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Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 14th October 2026 in the Council Chamber, Nelson Town Hall, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.45pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Shabaz Ahmed, Naeem Akhtar, Zafar Ali, Mohammad Aslam, Sughra Bibi, Mohammad Sakib, Mohammad Husnane Shahbaz, Marie Stone, Kashif Ur Rehman Chaudhry and Ikram Ul-Haq

Absent Councillors: Councillors Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Husnan Arshad, Aqib Bashir, Riaz Bashir, Rehan Hanif, Muneeb Iqbal, Hassan Mahmood, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Julie Sutcliffe and Sheila Wicks

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: Mo Jabbar

2026/082 (TC)	**ONE MINUTE SILENCE** The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence. The one-minute silence was observed.
2026/083 (TC)	**CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS** To receive the Chairman's opening remarks The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
2026/084 (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 Ali and Seconded by Councillor Shahbaz and **RESOLVED:** That the apologies received from Councillors Riaz Bashir, Julie Sutcliffe, Rehan Hanif, Mohammad Adeel Qamar and Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar are approved and accepted. Members also noted their best wishes to Councillor Julie Sutcliffe and her partner who were getting married the following day.

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……

2026/085 (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. None.
2026/086 (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. Mo Jabbar was in attendance to speak on specific items on the agenda.
2026/087 (TC)	**MINUTES** To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 09 September 2026 (previously circulated). Proposed by Councillor Stone and Seconded by Councillor Ahmed and **RESOLVED:** That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 09 September 2026 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.
2026/088 (TC)	**COMMITTEE MINUTES** To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated: • Personnel Committee 14 September 2026 • Finance and General Purposes Committee 30 September 2026 • Proposed by Councillor Ali Bashir and Seconded by Councillor Akhtar, and **RESOLVED:** That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record. Members also at this point of the meeting requested an update from the Personnel Committee meeting whereby Members were looking to appoint a new Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer. The Assistant Town Clerk noted that interviews had since been taken place and an applicant has been offered the position and accepted in writing. The candidate is due to join the Council on 01st December 2026. Members noted the update.
2026/089 (TC)	**ENVIRONMENTAL WARDEN UPDATE** 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 unable to attend the meeting due to ill health but had sent the Assistant Town Clerk a brief report to enable Members to receive the monthly update. Fly-tipping numbers had unfortunately shot back up in September to 185 offences. Almost half of which were in the Bradley Ward. Councillor Ul-Haq stated that some Councillors and the Environmental Warden were due to have a walk around in Bradley on Saturday morning at 11:00am to try to identify reasons as to why this may have occurred. All are welcome to attend. The report also mentioned reference to the possibility of Members considering some mural work in the town to brighten some areas up. Macaulay will be able to advise further on this at next month's meeting.

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……

	Members noted the update and thanked Macaulay for his efforts. **ACTION:** The Assistant Town Clerk to circulate the report for Members to review.
2026/090 (TC)	**REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors Borough Council Councillor Ali noted that a few planning applications were considered at the area committee meeting but these were just general householder submissions. He also highlighted that works had begun preparing the new cemetery at Edge End Avenue due to the fact that the main one at Walton Lane was only a couple of years away from capacity. County Council No County Councillors present to provide an update. Members noted the updates.
2026/091 (TC)	**POLICE UPDATE** 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. Unfortunately, no Police were in attendance at this meeting to provide a verbal update into the latest crime levels across the town. Councillor Ahmad did state that at a recent Pendle Borough Council meeting he had attended, he managed to catch up with one of the Police representatives and following a discussion the main areas of concern for Nelson were fireworks (due to bonfire night and wedding season) and the usage of gas cannisters which were frequently being found discarded around the town. Other Councillors mentioned that despite the new Pendle Police Station being based in Nelson, there was a distinct lack of police presence that were visible in the town, particularly around the town centre. Members noted the update.
2026/092 (TC)	**NELSON TOWN DEAL** 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. He has still not received any correspondence in relation as to when the next meeting is due to be held.
2026/093	**NELSON PRIDE IN PLACE**

