



**Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire**

**Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.40pm**

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Naeem Akhtar, Zafar Ali, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Mohammad Aslam, Aqib Bashir, Riaz Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Rehan Hanif, Muneeb Iqbal, Hassan Mahmood, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Atique Rehman, Marie Stone, Ikram Ul-Haq, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry and Sheila Wicks

**Absent Councillors:** Councillors Shabaz Ahmed, Husnan Arshad, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar and Julie Sutcliffe

**Non-Councillor (without voting rights):** None

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

**Members of the Public:** None

2025/156  
(TC)

**ONE MINUTE SILENCE**

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

The one-minute silence was observed.

2025/157  
(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.

He briefly mentioned two items that may be brought to a future meeting of the Council. The first being a consultation that is currently underway for improvements being made at Hodge House Playing Fields.

The second was in relation to discussions he's had with a local business who were interested in applying for some funding to go towards new gym equipment. It was a significant figure that the organisation mentioned and it would be highly unlikely that the Council would be able to assist with it given the limited budget for grant applications.

Of course, both of these items would need to be specific agenda items at a future meeting if any detailed discussions or decisions need to be made on them.



	No County Councillors present to provide an update.
2025/164 (TC)	<p><b><u>POLICE UPDATE</u></b> To receive an update from the police 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 also noted that the police were not present at the local borough meetings in the past month either.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/165 (TC)	<p><b><u>NELSON TOWN DEAL</u></b> 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>The next meeting is due to take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February and all are welcome to attend.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
2025/166 (TC)	<p><b><u>NELSON PRIDE IN PLACE</u></b> To discuss the Nelson Pride in Place project and discuss for ways to which Nelson Town Council can assist with the process.</p> <p>Councillor Ahmad informed Members that he had attended the most recent Pride in Place meeting and mentioned a few of the different projects which were under consideration for the year one funding currently available.</p> <p>Members raised some concerns that a number of these projects were submitted from local community organisations who sit on the Pride in Place board. Questions were asked in relation to how the board was selected and how well advertised the funding available had been made to other local community organisations who do not have members on the Pride in Place board.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hanif, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Assistant Town Clerk write to Sue Rae (Programme and Projects Manager for the Pride in Place programme) to raise the following concerns and requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Town Council wishes to express concerns with what appears to be a significant number of year one applications being from existing members of the Pride in Place board</li> <li>• To request that the board are mindful of advertising the funding available to all local community organisations</li> <li>• To ask how the board have so far engaged with other local community organisations who aren't represented on the board</li> <li>• To request a copy of the list of projects which have been committed to or being considered for round one of available funding.</li> </ul>
2025/167 (TC)	<p><b><u>NOTICE OF VACANCY – BRADLEY WARD - UPDATE</u></b> To receive an update around the two vacancies within the Bradley Ward.</p>

	<p>The Assistant Town Clerk informed Members that the timeframe to receive names from Members of the public wishing to call an election for the second vacancy in Bradley has now expired and the advert for a vacancy via co-option is now ready to go live.</p> <p>The deadline for the first vacancy is this coming Friday – so far, no applications have been received.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor UI-Haq, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Members note the notice of vacancy update and request that the Assistant Town Clerk advertise the second position on the Council under the co-option method.</p>
<p>2025/168 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026/27</u></b>  To receive and approve the draft meeting schedule for 2026/ 27.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk had previously circulated a draft meeting schedule for the year 2026/2027 for Member approval.</p> <p>Members asked that the two meetings in February are cancelled due to Ramadan but that a Full Council meeting is added in for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2027 to compensate. They also requested that meetings in April are cancelled due to the 2027 elections and authorities being under Purdah.</p> <p>Extraordinary meetings can of course be called should the need arise.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the February meetings are cancelled but replaced by a Full Council meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2027 and that the April meetings are also cancelled due to the 2027 elections.</p>
<p>2025/169 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>BACK STREET PROJECT</u></b>  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. He had been speaking with the Pendle Borough Council team who now have the tender ready to go out for the next stage, which includes works at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hibson Road</li> <li>• Beaufort Street</li> <li>• Jenny Lane</li> <li>• Waidshouse Road</li> <li>• Moore Street</li> <li>• Sackville Street</li> <li>• Bispham Street</li> </ul> <p>Once the tender results come back, these will as always come before the Council for final approval. It is estimated that the works will cost in the region of £115,000.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2025/170 (TC)</p>	<p><b><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u></b>  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 January 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>Members noted the above updates.</p>
2025/171 (TC)	<p><b><u>ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA</u></b></p> <p>To notify the Assistant Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <p>None.</p>
2025/172 (TC)	<p><b><u>DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting of the Council is due to be held on Wednesday 08<sup>th</sup> April 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 7.40pm.</p>