to residents in their local ward.</p> <p>Pendle Borough Council have also extended the lease at the ground to the football club so their future at the site is secured in the medium-term.</p> <p>Members also discussed that some signage pointing residents to the ground would be useful as many people in the town are actually unaware Nelson has its own football team.</p> <p>The club are also keen on promoting the fact that they are looking to encourage new support from all different backgrounds.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2024/185 (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 February had been circulated and no major issues were identified. The March report has not yet arrived but will be circulated as soon as it gets here.</p> <p><u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u></p> <p>Councillor Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry reported some issues with potential ASB at the Fleet Street MUGA site. The area is dark in an evening and he asked Phil Riley would it be beneficial to look at the potential of some lighting on the site. Phil stated that he would look into this and explore some options.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u></p> <p>Parks had been covered in the Town Deal section of the agenda.</p> <p>Members noted the above updates.</p>
2024/186 (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"> • Disabled access at allotments.
2024/187 (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 14th May 2025.</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>