



Nelson
Town Council

Nelson Town Council

Town Hall

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Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 08th October 2025 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.40pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Shabaz Ahmed, Zafar Ali, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Aqib Bashir, Riaz Bashir, Rehan Hanif, Hassan Mahmood, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Marie Stone, Julie Sutcliffe, Ikram Ul-Haq and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors Naeem Akhtar, Iftikhar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Sughra Bibi, Mohammad Kamran Butt, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, and Atique Rehman

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: None

2025/081
(TC)

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

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

The one-minute silence was observed.

2025/082
(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.

Members passed on condolences to Councillor Riaz Bashir who's brother-in-law had sadly passed away recently.

2025/083
(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 Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Stone and

RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Naeem Akhtar, Sughra Bibi, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, and Atique Rehman are approved and accepted.

Signed Chair:

Dated:

2025/084 (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.
2025/085 (TC)	<u>ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u> 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. No members of the public present.
2025/086 (TC)	<u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10 September 2025 (previously circulated). Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Sutcliffe and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 10 September 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.
2025/087 (TC)	<u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated: Finance and General Purposes Committee 24 September 2025 Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Ahmed, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.
2025/088 (TC)	<u>REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u> To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors <u>Borough Council</u> No major updates from Borough Councillors. A small number of planning applications were considered but nothing major – just general householder requests. Members noted the update. <u>County Council</u> No County Councillors present to provide an update.
2025/089 (TC)	<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. Unfortunately, no Police were in attendance at this meeting to provide a verbal update into the latest crime levels across the town. The Chairman however did provide some feedback from a recent meeting he attended with the police – the main local concerns are around fireworks at the moment. Whilst there isn't too much that can be done when they are being set off before 23:00 – anything afterwards can be looked into. The problem at the moment is that residents are reporting noisy fireworks but not giving specific locations they are being fired from. The police ask that, where possible, any

	new reports for firework issues are to be specific site locations where they are being let off. Members noted the update.
2025/090 (TC)	<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. Councillor Ahmad had recently attended a Town Deal meeting and a 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. Councillors discussed the works and were in agreement that the Sagar Street area was causing big problems which had also been highlighted to them by members of the public. Concerns were raised with the timing of the lights, the size of the road for cars to go down and also issues with the pavement. Members also questioned the thinking around starting from the outside and working inwards to the Pendle Rise site which is marked for demolition – concerns were raised in relation to diggers needing access to the building over the newly laid roads and the damage that could cause to them. The Chairman said that these concerns had been raised with Pendle Borough Council already and that the companies doing the work are professionals and that whilst works are ongoing it will be awkward for a time, they will be worth it in the end when the project has been completed. Members noted the update.
2025/091 (TC)	<u>PENDLE NEW NEIGHBOURS</u> To discuss the Pendle New Neighbours Project which looks to welcome in refugees to the area and how the Council can support the initiative. Documents expected for this item had not been received in time to enable a detailed discussion between Members so therefore the application was deferred to a future meeting. Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Mahmood, and RESOLVED: That the item is deferred to a future meeting once the relevant documents have been submitted for Members to review and consider.
2025/092 (TC)	<u>GRIT BINS</u> To consider the replenishment of the grit bins across the town given the freezing conditions expected over the coming months. In 2024 there were lots of complaints from residents about there not being any grit available during the winter which saw temperature plummet to -7c. Roads and pavements were iced over across the whole town and Lancashire County Council had not been out to fill their grit bins either, meaning it was hazardous everywhere. Pendle Borough Council no longer fund the costs for filling the red grit bins in the town. Members were asked to consider replenishing the stock levels now before the bad weather hits for 2025. All present were in agreement that this was a necessity for health and safety reasons. The costings for the grit are £100.00 per tonne and it has been estimated that eight tonnes will be required to fill all the bins and keep them topped up throughout the winter.

	Members were also asked to inspect the grit bins in their ward to see if any were damaged and needed repairing/ replacing before they are filled for winter 2025. Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and RESOLVED: That the red grit bins in Nelson are replenished with grit by Nelson Town Council to prepare for the forecast bad weather in the coming weeks. ACTION: Members to inspect the bins in their ward and inform the Assistant Town Clerk if any need repairing or replacing.
2025/093 (TC)	<u>CHRISTMAS LIGHT COSTINGS</u> To receive costings for the Christmas Lighting for 2025 and 2026 and the replacement of damaged lights and additions to a section of Cross Street. A number of the Christmas lights in and around the town centre are in need of replacing due to various faults. The lights are now over ten years old and the Assistant Town Clerk had a site meeting with the contractors to look at which ones weren't working and needed changing. <u>Minilights for tree lighting at the switch-on area</u> – now failing and less than half will switch on now. These are also not LED and cost more to run. Product - 8 trees with 400 X 24V warm white LED minibulbs @ £2080.00 Installation - Disconnect and remove all existing redundant Cherry LED lighting to 8 trees. Install 400 mini LED's to each of the 8 trees and reconnect @ £1750.00 Total cost £3830.00 <u>Icicle Lights Runs –</u> Renew all the icicle lights – Installation is covered in the main contract – these ones are outside the shops on Scotland Road and many of which are no longer working Run 1 30m @£660.00 EXC VAT Run 2 60m @£1320.00 EXC VAT <u>Total Cost £1980.00</u> Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Ahmed, and RESOLVED: That the above costings are approved to replace all the damaged lighting around the Shuttle area and the shops on Scotland Road Members of the Events, Promotional and Marketing Committee had also requested costings for lighting to be installed on Pendle Street outside several small businesses based on there. Whilst this is not possible this year due to the underground connection which needs to be installed and can take several weeks to get the relevant permissions, works could begin early next year to have the area ready for winter 2026. Costings were as follows: <u>NEW AREA FOR 2026 - Pendle St – Nelson</u> Icicle Lights - 20m @£440.00 <u>Year 1 only infrastructure works :</u> Supply and install Feeder pillar. Supply and install ENWL Electricity company “New underground connection” to the Feeder

