



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 12th November 2025 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.30pm

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

Absent Councillors: Councillors Iftikhar Ali, Riaz Bashir, Mohammad Kamran Butt, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Rehan Hanif, Anam Nawaz and and Atique Rehman

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: Eleven members of the public present

2025/101 (TC)	<p><u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u></p> <p>The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence.</p> <p>The one-minute silence was observed.</p>
2025/102 (TC)	<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u></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.</p> <p>His only remarks were in relation to a misquote in the press in relation to the idea of a "Curry Mile" in Nelson. Whilst he had said that the idea was not a bad one and worth some consideration in the future, the article written was made out to sound live it had received unwavering support – which was not the case.</p>
2025/103 (TC)	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></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 Ahmed and Seconded by Councillor Aslam and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Riaz Bashir, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Rehan Hanif, and Anam Nawaz are approved and accepted.</p>

2025/104 (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>
2025/105 (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>Eleven members of the public were present. They were here for specific items of interest later on in the agenda and nobody at this section of the meeting had any comments to make at this stage.</p>
2025/106 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 08 October 2025 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Mahmood and Seconded by Councillor Ahmed and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 08 October 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2025/107 (TC)	<p><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u></p> <p>To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meetings since the last Full Council. <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/108 (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>No major updates from Borough Councillors. A small number of planning applications were considered but nothing major – just general householder requests.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to provide an update.</p>
2025/109 (TC)	<p><u>POLICE UPDATE</u></p> <p>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>As per last month, Councillor Anwar however did provide some feedback from a recent meeting she attended at the Pendle Borough Council Area Committee in which the Police were present – 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</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>It is hoped that now bonfire night has been and gone that the problem should resolve itself.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/110 (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>Councillor Ahmad had recently attended a Town Deal meeting and an Accessible Nelson meeting where the main topic of discussion was again the Sagar Street area works as well as other highway works in and around the town centre. 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>The Pendle in Place group also discussed how the allocations should be made in terms of the £20,000,000 funding which was granted. Ideas around community cohesion amongst other things. The next meeting will take place on Friday 19th December 2025 to discuss this further.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/111 (TC)	<p><u>GIB HILL PROJECT – UPDATE</u> To receive an update around the project at Gib Hill and to appoint two delegates to the Gib Hill Guardians project as representatives of this Council</p> <p>Will Stephenson from the Gib Hill Guardians project was present at the meeting and gave Members a brief update as to what works are ongoing at the site. The main works taking place so far are mowing of the field, improving access routes, installing new footpaths and planting of new trees. So far approximately £11,000 has been spent on the project. The team are also actively seeking funding from other resources and thanked Nelson Town Council for their contribution made last year.</p> <p>A new website (gibhill.org) has also been created and the Facebook page has over 500 followers.</p> <p>Members were asked to nominate two Town Council representatives to be appointed to the Gib Hill Guardians team who will then be able to act as delegates between the Council and project management for updates.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Mahmood, and RESOLVED: That Councillors Marie Stone and Julie Sutcliffe are appointed to the Gib Hill Guardians project as the Town Council representatives.</p>
2025/112 (TC)	<p><u>CO-OPTION PROCEDURE – CLOVER HILL WARD</u> To receive written applications for the office of Town Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill in the existing vacancy for the Clover Hill ward</p> <p>Two applications were received in relation to the Clover Hill 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>Before the meeting started, one candidate withdrew their application meaning only one</p>

candidate was in attendance at the meeting who wished to fill the vacancy.

The applicant (Muneeb Iqbal) in attendance spoke in front of members giving reasons as to why they wished to join the Council and what experiences they have which would help to enhance the Council.

Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Ahmed, and

RESOLVED: That candidate meet the criteria set out in the Co-Option Policy and a vote is to take place to see if Members wished to elect the applicant into the vacant position for the Clover Hill ward.

The votes were as follows:

Councillor	Vote
Faraz Ahmad	Yes
Shabaz Ahmed	Yes
Naeem Akhtar	Yes
Zafar Ali	Yes
Thabasum Ruby Anwar	Yes
Husnan Arshad	Yes
Mohammad Aslam	Yes
Aqib Bashir	Yes
Sughra Bibi	Yes
Hassan Mahmood	Yes
Mohammad Adeel Qamar	Yes
Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar	Yes
Marie Stone	No
Julie Sutcliffe	No
Ikram Ul-Haq	Yes
Sheila Wicks	Yes

Muneeb Iqbal was therefore co-opted onto the Town Council in the Clover Hill ward and signed off the relevant paperwork and took up his seat on the Council.

2025/113
(TC)

GRIT BINS

To consider the purchase of some new grit bins for Nelson following ward inspections from Councillors to check the condition of the existing bins.

At the last meeting of the Council, Members had resolved to fill the grit bins ready for the winter period. A number of Councillors had noted that some of the condition of the existing bins was poor and that replacements may be required.

Members at that meeting were asked to check the bins in their ward and to report back to the Assistant Town Clerk with a list of ones which need replacing.

In total, nine bins were identified as damaged and would require replacement. Costings had been sourced for the replacement ones at £111.00 each.

Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and

RESOLVED: That the nine new grit bins are ordered and installed following the ward inspections from Councillors to check the conditions of the existing bins.

