



Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 10th June 2026 at the Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.40pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Zafar Ali, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Aqib Bashir, Riaz Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Rehan Hanif, Muneeb Iqbal, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Mohammad Sakib, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Mohammad Husnane Shahbaz, Marie Stone, Julie Sutcliffe and Ikram UI-Haq

Absent Councillors: Councillors Shabaz Ahmed, Naeem Akhtar, Mohammad Aslam, Anam Nawaz, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry, Hassan Mahmood, Atique Rehman, and Sheila Wicks

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: Three

2026/023
(TC)

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

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

The one-minute silence was observed.

2026/024
(TC)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor UI-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad and

RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Naeem Akhtar, Hassan Mahmood and Sheila Wicks are approved and accepted.

2026/025
(TC)

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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.

Councillor Faraz Ahmad declared an interest in item 13.

2026/026
(TC)

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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.

Macaulay Anderson was in attendance at the meeting who was recently appointed as the new Environmental Warden for Nelson.

	<p>He introduced himself and gave a brief update on the work he had undertaken so far and what his plans are for the role in the coming weeks. He is currently undertaking lots of training courses which are needed for the role.</p> <p>His immediate plans are to build good working relationships with the community – including going to local schools, churches to discuss the impact of environmental issues and how the community can assist with making Nelson a better place to live for its residents.</p> <p>He is also keen to introduce more signage in the town and work with the local litter picking groups to target litter hotspots.</p> <p>Members thanked Macaulay for the update and welcomed him to the team and stated that they are looking forward to working with him.</p> <p>ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk to share Macaulay's contact details with Members so they can go to him directly with any issues they would like him to target.</p>
<p>2026/027 (TC)</p>	<p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13 May 2026 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Qamar and Seconded by Councillor Riaz Bashir and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 13 May 2026 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
<p>2026/028 (TC)</p>	<p><u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and General Purposes Committee 27 May 2026 • Events, Promotional and Marketing Committee 03 June 2026 <p>Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Qamar, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.</p>
<p>2026/029 (TC)</p>	<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>No major updates from Borough Councillors. Councillor Ahmad noted that a few planning applications were considered at the area committee meeting but these were just general householder submissions.</p> <p>Councillor Ali did also mention that the Planning committee was going to be broken down later on in the year, likely after October 2026. The plan is to have planning committees for each area rather than the Borough as a whole.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to provide an update.</p>
<p>2026/030 (TC)</p>	<p><u>POLICE UPDATE</u> To receive an update from PC Donna Waterworth around the latest issues happening in and</p>

	<p>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>Members noted the update.</p>
2026/031 (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>No new updates were available for Members as there hadn't been another meeting since the last time this Council met. Councillor Ahmad did note that there was one due to take place this Friday, and as ever, all were welcome to attend if they wish.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that usually, the Chairman of the Council will go along to meetings of the Town Deal. The Assistant Town Clerk has already contacted representatives of the board and asked that Councillor UI-Haq be added to the circulation list.</p> <p>It was then discussed that ideally the two representatives should be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Ali and RESOLVED: That the Chair (Councillor UI-Haq) and Vice-Chair (Councillor Sughra Bibi) are appointed to the Town Deal and board.</p>
2026/032 (TC)	<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>No new updates were available for Members as there hadn't been another meeting since the last time this Council met. Councillor Ahmad did note that there was one due to take place this Friday, and as ever, all were welcome to attend if they wish.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that usually, the Chairman of the Council will go along to meetings of the Nelson Pride in Place board. The Assistant Town Clerk has already contacted representatives of the board and asked that Councillor UI-Haq be added to the circulation list.</p> <p>It was then discussed that ideally the two representatives should be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Ali and RESOLVED: That the Chair (Councillor UI-Haq) and Vice-Chair (Councillor Sughra Bibi) are appointed to the Pride in Place board.</p> <p>Councillor Sakib also suggested that the Pride in Place board could be requested to support a CCTV initiative on Regent Street. The Council had previously agreed to look to allocate some funding for new cameras to try to help deter speeding vehicles, however upon receiving estimates it was way above what funding had been allocated to the project.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Sakib and Seconded by Councillor Bashir and RESOLVED: That the Nelson Pride in Place board be approached to see if they would consider supporting this type of proposal in relation to the CCTV cameras on Regent Street.</p>
2026/033 (TC)	<p><u>COMMITTEE UPDATES</u> To receive an update from the committee chair for any committee meetings that have taken</p>