	pillar. Supply and install all relevant electrical switchgear to the feeder pillar and the cabling network to the high-level power supply. Supply and install anchor points and catenary wire to shop frontages Total £2995.00 <u>Connection, Install and dismantle of icicle lighting (annual cost) - £495.00</u> Total Cost Year 1 @ £3930.00 Year 2 Cost @ £495.00 Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Ahmed, and RESOLVED: That the above costings are approved to install the new lighting to the businesses on Cross Street, and that a further meeting is arranged to look at installing some further new lights in the Broadway area between McDonalds and the police station.
2025/094 (TC)	<u>GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION – POSITIVE VOICES</u> To consider a grant funding application received from Positive Voices to fund a weekend training programme for members to learn how to carry out community engagement, work with organisations to help plan and run events and projects, run health and wellbeing programmes for the young people and the community members in school. The funding request is for £2,634.00. The Assistant Town Clerk brought this item to Full Council after an error was sent out on the recent Finance and General Purposes committee meeting agenda. An application from Positive Voices had been received to fund a weekend training programme for members to learn how to carry out community engagement, work with organisations to help plan and run events and projects, run health and wellbeing programmes for the young people and the community members in school. The funding request was for £3,634.00 and the agenda only had it listed as £1,000.00. Members of the Positive Voices team had been present at the Finance and General Purposes meeting and gave a presentation to Members on exactly what the funding would be spent on and explained to Members how they felt it would benefit many residents of Nelson. All present were in agreement that the initiative was a worthwhile cause which would help support local residents, as well as helping the Positive Voices team gain valuable experience in volunteer work for the community. Given the agenda only had £1,000.00 outlined on it, that was all Members of the Finance and General Purposes committee could resolve to approve at that meeting so the remaining £2,634.00 would need to be approved at this meeting should Members wish to grant it. Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad, and RESOLVED: That the additional grant application funding of £2,634.00 for Positive Voices to fund a weekend training programme for members to learn how to carry out community engagement, work with organization to help plan and run events and projects, run Health and wellbeing programmes for the young people and the community members in school be approved as requested.
2025/095 (TC)	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u> To receive an update in relation to the various allotment sites in Nelson and discuss any potential issues. The Assistant Town Clerk gave a brief update around the allotments issue raised at the

	previous meeting – fly tipping and general vandalism at the Manor Street site. Quotes are currently being obtained to fence off the entire area as well as replacing some damaged existing fencing around the plots which are being used. It was expected that the quotes will be in the region of £12,000 - £15,000. Members were in agreement that the works need to be done and asked that the prices are brought back to either this meeting of the Finance and General Purposes meeting for consideration. The Assistant Town Clerk also noted that he had been down to the Allotments Society Central Meeting where Members there had agreed that £4,000 of their money could be used to go towards the project to assist with funding. Members noted the update.
2025/096 (TC)	<u>NOTICE OF VACANCY – CLOVER HILL WARD</u> To receive an update in relation to the vacancy in the Clover Hill Ward following Councillor Muhammad Ajmal Khan UI Nisa's removal from position. The Assistant Town Clerk informed Members that the timeframe to receive names from Members of the public wishing to call an election has now expired and the advert for a vacancy via co-option is now live. As of yet, no applications have been received but the deadline for these is on Friday 24th October 2025. Should any applications be received, these will be brought to the November meeting of this Council for consideration. Members noted the update.
2025/097 (TC)	<u>NELSON FOOD FESTIVAL 2026</u> To agree a date to book in the Nelson Food Festival for 2026 to allow maximum time to book stalls/ acts. The proposed date is Saturday 12th September 2026. As per the decision of the Events, Promotional and Marketing committee, Scott Dawson's were approached to send over proposals for the Nelson Food Festival 2026. A detailed list of costings for all entertainment and safety aspects as well as advertisement and publication is to be provided similar to 2025 with a maximum budget of £20,000. Members were in agreement that the Food Festival is a huge attraction for the town and brings in thousands of visitors and is worthwhile holding again. Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Sutcliffe, and RESOLVED: That Scott Dawson's are asked to support the Council with the organisation of the 2026 Food Festival with a budget of £20,000.
2025/099 (TC)	<u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u> To receive reports and consider any actions required in relation to transferred services. <u>CCTV monitoring</u> The Assistant Town Clerk reported that CCTV monitoring report for September had been received and circulated to Members. No major issues were identified.

	<u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u> 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. Drawings are being made for the Poplar Street site following a consultation with neighbours in that area. <u>Parks Services</u> No new updates around the parks this month. Members noted the above updates.
2025/099 (TC)	<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. • Review of grant application funding legislation
2025/100 (TC)	<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 12th November 2025. Members noted the date of the next meeting. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.40pm.