



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 10th September 2025 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.40pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Shabaz Ahmed, Naeem Akhtar, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Aqib Bashir, Riaz Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Julie Green, Hassan Mahmood, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Marie Stone Mohammed Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors Iftikhar Ali, Zafar Ali, Mohammad Kamran Butt, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Rehan Hanif, 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: One member of the public present

2025/060 (TC)	<u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u> The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence. The one-minute silence was observed.
2025/061 (TC)	<u>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u> To receive the Chairman's opening remarks The Chairman for the meeting welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance.
2025/062 (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 Akhtar and Seconded by Councillor Aqib Ahmed and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Zafar Ali, Rehan Hanif, Anam Nawaz and Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar are approved and accepted.
2025/063 (TC)	<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. None.
2025/064	<u>ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>

(TC)	<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>Mohammed Jabbar, organiser of the Winter Wonderland event which takes place in Victoria Park was present and spoke about the potential of support from the Town Council in relation to the 2025 event. No submission had been made yet but an application will be made at a future meeting.</p> <p>He discussed issues raised by members of the public at the previous event and ways in which they were resolved at the Eid event in the summer.</p> <p>Members thanked Mohammed for coming down to give a briefing on the past event and will await submission of a future application before discussing and making a decision as to whether to support the event again in 2025.</p>
2025/065 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 09 July 2025 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ahmed and Seconded by Councillor A. Bashir and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 09 July 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2025/066 (TC)	<p><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events, Promotional and Marketing Committee 03 September 2025 <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.</p>
2025/067 (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>No major updates from Borough Councillors. Councillor Anwar did highlight that a number of planning applications were considered – including an increase in applications for residential homes changing use to care homes. Many of these applications are met with objections from residents living close by to where the application is for.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to provide an update.</p>
2025/068 (TC)	<p><u>POLICE UPDATE</u> To receive an update from PC Donna Waterworth 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>Members noted the update.</p>

<p>2025/069 (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 Ahmad had recently attended a Town Deal meeting and the main update from that was in relation to the Marsden Park Golf Club. The Club is currently costing the Council over £100,000 per year to run and this is causing some budget issues. There have been early indications that half of the site may close but nothing confirmed as of yet.</p> <p>He had also attended an Accessible Nelson meeting where the main topic of discussion was the Sagar Street area works. These are currently ongoing and all access works in the town won't be completed until late 2026. Pendle Rise should be under full ownership of the Council by November 2025 and it should be demolished by March 2026.</p> <p>Councillor Anwar also highlighted that whilst these works are going on, parking spaces may be limited for workers within the town. The Council are currently trying to come to an agreement with Morrisons to utilise some of their car park for workers.</p> <p>A brief discussion also took place around housing within the town and the potential to rather than build new homes in the area, to renovate abandoned homes to create more housing. The legalities and staff costs to potentially CPO these homes is the main reason as to why this is not currently happening, as well as the high possibility that Pendle Council may cease to exist in its current form in the next two years.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2025/070 (TC)</p>	<p><u>SIX-MONTH DISPENSATION FOR COUNCILLOR ANAM NAQAZ</u> To consider a six-month dispensation for Councillor Anam Nawaz.</p> <p>Councillor Anam Nawaz had written to the Assistant Town Clerk to request a six-month dispensation having recently giving birth and therefore being on maternity leave and needing to take some time away from the Council to look after her child.</p> <p>All present at the meeting were in agreement that the dispensation be granted.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Bibi, and RESOLVED: That the six-month dispensation for Councillor Anam Nawaz is approved.</p>
<p>2025/071 (TC)</p>	<p><u>EXTERNAL AUDIT</u> To receive an update from the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to the External Audit being conducted by PKF Littlejohn.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk updated Members that the External Audit report had been received at the office. Two minor issues were raised. The first was around the need to monitor reserves more closely – this will be done at the Finance and General Purposes committee meetings. The second was in relation to a comment in the internal audit report where petty cash payments were referenced the check box had been ticked “not covered” – this was simply down to there being no petty cash funds held in the office anymore.</p> <p>Relevant notices have been published on the website and notice board.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor A. Bashir, and RESOLVED: That the report is noted and that the Finance and General Purposes committee and office staff are thanked for their efforts in preparing all the necessary documentation.</p>

