



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.15pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Naeem Akhtar, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Aqib Bashir, Riaz Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Rehan Hanif, Muneeb Iqbal, Hassan Mahmood, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Marie Stone, Julie Sutcliffe and Ikram Ul-Haq

Absent Councillors: Councillors Iftikhar Ali, Zafar Ali, Shabaz Ahmed, Mohammad Aslam, Mohammad Kamran Butt, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Anam Nawaz and Sheila Wicks

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: One

2025/139 (TC)	<u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u> The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence. The one-minute silence was observed.
2025/140 (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. He wished all those present a Happy New Year and hoped that they all had a good Christmas break. He also mentioned that there appeared to be a significant increase in flytipping across the town in recent weeks. This was potentially down to bins being extra full given the Christmas period but asked that Members continue to report any sightings in their respective wards.
2025/141 (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 Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Anwar and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Zafar Ali and Anam Nawaz are approved and accepted.

2025/142 (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>				
2025/143 (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>One member of the public present who had no representation on the business of the agenda.</p>				
2025/144 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10 December 2025 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Anwar and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 10 December 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>				
2025/145 (TC)	<p><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u></p> <p>To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <table> <tr> <td>• Finance and General Purposes Committee</td> <td>17 December 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Events, Promotional and Marketing</td> <td>07 January 2026</td> </tr> </table> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Sarwar, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.</p>	• Finance and General Purposes Committee	17 December 2025	• Events, Promotional and Marketing	07 January 2026
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2025/146 (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 updated Members that at a recent Pendle Borough Council meeting – a discussion had taken place around the possibility of postponing the May 2026 elections given the uncertainty around what will be happening with the unitary combination situation which is still outstanding. Pendle Borough Council Members had voted to request the possibility of postponing the elections and will now await a Government decision on whether this will be possible or not.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to provide an update.</p>				
2025/147 (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>Councillor Ahmad had recently been in touch with some of the local PCSO's and they said that recent activity in the town was trying to address shoplifting issues in and around the town centre. Undercover officers had been patrolling the local stores to try to catch out any would-be thieves.</p> <p>Police are also continuing to work on combatting stolen vehicles in the area which has been a major issue in the last few months.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/148 (TC)	<p><u>NELSON TOWN DEAL</u></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 Ahmad informed Members that no Town Deal meetings had taken place since the last Full Council meeting so no new updates could be provided.</p> <p>Discussions also took place between Members around the Pride in Place programme – a programme which is to take place over the next ten years to improve neighbourhoods across Nelson. Some Councillors have been receiving feedback from residents in their local wards and feel it would be beneficial to invite a representative from the Pride in Place programme along to a future meeting of this Council so that some of the ideas can be passed on to allow residents to have their voice heard for those of them who can't attend meetings themselves.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Anwar, and RESOLVED: That the Assistant Town Clerk invite Sue Rae (Programme and Projects Manager for the Pride in Place programme) to a future meeting of this Council to discuss ideas with Members.</p>
2025/149 (TC)	<p><u>NOTICE OF VACANCY – BRADLEY WARD - UPDATE</u></p> <p>To receive an update around the notice of vacancy after Councillor Mohammad Kamran Butt 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>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 ready to go live.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Sutcliffe, and RESOLVED: That Members note the notice of vacancy update and request that the Assistant Town Clerk advertise the position on the Council under the co-option method.</p>
2025/150 (TC)	<p><u>BUDGET FOR 2026/27</u></p> <p>To consider the draft budget as presented at this meeting for the financial year 2026/27.</p> <p>Members present had all received a copy of the draft budget for 2026/27 as prepared by the Assistant Town Clerk and members of the Budget Working Group.</p> <p>The Chairman 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>All present unanimously agreed to the draft presented at this meeting.</p>

	<p>Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the draft budget for the financial year 2026/27 is approved and accepted as presented with one amendment – in the notes field for the Events, Promotional and Marketing Committee budget – Members asked that the notes are removed to allow the committee to discuss further as to what events the agreed funding is allocated to.</p>
2025/151 (TC)	<p><u>NOTICE OF VACANCY – BRADLEY WARD</u></p> <p>To receive confirmation of a notice of vacancy after Councillor Iftikar Ali 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>The Assistant Town Clerk notified Members that Councillor Iftikar Ali has not attended a meeting of this Council nor had apologies accepted for six months and therefore according to policies would need to be removed as a Councillor and a vacancy advertised.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Anwar, and</p> <p>RESOLVED: 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>
2025/152 (TC)	<p><u>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING – FEBRUARY 2026</u></p> <p>To note the cancellation of the Finance and General Purposes meeting scheduled for Wednesday 11th February 2026. Another meeting will be called in between this one and the one scheduled for Wednesday 29th April 2026.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk notified Members that the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes committee set for Wednesday 11th February 2026 would need to be cancelled as due to annual leave and the account statements delivery dates – it would not be possible to have the documentation for the meeting ready in time.</p> <p>Another meeting can be called later in the month if necessary to deal with any urgent work which comes in.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Qamar and Seconded by Councillor Aqib Bashir, and</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes committee set for Wednesday 11th February 2026 is cancelled and re-arranged when the relevant documentation arrives at the office.</p>
2025/153 (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 December 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. 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>As highlighted earlier in the meeting, Pendle Borough Council have sent over an asset register enquiring if this Council would like to discuss the potential of taking over further services. This will be reviewed and sent back to this Council for further discussion at a future meeting in 2026.</p> <p>Members noted the above updates.</p>
2025/154 (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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Street Project – identified streets
2025/155 (TC)	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting of the Council is due to be held on Wednesday 11th February 2026.</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 8.15pm.</p>