	<p>place over the last month.</p> <p><u>Finance and General Purposes</u></p> <p>The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes committee briefly updated Members with the latest from the last meeting. One small grant application had been approved for some improvements to a community hub in Bradley. Two small grant applications had been refused which were for a school trip to London and one for a swimming club which the Council had supported the previous year.</p> <p><u>Events, Promotional and Marketing</u></p> <p>An update on this will be given later in the meeting at item 16.</p>
<p>2026/034 (TC)</p>	<p><u>SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS – REVIEW OF CRITERIA</u></p> <p>To consider a review of the Small Grant Application criteria following discussions at the most recent Finance and General Purposes committee.</p> <p>The Finance and General Purposes committee asked that this item be brought before all Members to make a decision on in terms of the criteria for Small Grant Applications.</p> <p>Lots of applications are received each year and Members felt that more and more organisations are coming back for repeat applications just 12 months after receiving funding in the previous year. The Finance and General Purposes committee Members thought it would be more fair on newer applicants if submissions are only considered after two years of any previous applications.</p> <p>They also felt that going forwards, school trips should no longer be considered as this could lead to all schools in Nelson applying for the limited funding available to cover costs for trips that are not local, even though they would benefit the few students who would be attending them.</p> <p>A number of other details for the criteria were discussed by Members before the following proposal was put forward:</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Hanif and RESOLVED: That the following stipulations are written into the Small Grants Application form and must be met before applications can be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cheques can only be paid into an account that is identical to the organisation name on the application form • Repeat applications from the previous year can no longer be considered • Applications can only be from organisations from and operating in the Nelson Ward boundary • An update must be received from all successful applicants within six months of the project completion, or within 12 months of the award if the project has not been completed • No school trips will be funded for future applications • Receipts and a breakdown of costs must also be provided upon completion of the works and any underspend must be returned to the Council
<p>2026/035 (TC)</p>	<p><u>THOSE FROM DISTANT LANDS PROJECT – UPDATE</u></p> <p>To receive an update in relation to the “Those From Distant Lands” Project which the Town Council part funded.</p> <p>Waqar Ahmed from Respect and Dignity Arts was in attendance to give Members an update</p>

	<p>on the “Those From Distant Lands” project which the Town Council helped to fund last year.</p> <p>He provided all Members with a verbal update on how well the project went and thanked them all for the Town Council’s assistance in ensuring that the project could go ahead.</p> <p>He also provide 4 copies of the book which was produced in relation to the project as well as a comprehensive written report which had previously been circulated to all Members.</p> <p>Members noted the update and thanked Waqar for coming down to the meeting to give the presentation.</p>
<p>2026/036 (TC)</p>	<p><u>FLEET STREET GARDEN PROJECT</u> To discuss an item the Chairman requested adding to the agenda in relation to the Fleet Street Garden Project.</p> <p>The Chairman had requested that this item be added to the agenda to allow Ben Kelly from Bodies in Motion to come down to the meting to discuss some works that are taking place at the Fleet Street Garden Project. Ben explained that the project is helping to deliver horticulture activities at the site and enabling people to work towards making healthy lifestyle decisions.</p> <p>A deal has been reached with a contractor to bring in £250,000 worth of gym equipment to the gym area of the site for just £84,000. So far, £40,000 worth of funding to the cost has been allocated from grants from the National Lottery Funding and also the Nelson Pride in Place Project.</p> <p>Ben asked Members if they would perhaps consider supporting the project with a contribution from Nelson Town Council. When asked with what figure, Ben hoped for something in the region of £15,000.</p> <p>Members asked Ben a few questions seeking more information on how the gym would be run – such as would there be a cost to membership for local residents – which he stated is expected to be £13.99 per month.</p> <p>Members thanked Ben for attending the meeting and providing an update on the latest happenings at the Fleet Street Garden Project.</p> <p>Members felt that much more information would need to be provided before they could discuss the request further.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and RESOLVED: That the item be deferred until the Council receive detailed proposals in writing for the funding request to be considered.</p>
<p>2026/037 (TC)</p>	<p><u>FLAGS AROUND THE TOWN CENTRE FOR THE WORLD CUP</u> To consider an idea in relation to England flags being purchased to display around the town centre ahead of the upcoming World Cup.</p> <p>An idea was added to the agenda when circulated the previous week to discuss the possibility of hanging some England flags in the town centre in preparation for the World Cup.</p> <p>Unfortunately, in the build up to this meeting, the Assistant Town Clerk had been in touch with Pendle Borough Council who own the land in question and they had requested that no flags are put up so Members of this Council could not discuss the matter any further.</p> <p>Members respected the decision of the Borough and noted the update.</p>

<p>2026/038 (TC)</p>	<p><u>EVENTS FOR 2026</u> To receive an update around Events scheduled for 2026 and consider any proposals brought forward from the Vents, Promotional and Marketing committee.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk gave a brief update on upcoming events for 2026 following the recent meeting of the Events, Promotional and Marketing Committee:</p> <p><u>Nelson Food Festival</u></p> <p>The Food Festival will be taking place on Saturday 12th September 2026. Scott Dawson's are well underway with preparations. A headline chef is still to be confirmed but a meeting is taking place next week to finalise this.</p> <p><u>Christmas Lights Switch On</u></p> <p>The event will be going ahead this year in November 2026. Plans are now underway for the organisation of the event.</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u></p> <p>A newsletter will be produced to showcase the good work done by this Town Council. It will go out towards the end of this financial year to all homes in Nelson.</p> <p><u>Pride of Nelson Awards</u></p> <p>The Pride of Nelson Awards will be returning early in the new year. More details will be given in due course.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>
<p>2026/039 (TC)</p>	<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 May 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 and MUGA's this month. At the next meeting Members are likely to be asked which play areas they would like to start updating for the 2026/27 year.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u></p> <p>No update this month.</p> <p><u>Any further assets which the Town Council may be interested in taking over given the Pendle Borough Council restructure due to take place</u></p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated the Asset Transfer list received from Pendle Borough Council. Members are encouraged to read the list and bring back any suggestions for possible transfer to the next meeting of this Council.</p>
<p>2026/040</p>	<p><u>ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA</u></p>

(TC)	<p>To notify the Assistant Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <p>None.</p>
2026/041 (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 08th July 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 8.40pm.</p>