2025/114
(TC)

SMALL GRANT APPLICATION – PENDLE FOOD FOR ALL

To consider a small grant application received from Pendle food For All to part fund a new

	<p>fridge freezer for the food centre to keep produce fresh for longer for local residents who use the facility. The funding request is for £1,000.00.</p> <p>A small grant application had been received from Pendle Food For All to part fund a new fridge freezer for the food centre to keep produce fresh for longer for local residents who use the facility. The funding request was for £1,000.00.</p> <p>Lynne Mitchell from the organisation was present at the meeting to give a brief update on how the centre was running, who supports it and the benefit it gives to residents of the town.</p> <p>All Members present were in agreement that the centre provide an excellent service for people across the whole of the town and were happy to support the project.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Aslam, and RESOLVED: That the small grant application for £1,000.00 received from Pendle food For All to part fund a new fridge freezer for the food centre to keep produce fresh for longer for local residents who use the facility be approved as requested.</p>
2025/115 (TC)	<p><u>GRANT FUNDING REQUEST – EAGLES FREESTYLE WRESTLING CLUB</u></p> <p>To consider a small grant application received from Eagles Freestyle Wrestling Club to contribute equipment for the wrestling club which encourages young people to participate in health and well-being activities. The funding request is for £3,435.75.</p> <p>Members of the Eagles Freestyle Wrestling Club were present to outline the work they are doing with young people and to receive any questions from Councillors around the application. The equipment, whilst being stored at a gym facility – will not be for anyone to use – only for members of the Wrestling Club itself.</p> <p>Councillors present were in agreement that the project is a worthwhile initiative to support and discussed at length whether to fully or part fund the request.</p> <p>Members stressed that before any funding is released, a copy of the organisations constitution must be provided and that the cheque will be paid into the business account.</p> <p>All grant applications must ensure that all the relevant documentation is provided in support of the application form to ensure that Members have the correct information to consider applications.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Arshad, and RESOLVED: That the funding request for £3,435.75 received from Eagles Freestyle Wrestling Club to contribute equipment for the wrestling club which encourages young people to participate in health and well-being activities is approved subject to receipt of a copy of the constitution.</p>
2025/116 (TC)	<p><u>BACK STREET PROJECT</u></p> <p>To receive an update in relation to the Back Streets Project.</p> <p>The Chairman gave a brief update following a meeting with the Pendle Borough Council Engineering Team. As previously approved by this Council – Phase 2 of the project was discussed and following site visits to each of the back streets on this particular phase, it was concluded that the following works will be sent out to tender once the drawings are completed next month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78 – 112 Beaufort Street – Overlay with tarmac

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hibson Road – Repair & rejoin setts • Bradshaw Street – resurface (this is at the bottom of Hibson Road) • 41 – 65 Moore Street 42 – 66 Sackville Street – overlay with tarmac • Jenny lane – ground survey & resurface • 4 – 24 Waidshouse Road – resurface • 1 – 27 Bispham Street – resurface • 4 – 30 Beaufort Street – resurface • 108 – 118 Hibson Road – Final inspection to be carried out next week <p>The phase 3 (adopted) streets will have their drawings done early in the new year and await County approval.</p> <p>Once these two phases are completed in 2026, a meeting will take place whereby all Councillors will be invited to discuss the next phase.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/117 (TC)	<p><u>REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATION FUNDING LEGISLATION</u></p> <p>To review the criteria for Grant Application Funding, including the length of time between applications before another proposal can be considered.</p> <p>At the previous meeting of the Council, Members had requested an item being added to review the grant funding legislation.</p> <p>Given the meeting had already been running for well over an hour and the complexity of reviewing the grant application forms as well as the Financial Regulations, it was suggested to form a working group to review these documents and bring back suggestions to a future meeting of this Council.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Anwar, and RESOLVED: That a working group is formed to review in detail the Financial Regulations and the grant policies and that suggestions are brought back to a future meeting of the Council for discussion.</p>
2025/118 (TC)	<p><u>NELSON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT 2025</u></p> <p>To receive an update around the Nelson Christmas Lights Switch On Event 2025 which is due to take place on Saturday 22nd November 2025.</p> <p>Councillor Ahmad reminded those present that the Nelson Christmas Lights Switch On Event 2025 was taking place on Saturday 22nd November 2025. He urged all Councillors to attend for at least part of the day where possible.</p> <p>Scott Dawson's are currently putting together the final bits of planning. The only main concern at the moment which is being looked into is the location in which the fireworks can be set off. Pendle Rise Shopping Centre, where they are usually set up, is not allowing access this year so the team are looking for a different site.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>

2025/119 (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 October had been received and circulated to Members. No major issues were identified.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk did report to Members that one of the cameras on Broadway had been flagged as faulty. Engineers had been out to try to repair it but unfortunately it wasn't possible and a replacement would need to be ordered. This would come at a cost of £800.00.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Mahmood and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and RESOLVED: That the CCTV camera on Broadway which was reported as faulty is replaced at a cost of £800.00</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. Drawings are being made for the Poplar Street site following a consultation with neighbours in that area.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u></p> <p>No new updates around the parks this month.</p> <p>Members noted the above updates.</p>
2025/120 (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"> • None
2025/121 (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 10th December 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 8.30pm.</p>