



Nelson
Town Council

Nelson Town Council
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Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 09th September 2026 in the Council Chamber, Nelson Town Hall, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 8.45pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Zafar Ali, Mohammad Aslam, Aqib Bashir, Riaz Bashir, Rehan Hanif, Muneeb Iqbal, Hassan Mahmood, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sakib, Mohammad Husnane Shahbaz, Marie Stone, Julie Sutcliffe and Ikram Ul-Haq

Absent Councillors: Councillors Shabaz Ahmed, Naeem Akhtar, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Sughra Bibi, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry and Sheila Wicks

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: Mo Jabbar and Phil Riley

2026/062 (TC)	<u>ONE MINUTE SILENCE</u> The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence. The one-minute silence was observed.
2026/063 (TC)	<u>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u> To receive the Chairman's opening remarks The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
2026/064 (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 Stone and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad and RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Shabaz Ahmed, Naeem Akhtar, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Sughra Bibi, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry and Sheila Wicks are approved and accepted.
2026/065 (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.

Signed Chair:

Dated:

2026/066 (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. Mo Jabbar and Phil Riley were in attendance to speak on specific items on the agenda.
2026/067 (TC)	<u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 08 July 2026 (previously circulated). Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Riaz Bashir and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 08 July 2026 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.
2026/068 (TC)	<u>COMMITTEE MINUTES</u> To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated: Personnel Committee 12 August 2026 Proposed by Councillor Aqib Bashir and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.
2026/069 (TC)	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL WARDEN UPDATE</u> To receive an update from the Environmental Warden in relation to the current environmental issues which have been identified across the town. Macaulay Anderson was in attendance at the meeting to provide an update as the Environmental Warden for Nelson. He provided Members with a report around fly-tipping which showed a huge decrease in offences from July to August. In July there were 236 offences highlighted and in August this was reduced to 100. This shows that the work undertaken so far in educating residents how to report fly-tipping was working. On the same topic, the fencing approved at Manor Street Allotments has now been erected but the waste items that had been tipped there over the years were still present. The Environmental Warden and Assistant Town Clerk had been in discussions around this one and had a quote from Pendle Borough Council of £240.00 to remove all the waste. Proposed by Councillor Stone Bashir and Seconded by Councillor Green and RESOLVED: That the £240.00 fee to remove the excess waste from the site be approved. Members noted the update and thanked Macaulay for his efforts.
2026/070 (TC)	<u>REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u> To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors <u>Borough Council</u> Ahmad noted that a few planning applications were considered at the area committee meeting but these were just general householder submissions. He also highlighted that the Local Government Restructure which was due to take place has now been postponed. He will provide a further update at a future meeting of this Council.

	<u>County Council</u> No County Councillors present to provide an update. Members noted the updates.
2026/071 (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 asked that should Police not be able to attend that they at least send through the crime statistics like they used to. Members noted the update. ACTION: Members also asked that the Assistant Town Clerk try to find contact details for the local PCSO's for each ward.
2026/072 (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. ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk to double check that the board have the contact details for Councillor Ikram Ul-Haq who is the Council representative for the Town Deal.
2026/073 (TC)	<u>EXTERNAL AUDIT</u> To receive an update from the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to the External Audit being conducted by PKF Littlejohn. The Assistant Town Clerk updated Members that the External Audit report had been received at the office. Some minor issues were raised. • We note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2026/27 for the exercise of public rights, since the notice regarding the period for the exercise of public rights was not published before the start of the period. As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2026/27 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2027/28. • In the prior year, the internal auditor drew attention to weaknesses in relation to annual review of reserves. The smaller authority has not taken sufficient action to address this weakness in the current year but has provided valid explanation. • The smaller authority has confirmed that it has not complied with the

