



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

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.00pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Zafar Ali, Aqib Bashir, Riaz Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Rehan Hanif, Hassan Mahmood, Mohammad Sakib, Mohammad Husnane Shahbaz, Marie Stone, Julie Sutcliffe, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry and Ikram Ul-Haq

Absent Councillors: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Shabaz Ahmed, Naeem Akhtar, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Mohammad Aslam, Muneeb Iqbal, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar and Sheila Wicks

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: Three

2026/042 (TC)	<u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u> The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence. The one-minute silence was observed.
2026/043 (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 Ali and Seconded by Councillor Shahbaz and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Naeem Akhtar, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Mohammad Aslam and Mohammad Adeel Qamar are approved and accepted.
2026/044 (TC)	<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. None.
2026/045 (TC)	<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. Macaulay Anderson was in attendance at the meeting to provide an update as the Environmental Warden for Nelson.

	He has been identifying ways to interact with school-aged children to educate them on the importance of environmental impacts that can be caused by littering and is considering the “Dennis to the Rescue” project where a converted bin wagon visits schools and teaches students important information in a fun way. He has also been setting up meetings with local community networks, including the Pendle Community Food Group he he hopes to work more closely with. He and the team have also secured some funding from Keep Britain Tidy in relation to the removal of chewing gum from pavements in and around the town centre. A team will be going out around Scotland Road to remove the vast amounts of gum that are stuck to the pavement. Members noted the update and thanked Macaulay for his efforts.
2026/046 (TC)	<u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10 June 2026 (previously circulated). Proposed by Councillor Riaz Bashir and Seconded by Councillor Sakib and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 10 June 2026 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.
2026/047 (TC)	<u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated: Finance and General Purposes Committee 24 June 2026 Proposed by Councillor Shahbaz and Seconded by Councillor Aqib Bashir, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.
2026/048 (TC)	<u>REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u> To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors <u>Borough Council</u> No major updates from Borough Councillors. Councillor Ali noted that a few planning applications were considered at the area committee meeting but these were just general householder submissions. <u>County Council</u> No County Councillors present to provide an update. Members noted the updates.
2026/049 (TC)	<u>POLICE UPDATE</u> 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. Unfortunately, no Police were in attendance at this meeting to provide a verbal update into the latest crime levels across the town. Members noted the update.

2026/050 (TC)	<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. No new updates were available for Members as there hadn't been another meeting since the last time this Council met. Members noted the update.
2026/051 (TC)	<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. The Chairman gave a very brief update following the latest meeting of the Pride in Place committee. The committee finalized details around what amounts of funding will be allocated to specific categories and full details of this will be outlined at the next meeting. It was also suggested that further people are invited along to the meetings who have specialist backgrounds in the private and public sector who can assist with the process. Members noted the update.
2026/052 (TC)	<u>COMMITTEE UPDATES</u> To receive an update from the committee chair for any committee meetings that have taken place over the last month. <u>Finance and General Purposes</u> The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes committee briefly updated Members with the latest from the last meeting. At the previous Full Council meeting, some changes to the Small Grant Application process had been approved. The Assistant Town Clerk had made these changes as requested and provided a copy for review for the Members of the Finance and General Purposes committee and all those present agreed that this new version incorporated all the required changes. <u>Committee Resignation</u> Councillor Ikram Ul-Haq put forward his resignation from the Events, Promotional and Marketing committee, which meant freeing up a vacancy for another Councillor to join the committee. Proposed by Councillor Masood and Seconded by Councillor Sakib and RESOLVED: That Councillor Marie Stone be appointed to the Events, Promotional and Marketing committee.
2026/053 (TC)	<u>SUMMER FOOTBALL PROGRAMME</u> To consider a summer football programme for 2026 following on from the success of previous events. Following on from the successful football programmes run by the Town Council, it was suggested that the programme run throughout the summer for an additional ten weeks. The programme would run for ten weeks at the Pendle Vale College site every Friday evening throughout the summer. As with the last two times the programme has run, it will be open to all residents of Nelson to attend and coaches will also be appointed to assist with the programme.

	Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Sakib, and RESOLVED: That an additional ten weeks of funding to support an extension of the running the Summer Football Programme in Nelson is approved.
2026/054 (TC)	<u>WORLD CUP EVENTS AT NELSON CRICKET CLUB</u> To consider the idea of providing a big screen at Nelson Cricket Club for upcoming World Cup fixtures. The Chairman had asked Members for their thoughts on the Town Council providing a big screen for the World Cup Semi-Final and Final at Nelson Cricket Club like the event for the European Championship Final back in 2021. Members were keen for this to go ahead if it could be organised at such short notice. The Assistant Town Clerk had already obtained costings for the necessary provisions, including a big screen, security, a paramedic and portable toilets which were all needed last time. The cost per game would be around £3,000.00 but approval would first need to be obtained from the ESAG partnership and the Cricket Club themselves before anything could be confirmed. Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Bashir, and RESOLVED: That the Town Council approach Nelson Cricket Club initially to check the possibility of showing both the World Cup Semi-Final and World Cup Final. If the Cricket Club cannot host, the Assistant Town Clerk is authorised to contact any other organisations who may be able to assist with hosting the event.
2026/055 (TC)	<u>WINTER WONDERLAND PROJECT</u> To receive feedback from the Winter Wonderland Project which the Town Council helped to support in December 2025. Mo Jabbar, organiser of the Winter Wonderland Project was in attendance at the meeting just to give an update as to how the project went and how the Town Council funding was spent which was approved last year. The event was a huge success, with well over 1,000 people visiting. This was evidenced in a short video Mo and his team had produced which was shown to Councillors. In terms of going forwards with future events, Mo was hopeful that the Town Council will once again be involved in the project and invited Members along to future planning meetings of the event. The Assistant Town Clerk also offered to assist where possible with the planning of the next event. Members noted the update and thanked Mo for the feedback. ACTION: Mo to send the Assistant Town Clerk the meeting dates for the next planning committees and the Assistant Town Clerk can then circulate to Members of the Town Council so they have the option to attend if they wish.
2026/056 (TC)	<u>FOOTPATH ROUTE BETWEEN NELSON AND COLNE COLLEGE AND SCOTLAND ROAD</u> To consider a funding request from Pendle Borough Council to go towards footpath improvements between Nelson and Colne College and Scotland Road. Tricia Wilson from Pendle Borough Council was in attendance at the meeting to ask Members to consider supporting a project to make footpath and lighting improvements between Nelson

	and Colne College and Scotland Road. The site is a key gateway to link Nelson Town Centre and the College and is used by hundreds of students each day. During the winter months, the area can be dark and quiet and following conversations with students, they have stated that the site can make them feel vulnerable when it's dark in the mornings and evenings during the winter. Some funding has already been provided by the Nelson Pride in Place committee, however there is still around £25,000 which needs to be found to provide the full measures included in the project. Tricia asked that Nelson Town Council provide £10,000.00 to go towards this. Members were all in agreement that young people's safety is paramount and that the project will be highly beneficial to all those students who use the footpath every day to get to the college. Proposed by Councillor Anwar and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and RESOLVED: That the funding request of £10,000.00 to go towards footpath improvements between Nelson and Colne College and Scotland Road is approved as set out in the report.
2026/057 (TC)	<u>GRANT FUNDING REQUEST – RC COMMUNITY GROUP CIC</u> To consider a grant funding request from the RC Community Group CIC to go towards pitch hire for a year to run a weekly football programme for local residents. The funding request is for £3,000. This item was not discussed as further information requested from the applicant has not yet been received by the office. Members noted the update.
2026/058 (TC)	<u>LEGACY FUND FROM PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL</u> To receive an update around the proposed Legacy Funding to be provided by Pendle Borough Council. The Assistant Town Clerk notified Members that Pendle Borough Council had agreed to provide a Legacy Fund to all Town and Parish Council's in the Borough. The funding must be spent on projects that will leave a lasting legacy for the community. The amount allocated to Nelson Town Council is £68,500 and will be paid over two instalments. Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Sutcliffe, and RESOLVED: That the Assistant Town Clerk be authorised to sign the relevant paperwork to obtain the Legacy Funding for Nelson Town Council.
2026/059 (TC)	<u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u> To receive reports and consider any actions required in relation to transferred services. <u>CCTV monitoring</u> The Assistant Town Clerk reported that CCTV monitoring report for June had been received and circulated to Members. No major issues were identified. <u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u> 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.

	<u>Parks Services</u> No update this month. <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> The Assistant Town Clerk had previously circulated the Asset Transfer list received from Pendle Borough Council. Members were encouraged to read the list and bring back any suggestions for possible transfer to the next meeting of this Council. A meeting is due to take place with Philip Mousdale who is representing the Borough Council with the potential transers. The Assistant Town Clerk and Chairman will arrange a meeting and circulate the time for any other Members who wish to attend. Councillors Stone and Sakib expressed an interest in attending. Members noted the updates.
2026/060 (TC)	<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. None.
2026/061 (TC)	<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 09th September 2026. Members noted the date of the next meeting. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 8.00pm.