



**Minutes of a meeting of Nelson Town Council held on Wednesday 08th July
2020 via ZOOM**

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.55pm

Councillors Present: Councillors Zafar Ali [Chair], George Adam, Faraz Ahmad, Omar Ahmed, Zulfiqar Ali, Husnan Arshad, Sadia Bashir, Laura Blackburn, Wayne Blackburn, Patricia Hannah-Wood, Nazeem Hayat, Fiona Holland, Mashuq Hussain OBE, Mohammad Kamran Latif, Mohammad Sakib, Russell Tennant and Sheila Wicks

Absent Councillors: Councillors Mohammad Aslam, Ali Baig, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher, Mohammad Sarwar and Ikram Ul-Haq

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None

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

Members of the Public: None

2020/019
(TC)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

To receive the Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance. He notified Members of the following two updates in his opening remarks:

- A planning application had recently been submitted in relation to the land next to Unity Hall. This was to create 16 new apartments. This application has been refused by Pendle Borough Council.
- Interviews are due to take place at the end of July to fill the vacant Facilitator role now that lockdown restrictions are being eased.

2020/020
(TC)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Latif and Seconded by Councillor Hussain, and

RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Councillors Ali Baig, Michelle Pearson-Asher, Nigel Pearson-Asher and Mohammad Sarwar are approved and accepted.

2020/021
(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 declared.

2020/022 (TC)	<p><u>ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u> 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.</p> <p>No members of the public were present at the meeting.</p>
2020/023 (TC)	<p><u>REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u> To receive reports from the Borough or County Councillors</p> <p><u>Borough Council</u></p> <p>Councillor Sakib had recently attended the Nelson Area Committee meeting whereby he noted an increase in planning applications for which local residents are applying for dormer extensions to their homes. This is largely down to the fact that it is more financially viable for them to do this rather than buy new homes. Councillors in general support the residents where possible in terms of these types of application. An application was also submitted for a 5G tower at Hodge House. Residents felt strongly that this would be detrimental to the area (and are also wary of potential health risks as being reported from some news sites). Members all voted against the application.</p> <p>Grants are now available for shop fronts in the town centre. Shop owners are encouraged to make use of the funds available if their shop front could do with some work. Shops within the town centre boundary are eligible for this grant. Should any Members be contacted by local businesses in relation to this, they are asked to put them in touch with either of Borough Councillors Sakib or Asjad.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>County Council</u></p> <p>No County Councillors present to give an update.</p>
2020/024 (TC)	<p><u>MINUTES</u> To approve the draft minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 24 June 2020 (previously circulated).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Latif and Seconded by Councillor Mashuq Hussain, and RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on the 24 June 2020 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.</p>
2020/025 (TC)	<p><u>UPDATE ON COVID-19</u> To receive an update around the action being taken in relation to the Covid-19 issue.</p> <p>Members discussed the recent government guidelines on how lockdown restrictions are slowly starting to be lifted in certain areas. In terms of the MUGA's and play areas owned by the Town Council, Members needed to decide whether or not to re-open them for public use.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Latif and Seconded by Councillor Mashuq Hussain, and RESOLVED: That due to the high alert still in place in Nelson and the risk of a second wave of the virus, that MUGA's and play areas remain closed for the time being. This can be reviewed at a future meeting when more guidance is published by the government and risk alerts can also be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Action: That the Council Handyman checks on the MUGA's and play areas to ensure that they are still closed off to the public and that appropriate signage is still in place.</p>

<p>2020/026 (TC)</p>	<p><u>INTERNAL AUDIT</u> To receive an update following the recent Internal Audit.</p> <p>The Chairman updated Members that the internal audit work was almost finalised. A draft of the report from the auditor had been circulated to Members to review before this meeting. The report stated that the Town Council had performed satisfactory, and that all the figures balanced. There were a number of issues to which the auditor felt the Town Council could improve, which can all easily be addressed as outlined in the action plan. This included more timely banking of takings.</p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p>Action: The draft report will go before the Finance Committee on 22nd July 2020 for a final review and then signed off by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.</p>
<p>2020/027 (TC)</p>	<p><u>RESURFACING OF LOMESHAYE ROAD MUGA</u> To consider the resurfacing of Lomeshaye Road MUGA based on quotes obtained by Pendle Borough Council.</p> <p>Councillor Arshad reported to Members that numerous residents had been in touch with him in relation to the condition of the surfacing of the MUGA on Lomeshaye Road. A number of other Councillors had also noted that the surface was in poor condition and in need of replacing.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk had been in touch with Scott Whalley of Pendle Borough Council to obtain quotes for the work. Unfortunately, only one had been received in time for this meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Arshad and Seconded by Councillor Zafar Ali, and RESOLVED: That the item go before the Finance committee on 22nd July when a further two quotes have been provided. The Assistant Clerk is also to request further information from Scott Whalley in terms of the warranty and pitch markings for the new surface in time for the meeting.</p>
<p>2020/030 (TC)</p>	<p><u>TRANSFERRED SERVICES</u> To receive reports and consider any actions required in relation to transferred services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CCTV monitoring b) MUGAs/Play Areas c) Parks Services <p><u>CCTV monitoring</u> The Assistant Town Clerk had circulated a report with the statistics from June. There were no significant cases that needed discussing.</p> <p><u>MUGAS and Play Areas</u> The MUGAS and Play Areas are currently closed due to Covid-19. Inspections are still taking place on a weekly basis by Pendle Borough Council and no issues have been raised.</p> <p>The update was noted.</p> <p><u>Parks Services</u> Philip Mousdale of Pendle Borough Council had recently been in touch with the Assistant Town Clerk to enquire as to what Nelson Town Council's position is in relation to taking over the ownership and maintenance of the three parks in Nelson, and what contribution the Town Council would like to make for the financial year 2020/21.</p>

	<p>Proposed by Councillor Zafar Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and RESOLVED: That a working group be set up consisting of Councillors Zafar Ali, Hannah-Wood, Latif and Tennant to look into the transfer of the parks and their maintenance; and that the contribution towards the costs of maintenance remains the same as 2019/20 for the time being.</p>
2020/031 (TC)	<p><u>ANY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FOR A FUTURE AGENDA</u> To notify the Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reedyford Road Flooding • Fair Trade
2020/032 (TC)	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</u> To note the date of the next Full Town Council meeting is to take place on 04th September 2020 at Nelson Town Hall.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.55pm.</p>