	governance Assertion 10 in Section 1 and it has provided the appointed auditor with an adequate explanation for non-compliance and details of the actions necessary to address weaknesses identified. This is consistent with the Internal Auditor's response to Internal Control Objective O. The smaller authority has not been able to provide evidence of the consideration of the independence of the internal auditor upon appointment. In accordance with the Practitioner's Guide Paragraph 4.11 it is considered best practice to review the independence of the internal auditor on an annual basis. Relevant notices are to be published on the website and notice board. Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor A. Bashir, and RESOLVED: That the report is noted and that the Finance and General Purposes committee and office staff are thanked for their efforts in preparing all the necessary documentation.
2026/074 (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. Applications for funding have recently been received from both Nelson Football Club and Nelson Cricket Club. The Board are also searching for new members to join the Board. There are three spaces available and 24 applications have been submitted. The appointment for the vacancies should take place in the next couple of weeks. Members noted the update. ACTION: Members asked whether it would be possible to find out who had applied for the vacancies. The Chairman/ Assistant Town Clerk will check whether this information is available.
2026/075 (TC)	<u>PARKING ISSUES</u> To discuss the ongoing issues around people parking their vehicles in locations which they shouldn't – including back street access and on pavements in the town centre. Councillor Ahmad had asked that this item be added to the agenda following a large number of complaints being raised in relation to people parking in places they shouldn't across the town. Since this item was added to the agenda, work had already begun on combating the problems – particularly within the town centre. Bollards have now been put in place at some of the hotspots, including Manchester Road outside the takeaways. The Borough Council will continue to monitor the situation. Letters have been sent out to residents with regards to the problem areas where cars are blocking off back streets – meaning the waste service team have struggled to collect some bins on refuse collection days. This has also seen an improvement but will continue to be monitored. Members noted the update.
2026/076 (TC)	<u>PLAYGROUND FUNDING</u> To discuss potential funding for playground development at different locations across the town.

	Phil Riley of Pendle Borough Council was in attendance to discuss a report which had been previously circulated in relation to some funding which had been provided by the Government to redevelop parks and play areas in the town. The report identified sites at Poplar Street, Lomeshaye and Clough Head as the sites which most needed the funding after Pendle Borough Council officers had reviewed the sites in the town. Phil asked that the Council support the initiative as it will clearly benefit residents across the town. The Town Council had previously decided to upgrade Lomeshaye and Poplar Street in any case, but this money could now be reallocated to different sites in the town which weren't due to be upgraded until next year. Phil was happy to assist with the process for the newly chosen sites for the ringfenced money the Town Council have aside for MUGA/ Play Area improvements like he did for the upgrade at Vernon Street Play Area. Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad, and RESOLVED: That the Town Council support the funding development and request that Pendle Borough Council begin the consultation process as per the report provided.
2026/077 (TC)	<u>WINTER WONDERLAND PROJECT</u> To consider a funding request to go towards supporting the annual Winter Wonderland Event which is held in Nelson. A funding request had been provided from the East Lancashire Community Action Project to support the Winter Wonderland Event which is to be held in Victoria Park in December. The Town Council has helped with funding for the event for the previous two years. Mohammad Jabbar was present at the meeting to talk through the project and provided costings from the previous year and he expected the figures to be slightly higher this year due to inflation. Members had some questions around the costings and asked that before any decision can be made, that actual quotations for this years prices are provided, as well as an income/ expenditure sheet from the 2025 event. Proposed by Councillor Hanif and Seconded by Councillor Aslam, and RESOLVED: That the item is deferred to a future meeting of the Full Council where a full breakdown of income/ expenditure costs are provided by the event organisers. ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk to speak to the Monitoring Officer at Pendle Borough Council to clarify if one Member present would need to declare an interest on this item following a potential conflict of interest matter raised by another Member.
2026/078 (TC)	<u>ASSET TRANSFER LIST – FEEDBACK FROM WORKING GROUP</u> To receive an update from the Asset Transfer Working Group and to make a decision on a list to be submitted to Pendle Borough Council for potential assets to be handed over before the local government restructure takes place. The Assistant Town Clerk notified those present that the Working Group set up at the last meeting had met with Philip Mousdale from Pendle Borough Council to talk through initial proposals for assets which the Town Council may consider taking over from the Borough. These included allotment sites, MUGA's and play areas, garage sites and pavilions. A number of other areas were also suggested but Pendle Borough Council had since come back and stated that these other areas were no longer available as Pendle had decided to

	keep them or they were being leased out to other organisations. The Working Group had also asked for rent figures from the Borough in relation to the garage sites which had not yet been provided. Also since the meeting, it has come to light that the Local Government Restructure has now been postponed and Members would like further information on this and what it will mean in terms of going forward before any decisions are made on the asset transfer selections. Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and RESOLVED: That this item is deferred to a future meeting for further discussion.
2026/081 (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 August had been received and circulated to Members. No major issues were identified. Members asked that Trish Wilson from Pendle Borough Council is contacted in relation to CCTV cameras down at Reedyford Road to cover any potential blind spots now already being picked up by existing cameras. <u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u> Discussed earlier on the agenda. <u>Parks Services</u> Discussed earlier on the agenda. <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> Discussed in previous agenda item. Members noted the updates.
2026/081 (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.
2026/081 (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 14th October 2026. Members noted the date of the next meeting. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 8.45pm.