



## NELSON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE NELSON TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held at the Council Chamber, Nelson Town Hall, Market Street, Nelson on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

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

**Absent Councillors:** Sajid Ali, Zeeshan Amjad, Eileen Ansar, Majid Anwar, Najaf Anwar, Mohammad Aslam, 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:** Three – including Anthony Bryan and Karen Howarth

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2019/001 **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**  
(AC) 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.

2019/002 **MINUTES**  
(AC) To approve the draft minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 09<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Proposed by Councillor G Adam and Seconded by Councillor N Hayat, and  
**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on the 09<sup>th</sup> Mayr 2018 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

2019/003 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**  
(AC) To receive the annual report of the Town Council from the Chairman, Councillor Zafar Ali

Councillor Zafar Ali highlighted some of the key achievements and priorities that the Council have been working towards over the last 12 months:

- The Chairman opened with expressing how proud he is to have been the Chairman of the Town Council and thanked all Councillors for their contributions in dealing with all the challenges that have arisen over the past 12 months

Signed Chair: .....

Dated: .....

- The Council have been celebrating their 10 year anniversary. A newsletter has been sent to every home in Nelson to showcase the achievements over the past year. The content includes the excellent work that each different ward has been doing
- The Council have helped Pendle Borough Council who have been facing challenges due to budget cuts. The Council have taken on more responsibilities in relation to parks, MUGA's, events and CCTV monitoring and maintenance
- Marsden and Walverden Parks have achieved Green Flag status thanks to support from the Town Council. The Chair thanked all Members for agreeing to assist the Borough Council with the budget shortfall to help maintain the excellent public park services
- The Council have been involved in discussions with the Borough Council around the ward boundaries being changed for the upcoming year
- A new Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk have been appointed within the last 12 months
- The upcoming year will be as challenging as ever but the Chairman is confident the right people will be in place to keep things moving forward
- With the elections just around the corner, the Chairman thanked those who have served the Town Council, particularly to those Councillors who have decided to retire
- He finished off by wishing all candidates good luck in the May elections

**Action:** That the Chairman writes to all the retiring Town Councillors to thank them on behalf of the Town Council and residents for their services to the community.

2019/004  
(AC)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**2019/004.1 - To receive questions from members of the public**

One member of the public had a question around what is going to be done about the lack of toilet facilities which are available in Nelson Town Centre. The closure of the toilets next to the town hall are a problem. The pubs, bookmakers and cafes all expect members of the public to purchase something before using the restrooms. The toilet facility in the Arndale Centre was reported of being closed on most occasions, and the few times they actually are open, the doors do not lock - resulting in a lack of privacy. Whilst at the moment there is an agreement with Pendle Borough Council that the public can use the ACE Centre facilities, this building won't be open for much longer, reducing the options even further.

All present acknowledged that the question raised was a fair one and that alternative options should be made available for town centre users.

**Action:** That the Town Clerk's office write to the Chief Executive of Pendle Borough Council (Dean Langton) to ask what alternatives will be put in place once the ACE Centre closes & also to write to the owners of the Pendle Rise Shopping Centre to raise the issue of the lack of opening times of their toilet facilities and the damaged doors which will not lock.

**2019/004.2 To consider any local issues which are causing concern, brought forward by a member of the public**

One local issue which is causing concern was raised by a member of the public – a lack of Police presence in the town. The resident raised a particular issue to him – theft of lead from his property on Lomeshaye Place. The resident felt that CCTV in more areas would be beneficial to residents as well as assist Police with their enquiries.

All present agreed that the increases in crime statistics were alarming, but ultimately like all other services, was unfortunately down to a lack of government funding.

**Action:** That the Town Clerk's office writes to the local Police to raise the public concern highlighted to Nelson Town Council at this meeting. Councillor Neil McGowan will also speak to Councillor Majid Anwaar who is working on

resolving certain issues in the Lomeshaye Place area and seek an update. He will then inform the Town Clerk's office of these updates, who will then in turn update the resident who raised the issues.

**2019/004.3 To consider any other business brought forward by or with the consent of the Chairman**

No other business was brought forward.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 19:30.