



NELSON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NELSON TOWN COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Nelson Town Hall, Market Street, Nelson on Wednesday 10th April 2019

Councillors Present: Zafar Ali [Chair] George Adam, Faraz Ahmad, Nazeem Hayat, Mashuq Hussain, Mohammed Khalid, Neil McGowan, Mohammed Malik, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher and Shelia Wicks

Absent Councillors: Sajid Ali, Zeeshan Amjad, Eileen Ansar, Majid Anwar, Najaf Anwar, Mohammad Aslam, Adrian Barrett, Sadia Bashir, Malik Hussain, Mohammed Latif, Hassan Mahmood, John Richardson and Saanval Safir

Non-Councillors (without voting rights): Azhar Ali

Absent Non-Councillors (without voting rights): Mohammed Iqbal

Officers: Safia Kauser - Town Clerk/RFO, Nick Harbour – Assistant Town Clerk [minute taker]

Members of the Public: Thirteen - including Sue Dawes, Anthony Bryan and Karen Howarth

2018/163 (TC) **ONE MINUTE SILENCE**
The Chairman invites members to observe a one minute of silence

A one minutes silence was observed.

2018/164 (TC) **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**
To receive the Chairman's opening remarks:

The Chairman welcomed all the Councillors and members of the public to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Award Presentation - Recognition of Contribution to Local Education

As agreed at the last meeting, local teacher Sue Dawes was invited as a guest of the Council to attend the meeting to collect a trophy, flowers and a certificate in recognition of her 41 year contribution to local education. The Chairman, Councillor Mashuq Hussain and Councillor Azhar Ali all spoke of their respect and regard for Mrs. Dawes and all present wished Mrs. Dawes a happy retirement and all the best for the future.

2018/165 (TC) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Z Ali and Seconded by Councillor M Pearson-Asher, and
RESOLVED: That the apologies are received and approved from Councillors Sadia

2018/166
(TC)

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests. A Member must generally declare a disclosable pecuniary interest which he or she has in any item on the Agenda. A Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest may not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting and must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting. In addition, the Council's Standing Orders require a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest to leave the room where the meeting is held while any discussion or voting takes place.

There were no declarations of interest.

2018/167
(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 made under public participation.

No public representation was made at this stage.

2018/168
(TC)

REPORTS FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND INVITED GUESTS

2018/168.1 - To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors

County Councillor Ali informed Members that a consultation outcome around the potential closure of Walton Lane Nursery is taking place at Cabinet tomorrow (11th April). The recommendation made to Cabinet is for the closure of the service. County Councillor Ali made it clear he is opposed to the closure and will be speaking up in support of keeping the Nursery open. All present agreed that it is a valuable service to the local area and everything possible should be done to keep it open. County Councillor Ali will report on the outcome at the next meeting and any action to be taken by the Town Council will be discussed then.

2018/168.2 - To receive reports from other invited guests

There were no reports received.

2018/169
(TC)

MINUTES

To approve the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13 March 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Hayat and Seconded by Councillor Ahmad, and

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 13 March 2019 be approved as a true record and signed by the chair.

2018/170
(TC)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

To confirm the receipt of committee minutes previously circulated:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Personnel | 20 March 2019 – not quorate |
| • EO Personnel | 27 March 2019 |
| • Finance & General Purposes | 27 March 2019 |
| • Unity Wellbeing Management | 27 March 2019 |

Proposed by Councillor Latif and Seconded by Councillor Hayat, and

RESOLVED: That all of the above block minutes of the Town Council committee meetings be deferred until the next meeting to allow more time for Members to absorb the content.

2018/171
(TC)

HIGHWAYS PROJECTS

To receive the draft Highways Projects Policy. Members are requested to review the draft policy developed by the Clerk and agree any changes that may be required prior to adopting it as a formal Council Policy (copy previously circulated)

Proposed by Councillor Z Ali and Seconded by Councillor N Hayat,

RESOLVED: That the Highways Projects Policy be approved with the following amendments to points 5.1 and 5.2 and the removal of 5.6.

5.1 Members who request to have a highway project considered must ensure that they submit a motion to the Town Clerk in accordance with the Standing Orders and in accordance with this Highway Project Policy.

5.2 When the Town Clerk has received the motion, the item will then be placed on the next Town Council agenda for consideration.

5.6 Completely remove.

2018/172
(TC)

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

To consider a further response to the boundary commission review. The commission now invites proposals from the council, interested parties and members of the public on a pattern of electoral wards to accommodate those councilors (correspondence previously circulated)

The proposal for the Nelson areas would be broken down as follows:

Ward 8 – Greater Marsden (3 Member Ward)

This ward comprises of polling districts: MA, MB and SB. The electorate would be 5,662 falling within the acceptable range of electors to ensure electoral equality.

Ward 9 – Nelson North (3 Member Ward)

This ward comprises of polling districts: BM, BN, BO, SA, CB and CC. The electorate would be 6,725, falling within the acceptable range of electors to ensure electoral equality.

Ward 10 – Nelson West (3 Member Ward)

This ward comprises of polling districts: BL, WI, WH, BQ and 720 electors from BR. The electorate would be 6,040, falling within the acceptable range of electors to ensure electoral equality.

