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Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 30th September 2026 at Unity Wellbeing Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson

Commenced: 6.30pm - Concluded: 6.40pm

Councillors Present:, Zafar Ali, Mohammed Husnane Shahbaz and Ikram Ul-Haq

Absent Councillors: Naeem Akhtar, Ruby Anwar, Aqib Bashir, Sughra Bibi, Rehan Hanif and Mohammad Adeel Qamar,

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

Observing Councillors (not a member of the committee): None

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

Members of the Public: None

2026/027 (FGP)	**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 Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Ali, and **RESOLVED:** That the apologies received from Councillors Sughra Bibi and Rehan Hanif are approved and accepted.
2026/028 (FGP)	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 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.
2026/029 (FGP)	**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. None.

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……

2026/030 (FGP)	**MINUTES** To approve the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting held on 24 June 2026. (Previously circulated) Proposed by Councillor Ul-Haq and Seconded by Councillor Shahbaz and **RESOLVED:** That the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting held on the 24 June 2026 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.
2026/031 (FGP)	**ACCOUNTS AND SCHEDULE OF AUTHORISED EXPENDITURE PAYMENTS / RECEIPTS** **2026/031.1 To receive the monthly schedule of payments for the period of June, July and August 2026. The committee is required to review the schedule of payments for compliance in accordance with the Financial Regulations.** The monthly schedule of payments were received and reviewed for the period of June, July and August 2026. **2026/031.2 To note the schedule of payments over £500.00 for the period of June, July and August 2026 for publication on the website in accordance with the Data Transparency Code.** Members noted the schedule of payments over £500.00 for publication on the website in accordance with the Data Transparency Code. **2026/031.3 To review and approve the Finance and General Purposes committee payments for the period of June, July and August 2026.** Note: The schedules of committee payments shall be signed by the Committee chair and included as an annex to the minutes, subject to any redaction to protect personal information Proposed by Councillor Shahbaz and Seconded by Councillor Ali and **RESOLVED:** That the Finance and General Purposes committee payments for the period of June, July and August 2026 are approved and signed off by the Chairman.
2026/032 (FGP)	**BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS** **2026/032.1 To receive the bank reconciliation statements for the period of June, July and August 2026** Members noted the Bank Reconciliation Statements for the period of June, July and August 2026 **2026/032.2 To appoint a member, other than a cheque signatory to verify the bank reconciliation statements for all accounts (produced by the Assistant Town Clerk).** Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Ul-Haq, and **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Shahbaz be appointed to verify the bank reconciliation statements for all accounts produced by the Assistant Town Clerk.
2026/033 (FGP)	**BUDGET MONITORING REVIEW** To review the budget spends so far in the financial year 2026/ 27 and identify any significant differences thus far. Given the early stage of the year – no significant differences were identified during the budget monitoring review. The Assistant Town Clerk did encourage Members that the bigger projects need to be pushed along in order to ensure that spends were met before the year end. This includes setting up the play area improvements group to decide which ones the Town Council would like to refurbish this financial year. Members noted the update.

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……

2026/034 (FGP)	**ASSET REGISTER** To review the Nelson Town Council asset register in line with recommendations received by the internal auditor. The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated the asset register. No new changes had been made since the previous meeting of this committee. He did note that there should be items to add to this list soon once the Unity Well Being Management Committee meet at the end of October. Members noted the update.
2026/035 (FGP)	**WINTER FOOTBALL PROGRAMME** To consider the introduction of a winter football programme for 2026 following on from the success of the summer one. The sessions would be moved indoors for the winter period. Councillor Ul-Haq gave an update around the football coaching sessions which have been taking place at Pendle Vale College. The sessions are well attended and have now been running for two years. Now that the weather is getting colder, it was recommended that the sessions be moved indoors if Members would like them to continue. This would cost £2,400 to extend for a further 10 weeks and include indoor gyms time for two hours each week and coaches to run the sessions. Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Shahbaz, and **RESOLVED:** That the football coaching sessions are extended for a further 10 weeks starting in October 2026.
2026/036 (FGP)	**REPLACEMENT BENCHES – HEY STREET** To consider a joint funding bid for the refurbishment of five benches at the Nelson Town Council owned site at Hey Street. Pendle Borough Council have offered to joint fund the works which total £2,650.00 – meaning a £1,325 costing to Nelson Town Council. Tricia Wilson of Pendle Borough Council had approached the Assistant Town Clerk asking about the possibility of a joint funding initiative to refurbish five benches at the Hey Street play area. The benches have started to rot away and could do with being refurbished to allow residents to enjoy sitting in the area again. Pendle Borough Council have some funding for these type of works and offered to pay half towards the cost of refurbishment. Full refurbishment will cost £2,650.00 – meaning a £1,325 costing to Nelson Town Council. The Councillors present at the meeting have all attended the site and were in agreement that the restoration of the benches would be most useful for local residents in that area. Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Shahbaz and **RESOLVED:** That the funding for the refurbishment of the five benches at the Hey Street site is approved as per the request from Pendle Borough Council.
2026/037 (FGP)	**ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA** To notify the Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting. None.
2026/038 (FGP)	**DATE OF THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** To note the date of the next committee meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday 28th October 2026 at 6.30pm, at the Unity Well Being Centre, Vernon Street, Nelson. Members noted the date of the next meeting.

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……

	The meeting was closed by the Chair at 6.40pm.

Signed Chair: …….. Dated: ……