2025/072 (TC)	<p><u>BACK STREET PROJECT</u> To receive an update in relation to the Back Streets Project.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk gave a brief update in relation to the back streets project. Works had now started on the below list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hibson Road – Completed • Vernon/ Carleton Street – Completed • Holly Street – Due to be completed on 19th September • Carr Road – Due to be completed on 26th September • Hildrop Road – Due to be completed on 03rd October • Derby/ Crawford Street – Due to be completed on 10th October <p>Phases 2 & 3 which were agreed at the previous meeting to go to tender have been passed on to Pendle Borough Council to prepare the relevant documentation.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/073 (TC)	<p><u>MANOR STREET ALLOTMENTS</u> To discuss works and issues identified at the Manor Street Allotments site which is under Nelson Town Council ownership.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk and Chairman had been up to the Manor Street Allotments site following complaints received about the disused plots attracting anti-social behaviour. Somebody has been sleeping rough in one of the empty outbuildings and throwing old mattresses about and also starting fires to keep warm. The person has been spoken to by the police but continues to use the site.</p> <p>Some fencing has been broken down at various parts and it looks like a full new metal fencing will need to be erected to prevent any future disturbances, which are causing a nuisance for local residents as well as emergency services.</p> <p>Quotes are currently being obtained to get the works done. It is likely this will be quite expensive but a necessity to prevent further problems. This item will be brought back to a future meeting of the Council for consideration.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/076 (TC)	<p><u>PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF BUS SHELTERS IN NELSON - UPDATE</u> To receive an update in relation to the maintenance of the bus shelters in Nelson following an approach from Pendle Borough Council.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk gave a brief update around the maintenance of the bus shelters following approval at the previous meeting to assist with maintenance costs.</p> <p>The more damaged shelters are currently being repaired. This includes replacement of broken glass with plastic panels and other general maintenance such as repairing damaged seating areas.</p> <p>The power washing has also been booked in to remove graffiti at other vandalised shelters.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/078 (TC)	<p><u>NOTICE OF VACANCY – CLOVER HILL WARD</u> To receive an update in relation to the vacancy in the Clover Hill Ward following Councillor</p>

	<p>Muhammad Ajmal Khan UI Nisa's removal from position.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk informed Members that he had notified the Pendle Borough Council elections team to start the advertising process for the vacancy in the usual manner following Councillor Muhammad Ajmal Khan UI Nisa's removal from position.</p> <p>The relevant documents had been published online and on the Council notice boards. The closing date to receive names from Members of the public wishing to call an election is on Thursday 11th September 2025 and so far, nothing has been received.</p> <p>If this remains the case, the vacancy can then be filled via the Co-Option method.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/079 (TC)	<p><u>NELSON FOOD FESTIVAL 2025</u></p> <p>To receive an update in relation to the recent Nelson Food Festival which took place on Saturday 06th September 2025.</p> <p>Councillor Bibi gave a brief update in relation to the Nelson Food Festival which took place on Saturday 06th September 2025.</p> <p>The event was a huge success, attracting over 8,000 visitors throughout the day. Over 30 stalls were in place for this event who all reportedly gave good feedback.</p> <p>The celebrity chef, Zaynah Din, was a big hit and it is hoped she may return for the 2026 Food Festival.</p> <p>Members noted the update and wanted to place their thanks on record to Scott Dawson's for helping to organise the event and Sugden's for assisting with sponsorship.</p>
2025/080 (TC)	<p><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u></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 July and August had been received and circulated to Members. No major issues were identified.</p> <p><u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u></p> <p>No new updates on play areas or MUGA's. Phil Riley of Pendle Borough Council is currently working on ideas and costings for the sites at Poplar Street and Fleet Street discussed at the previous meeting.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u></p> <p>No new updates around the parks this month.</p> <p>Members noted the above updates.</p>
2025/080 (TC)	<p><u>ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA</u></p> <p>To notify the Assistant Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <p>None.</p>
2025/080	<u>DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</u>

(TC)	<p>The date of the next meeting of the Council is due to be held on Wednesday 08th October 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 7.40pm.</p>
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