Ward 11 – Nelson South with Brierfield (3 Member Ward)

This ward comprises of polling districts: WA, CA, RB, BR less 720 electors. The electorate would be 6,553, falling within the acceptable range of electors to ensure electoral equality.

Proposed by Non-Councillor A Ali and Seconded by Councillor Z Ali, and

RESOLVED: That Nelson Town Council proposes one additional Councillor to the total proposes to increase the number to 34 to take into consideration the rural wards.

Action: Non-Councillor Ali to send the Town Clerk the detailed report to draft a formal response on behalf of Nelson Town Council to the Electoral Commission as part of the consultation process.

2018/173
(TC)

TRANSFERRED SERVICES

To receive reports and confirm any actions required in relation to transferred services

- MUGAs
- CCTV monitoring
- Parks Services
- Roadside seats

The clerk circulated a report on transferred services.

MUGAS

No incidents or points of note to report.

Action: The Chairman requested that the Town Clerk ask the handyman to update the signage at the MUGAS to include the Town Council logo and contact details.

CCTV monitoring

The latest monthly reports for March had been circulated to all members electronically.

Parks

A meeting has been set up with Philip Mousdale at Pendle Borough Council on 11th June 2019 to bring together a working group to discuss the next steps forward in relation to parks services in the town.

Councillor Z Ali has recently been involved in meetings with the Friends of Walverden Park group who have informed him that services have lessened in the parks, yet the Town Council contribution of £60,000 has remained the same – this raises the question of where is the money going that is being contributed?

Karen Howarth, a member of Friends of Marsden Park who was in attendance stated that there is also a serious lack of volunteers helping out in the town's parks – something that will need to be addressed as things move forward. There is also an old listed building in Marsden Park that is not being maintained even though Pendle Borough Council have previously stated they would send somebody out to do any necessary repairs.

Proposed by County Councillor A Ali and Seconded by Councillor Z Ali, and

RESOLVED: That Nelson Town Council write to Dean Langton at Pendle Borough Council to ask the question as to why the building in Marsden Park is not being maintained and to set out what the working group that is about to be formed can assist with.

Action: Councillor Z Ali will highlight the lack of volunteers issue at the meeting with Philip Mousdale on 11th June.

Roadside Seats

The handyman has now begun the assessment of benches in the town to decide whether they require maintenance, repair or renewal. The job is expected to be completed by September.

Note: Councillor Z Ali asked the Town Clerk whether the job could be completed sooner if the handyman had the time in his schedule to do so.

2018/174
(TC)

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

To receive reports from town councillors who have attended recent meetings or events on behalf of the Town Council including representation on external bodies:

- Nelson Area Committee
- Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Lancashire Branch meetings

- Pendle Fair Trade
- Town Centre Partnership / Town Team
- Nelson Youth Forum • Whitfield Community Forum
- Bradley Big Local Community
- Conferences and courses

Nelson Area Committee

The only thing of note that the Town Council are to be aware of is the approval of the new McDonalds drive thru. There have been a number of anti-social behaviour issues and litter problems at the same restaurant in Colne. Lessons can be learnt from their difficulties. This can be picked up if similar issues arise when the Nelson branch opens.

LALC

No meetings have taken place recently. The next meeting is scheduled for September.

Pendle Fair Trade

No meetings have taken place recently.

Town Centre Partnership / Town Team

No meeting has taken place recently.

Nelson Youth Forum

No meeting has taken place recently.

Whitefield Community Forum

No updates reported.

Bradley Big Local

No updates reported.

Conferences and courses

No updates reported.

2018/175
(TC)

TOWN CLERK CORRESPONDENCE

To consider any correspondence or communication brought forward by the Clerk not otherwise specifically relating to items being discussed by the Town Council committees.

Nelson Town Centre Research Report

The Assistant Clerk recently sent out a Nelson Town Centre research report which had been conducted by Pendle Borough Council. The report aimed to get resident and visitor views on various aspects of the town centre.

Action: The Clerk will read through the report and give a brief summary at the next meeting.

Councillor Induction Packs

With the upcoming elections less than a month away, the Town Clerk has been working on the material to be included in the updated Councillor induction packs. Once the policies are updated and the packs are complete, they will be given out to all Councillors at an induction event in May/ June.

2018/176
(TC)

SPECIAL PROJECTS

2018/176.1 - Exclusion of the Press and Public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960. It is recommended that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.

Proposed by Councillor Z Ali and Seconded by Councillor N Hayat, and
RESOLVED: In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960; That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw for reasons and matters appertaining to commercial confidentiality

All members of the public left the Chamber

2018/176.2 - To receive any further updates on the identified special project discussed in previous meetings.

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on a special project previously discussed by the Town Council. A new proposal by the third party included a reduction in the fees. However, it was felt that the revised figure was still significantly high.

Proposed by Councillor Z Ali and Seconded by Councillor N Hayat, and
RESOLVED: That the item be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance Committee on 24th April 2019.

2018/177
(TC)

ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

To notify the Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.

- Nelson Town Centre survey report summary

2018/178
(TC)

DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The next Nelson Town Council meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Market Street, Nelson.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 8.40pm.