Nelson Town Council
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Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 11th November 2026 in the Council Chamber, Nelson Town Hall, Nelson, Lancashire

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.55pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Faraz Ahmad, Naeem Akhtar, Husnan Arshad, Riaz Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Rehan Hanif, Hassan Mahmood, Mohammad Husnane Shahbaz, Marie Stone, and Ikram Ul-Haq

Absent Councillors: Councillors Shabaz Ahmed, Zafar Ali, Thabasum Ruby Anwar, Mohammad Aslam, Aqib Bashir, , Muneeb Iqbal, Anam Nawaz, Mohammad Adeel Qamar, Atique Rehman, Mohammad Sakib, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar, Julie Sutcliffe, 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: One

2026/100 (TC)	**ONE MINUTE SILENCE** The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence. The one-minute silence was observed.
2026/101 (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.
2026/102 (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 Stone and Seconded by Councillor Akhtar and **RESOLVED:** That the apologies received from Councillors Shabaz Ahmed Zafar Ali Mohammad Aslam, Mohammad Sufyaan Sarwar and Julie Sutcliffe are approved and accepted.
2026/103 (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.
2026/104	**ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……

(TC)	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. One member of the public present who did not wish to speak.
2026/105 (TC)	**MINUTES** To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14 October 2026 (previously circulated). Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Stone and **RESOLVED:** That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 14 October 2026 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.
2026/106 (TC)	**COMMITTEE MINUTES** To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated: • Personnel Committee 21 October 2026 Proposed by Councillor Ahmad and Seconded by Councillor Stone, and **RESOLVED:** That the draft minutes listed above are approved as a true and accurate record.
2026/107 (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 in attendance to Members to receive the monthly update. Fly-tipping numbers had decreased this month following a spike in cases the previous month so this was good news. The Bradley Ward was once again the ward in which most cases were being identified so the team are working on educating residents in the problem areas on how bulk waste should be removed. He also provided Members with some costing for the previously mentioned wall murals that he had recommended may brighten up some parts of the town. The figures for these murals are quite high and he suggested that Members take the time to review the costings and see if it's something they would like to factor in to the budget setting for the upcoming year. Members noted the update. **ACTION:** Macaulay Anderson to email the Assistant Town Clerk the reports and mural costings for Members to review.
2026/108 (TC)	**REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors Borough Council Councillor Bashir noted that a few planning applications were considered at the area committee meeting but these were just general householder submissions. Councillor Ahmad highlighted that more powers have now been allocated to planning officers in terms of making decisions, meaning the area committee members have less responsibilities at planning meetings. County Council

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……

	No County Councillors present to provide an update. Members noted the updates.
2026/109 (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 noted that crime statistics had increased in the last couple of months – this is a common trend as the darker nights set in. The Assistant Town Clerk and Chairman will also make time to visit the new Police station in the town and ask that a representative from their offices can attend future town council meetings. Members noted the update.
2026/110 (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.
2026/111 (TC)	**NELSON PRIDE IN PLACE** To discuss the Nelson Pride in Place project and discuss for ways to which Nelson Town Council can assist with the process. Councillor Bibi, who attends the Pride in Place meetings as a representative of the Council, mentioned that at the last meeting it was agreed to ask this Council to form a working group with the Nelson Pride in Place team to discuss ways in which the Council and PIP project can work together. Members all agreed that this was a good idea and a good opportunity to get more projects rolled out over the coming months. The Assistant Town Clerk also updated Members that following on from the last meeting where it was resolved to check whether the old toilet block next to the Town Hall could be restored – he had been in touch with Sue Rae and she had stated that this would not be possible as the toilet block will be being destroyed to make way for a new car parking area. Members felt that this was a good opportunity missed given the relevant drainage facilities would likely already be in place at the existing location, but would discuss this further at a working group meeting. Proposed by Councillor Bibi and Seconded by Councillor Stone and **RESOLVED:** That a working group is formed consisting of members of this Council and members of the Nelson Pride in Place Board. Any Members of the Council who want to be a