Signed Chair: ……. Dated: ……

(TC)	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 brief update following the latest meeting of the Pride in Place committee. At the previous meeting of this Council he highlighted that the Pride in Place Board were searching for new members to join the Board. There were four spaces available and 24 applications had been submitted. The Board had shortlisted the applicants and four were being considered for the vacancies. Councillor Bibi, who also attends the meetings, highlighted that it had been discussed by representatives at the Board that there were no public restrooms available for residents and visitors within Nelson Town Centre. Members of this Town Council discussed this matter and were all of the opinion that this should be a facility available for residents. It was mentioned that the old toilet block next to the Town Hall could potentially be restored into working facilities and that the Town Council may wish to consider taking over the maintenance of them providing funding could be found to restore them first. Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Ahmed and **RESOLVED:** That the Pride in Place Board and Pendle Borough Council (who are believed to own the facility) are contacted about the potential idea for the Town Council to take over the maintenance costs of the facility should repairs and restorations be made to the existing structure.
2026/094 (TC)	**NEW STRIMMER FOR TOWN COUNCIL** To consider approving funding for a new strimmer for Town Council usage. The current strimmer is now over 6 years old and very worn and needs replacing. The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the Council could do with replacing the existing strimmer which was now over six years old and had become very worn. The strimmer is often used by the handyman and volunteers to help maintain the grounds outside Unity Hall as well as other bits of Town Council managed land. Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Stone and **RESOLVED:** That the Assistant Town Clerk be authorised to find a new strimmer to replace the current one to ensure that works to Town Council managed land may continue.
2026/095 (TC)	**WINTER WONDERLAND PROJECT** 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. The item had been previously deferred whilst Councillors had requested further information in relation to the income/ expenditure from the previous year. This had now been provided and circulated prior to the meeting and Members were happy with the documentation and thanked Mohammad Jabbar for providing the requested figures. The majority of Councillors present had been down to previous events and were in agreement that the event is excellent for both Nelson residents and the visitors it attracts.

Signed Chair: ……. Dated: ……

	The Assistant Town Clerk also just mentioned that the previous resolution had asked him to enquire about a potential conflict of interest matter that had been raised. He stated that this had been brought up with the Monitoring Officer at Pendle Borough Council and there were no grounds for conflict and therefore no declarations of interest were necessary to be raised. Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Shahbaz, and **RESOLVED:** That the request for £10,000 to part fund the Winter Wonderland is approved and that the event is added to the Town Council Events Schedule going forwards.
2026/096 (TC)	**ASSET TRANSFER LIST – FEEDBACK FROM WORKING GROUP** 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 Local Government Restructure that was due to take place imminently has been postponed for the time being, so Members felt that until things became more clear and timescales were set for the restructure, that the Town Council should delay any potential asset transfer of the three parks within the Nelson town boundary. Given that the Town Council already pay for all maintenance of the MUGA's and Play Areas, Members did agree that these assets should be passed on to the Town Council's ownership and legally transferred. Garage sites were then discussed and it was suggested that Town Councillor's visit the sites in their respective wards with a view to take on these assets, as in some cases the sites will be a key part of local communities. Sites with garages in disrepair would need to be reviewed as to what costs it would need to either upgrade them or request that Pendle Borough Council put no restrictions on site usage should Nelson Town Council wish to redevelop the sites into something different in the future. Allotments sites, as per the Parks, are to be delayed until the restructure timescales are provided. Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Shahbaz, and **RESOLVED:** That the Town Council request for the formal transfer of the MUGA's and Play Areas is to go ahead and that the garage sites are taken on subject to there being no restrictions on what can be done with the land should any future redevelopment ideas need to be implemented by the Town Council. The potential transfer of the parks and allotments are delayed until more information is provided in relation to the Local Government Restructure.
2026/097 (TC)	**TRANSFERRED SERVICES** To receive reports and consider any actions required in relation to transferred services. CCTV monitoring

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……

	The Assistant Town Clerk reported that CCTV monitoring report for September 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.
2026/098 (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.
2026/099 (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 11th November 2026. Members noted the date of the next meeting. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.45pm.

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……