



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 08th April 2026 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.45pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Shabaz Ahmed, Naeem Akhtar, Riaz Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Muneeb Iqbal, Hassan Mahmood, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sakib and Ikram UI-Haq

Absent Councillors: Councillors Zafar Ali, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Aqib Bashir, Rehan Hanif, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Mohammad Husnane Shahbaz, Marie Stone, Julie Sutcliffe and Sheila Wicks

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: Mohammad Iqbal, Mevish Mahmood and Sue Rae

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| 2025/180 (TC) | <u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u> The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence. The one-minute silence was observed. |
| 2025/181 (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. |
| 2025/182 (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 UI-Haq and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Zafar Ali, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Aqib Bashir, Rehan Hanif, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Mohammad Husnane Shahbaz, Marie Stone, Julie Sutcliffe and Sheila Wicks are approved and accepted. |

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| 2025/183 (TC) | <p><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.</p> <p>None.</p> |
| 2025/184 (TC) | <p><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.</p> <p>Mevish Mahmood and Sue Rae were in attendance to discuss the Nelson Pride in Place item later on the agenda.</p> |
| 2025/185 (TC) | <p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 11 February 2026 and 18 March 2026 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ahmed and Seconded by Councillor Bashir and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 11 February 2026 and 18 March 2026 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p> |
| 2025/186 (TC) | <p><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Committee 24 February 2026 • Personnel Committee 01 April 2026 <p>Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.</p> |
| 2025/187 (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>The Chairman updated Members that nothing really of note had happened at the most recent Pendle Borough Council committee meetings. A handful of minor planning applications had been in for review but nothing really affecting anything major.</p> <p>There is a meeting next week on Monday night to discuss plans for a planning application submitted on Walton Street. An update on this will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No update provided.</p> |
| 2025/188 (TC) | <p><u>POLICE UPDATE</u> 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> |

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| | <p>Councillor Ahmad also noted that the police were not present at the local borough meetings in the past month either.</p> <p>It is hoped that when the new police station opens on Carr Road later this month that more officers will be present in the town and therefore can begin to attend meetings again.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> |
| <p>2025/189 (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 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 and all are welcome to attend.</p> <p>One point of note that was mentioned was that asbestos has been found in the Pendle Rise Shopping Centre which needs to be removed before demolition can begin which has set back the starting of the works.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> |
| <p>2025/190 (TC)</p> | <p><u>NELSON PRIDE IN PLACE</u> To discuss the Nelson Pride in Place project and discuss for ways to which Nelson Town Council can assist with the process.</p> <p>Members had requested at the previous meeting for the Assistant Town Clerk to invite Sue Rae to the meeting to discuss in more detail the structure of the Pride in Place board and how the Town Council might be able to assist with the project.</p> <p>Sue attended the meeting along with her colleague Mevish and they both talked through the project, including how it was set up, how the board members were selected and plans for the future.</p> <p>The board have decided to prioritise four different sections for the first four years of the project – the regeneration of the high street, safety and security, workers and skills & cohesion.</p> <p>When new applications are received, there will be a robust criteria applicants will be expected to meet before the applications are presented to the members for consideration.</p> <p>Members of the Council had previously expressed concern around how the panel was selected and that those on the panel had an interest in some of the applications that were received. Sue reassured Members that all those on the panel would need to register a declaration of interest on any projects it may be deemed they are associated with then they would not be allowed to make decisions on those particular applications.</p> <p>Sue also did mention that there were a couple of vacancies on the board and the project would welcome considering anyone interested in joining the panel. This will be refreshed every few years too.</p> <p>Finally, all present agreed that it would be good for the Pride in Place team and the Town Council to work together to help get resident views and deliver projects that will be of a great benefit to the town.</p> |

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| | Members noted the update. |
| 2025/191 (TC) | <p><u>YEAR END CLOSEDOWN AND AUDITS</u> To receive an update from the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to the year end closedown and internal and external audits for the financial year 2025/ 26.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk informed Members that the year end closedown with Rialtas is due to take place on Thursday 09th April. Assuming all goes well with this, the internal auditor will likely come to the office for two days towards the end of April so that the internal audit report can be prepared and brought to the May Full Council meeting.</p> <p>Once this is done and signed off, the documentation that the external auditor can be sent off for review well in advance of the 01st July deadline.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> |
| 2025/192 (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 March 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> |
| 2025/193 (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> <p>None.</p> |
| 2025/194 (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 13th May 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 7.45pm.</p> |