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……

	part of the working group are to give their name to the Assistant Town Clerk who can then contact the Nelson Pride in Place team to arrange an initial working group meeting.
2026/112 (TC)	**UNITY HALL OPENING HOURS** An item was requested to be added to the agenda from Councillor Rehan Hanif in relation to the opening hours of the Unity Well Being Centre following contact from local residents. Councillor Hanif mentioned to those present that he had received a couple of phone calls over the last few months from residents of Vernon Street complaining about people loitering around the building after events and disturbing residents. The Assistant Town Clerk had spoken with the Caretaker of the hall and she had stated that people on the whole do leave the building at the allotted times – and occasionally the event organisers are in slightly later just to finish off tidying up after events (or stage companies sometimes are a little later if they need to collect the stage). Whilst the building is licensed to hold functions until 11:00pm, the Council are aware of the neighbouring residents and don't like to see them disturbed. This is why previously it had been resolved to bring forward the finishing time from 11:00pm to 10:30pm. Members asked that both the Assistant Town Clerk and Caretaker remind people who book the hall to consider the neighbours and ask that they remind their guests to leave the building quietly and in a timely fashion. Proposed by Councillor Hanif and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad and **RESOLVED:** That customers are reminded that music must now be turned off by 10:00pm and that all guests must have vacated the premises by 10:30pm. The Unity Well Being Management Committee will review this in January when they next meet.
2026/113 (TC)	**BACK STREETS PROJECT** To receive an update on the latest from the back streets project. The Assistant Town Clerk notified those present that the next phases of the Back Streets Project had now been sent out to tender and that the results should be provided imminently. The streets on the next phases as previously agreed are as follows: Phase 3 166-189 Every Street (area committee will fund this one) 231-243 Every Street 42-62 Stanley Street 1-71 Cloverhill Road Phase 4 34-54 Vernon Street 4-14 Cumberland Street 80-114 Chapel house Road 59-79 Roberts Street Phase 5 150-178 Hibson Road 131-148 Bradshaw Street 33-61 Regent Street

Signed Chair: ……. Dated: ……

	3-27 Rutland Street Members noted the update.
2026/114 (TC)	**BUDGET FOR 2027/28** To consider forming a Budget Working Group to assist with the setting of the budget for the financial year 2027/28. Each year, a Budget Working Group is formed to assist with the setting of the next financial year's budget. Once the draft budget is agreed by the working group, it will be brought before the Full Council in early 2027 for other Members to review and approve. Members agreed that this was a productive way forward and has worked well in previous years. A number of Members present were keen to be involved with the working group. Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Mahmood, and **RESOLVED:** That the Assistant Town Clerk and incoming Town Clerk prepare a draft budget to be reviewed by the working group, who then bring back an item to the Full Council to review and sign off after discussion. **ACTION:** The Assistant Town Clerk to set a date for the working group to meet and circulate to Members who can then join the working group if they have availability.
2026/115 (TC)	**UPDATE FROM ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK** To receive an update on the latest from the office from the Assistant Town Clerk. The Assistant Town Clerk gave two updates around other bits of information for Councillors: Christmas Lights Switch On The Christmas Lights Switch On event is taking place on Saturday 21st November 2026 from 12:00 – 17:30. All Members are asked to attend for at least some of the event. The press photos will be taking place around 17:00. New Clerk The new Town Clerk is due to start his role on Tuesday 01st December 2026. The Assistant Town Clerk thanked Members for their support whilst he has been covering the role. Members noted the updates and thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for his efforts over the last few years whilst he's been managing the office for the last few years.
2026/116 (TC)	**TRANSFERRED SERVICES** To receive reports and consider any actions required in relation to transferred services. CCTV monitoring The Assistant Town Clerk reported that CCTV monitoring report for October had been received and circulated to Members. No major issues were identified. MUGAS and Play Areas Nothing new this month.

Signed Chair: ……. Dated: ……

	Parks Services Nothing new this month.
2026/117 (TC)	**ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA** To notify the Assistant Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting. None.
2026/118 (TC)	**DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** The date of the next meeting of the Council is due to be held on Wednesday 09th December 2026. Members noted the date of the next meeting. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.55pm.

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……