



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 18th March 2026 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.25pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Shabaz Ahmed, Naeem Akhtar, Zafar Ali, Aqib Bashir, Riaz Bashir, Muneeb Iqbal, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Atique Rehman, Julie Sutcliffe, Marie Stone, Ikram Ul-Haq, and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Sughra Bibi, Rehan Hanif, Hassan Mahmood, Anam Nawaz, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry and Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: Twelve

2025/173 (TC)	<p><u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u> The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence.</p> <p>The one-minute silence was observed.</p>
2025/174 (TC)	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Ahmed and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Sughra Bibi, Rehan Hanif, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry and Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar are approved and accepted.</p>
2025/175 (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>None.</p>
2025/176 (TC)	<p><u>CO-OPTION PROCEDURE – BRADLEY WARD – VACANCY ONE</u> To receive written applications for the office of Town Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill in the first existing vacancy for the Bradley ward</p> <p>One application was received in relation to the Bradley Ward vacancy one. The candidate was invited to this meeting to speak before existing Councillors to explain why he would like to</p>

	<p>become a Councillor.</p> <p>The applicant (Mohammad Husnane Shahbaz) 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.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Stone, 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 Bradley ward. Members in the vote were unanimously in favour of accepting Mohammad Husnane Shahbaz, who was therefore co-opted onto the Town Council in the Bradley ward and signed off the relevant paperwork and took up his seat on the Council.</p>
<p>2025/177 (TC)</p>	<p><u>CO-OPTION PROCEDURE – BRADLEY WARD – VACANCY TWO</u></p> <p>To receive written applications for the office of Town Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill in the second existing vacancy for the Bradley ward</p> <p>Two applications were received in relation to the Bradley Ward two 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 candidate was in attendance at the meeting who wished to fill the vacancy.</p> <p>The applicant (Mohammad Sakib) 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.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Akhtar, 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 Bradley ward. Members in the vote were unanimously in favour of accepting Mohammad Sakib, who was therefore co-opted onto the Town Council in the Bradley ward and signed off the relevant paperwork and took up his seat on the Council.</p>
<p>2025/178 (TC)</p>	<p><u>MANOR STREET ALLOTMENTS</u></p> <p>To receive quotes for works for the previously identified issues at the Manor Street Allotments site which is under Nelson Town Council ownership.</p> <p>At a Full Town Council meeting in late 2025, Members had been informed that the Assistant Town Clerk and Chairman had been up to the Manor Street Allotments site following complaints received about the disused plots attracting anti-social behaviour. Somebody has been sleeping rough in one of the empty outbuildings and throwing old mattresses about and also starting fires to keep warm. The person has been spoken to by the police but continues to use the site.</p> <p>Some fencing has been broken down at various parts and it looks like a full new metal fencing will need to be erected to prevent any future disturbances, which are causing a nuisance for local residents as well as emergency services.</p> <p>Members asked that some quotes be provided for the works and they have come back as follows:</p> <p>Quote 1 – ARC Joinery & Landscaping LTD - £15,996.36 (inc. VAT) Quote 2 – Coalition Facilities Management Ltd - £20,700.00 (inc. VAT) Quote 3 – Unique Clean Hire and Facilities Limited - £29,400.00 (inc. VAT)</p>

	<p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Rehman, and RESOLVED: That quote 1 received from ARC Joinery & Landscaping LTD for £15,996.36 (inc. VAT) be approved for the works to be carried out at Manor Street Allotments.</p>
<p>2025/179 (TC)</p>	<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 08th 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 7.25pm.</p>