

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL  
ON 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH, 2023**

*PRESENT –*

*His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Y. Iqbal – in the Chair)*

**Councillors**

<i>M. Adnan</i>	<i>M. Goulthorp</i>
<i>F. Ahmad</i>	<i>M. Hanif</i>
<i>N. Ahmed</i>	<i>M. Iqbal</i>
<i>S. Ahmed</i>	<i>M. Kaleem</i>
<i>D. Albin</i>	<i>D. Lord</i>
<i>Z. Ali</i>	<i>K. McGladdery</i>
<i>M. Ammer</i>	<i>N. McGowan</i>
<i>R. Anwar</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>N. Ashraf</i>	<i>B. Newman</i>
<i>M. Aslam</i>	<i>J. Purcell</i>
<i>N. Butterworth</i>	<i>K. Salter</i>
<i>R. Carroll</i>	<i>M. Stone</i>
<i>C. Church</i>	<i>A. Sutcliffe</i>
<i>D. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>D. Whipp</i>
<i>S. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>T. Whipp</i>
<i>D. Gallear</i>	

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P. McGladdery).*



**87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

**88. MINUTES**

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed, seconded by Councillor N. Butterworth and –

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and the Special Budget Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023 be agreed as a correct record and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

**89. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

His Worship the Mayor reminded Councillors of the need to complete and return the Related Party Transactions to Tariq Awes [tariq.awes@pendle.gov.uk](mailto:tariq.awes@pendle.gov.uk) as a matter of urgency.

His Worship the Mayor also reminded Councillors of rule 17.2 within the Council's constitution regarding the use of his casting vote as there had been some confusion over this at the last meeting.

The Leader referred to the Nelson Towns Fund and the Riverside Mill Project which funding had been allocated to. This site had been purchased by a private owner and a request had been made to the Government for an adjustment. This adjustment had been accepted for funding towards the Revitalising Nelson Project which included the Pendle Rise scheme.

The Leader also advised that the land off Halifax Road, Nelson had successfully been purchased for the provision of a new cemetery. The next step would now be for a scheme to be drawn up and a planning application to be submitted. He confirmed that the existing gardens and allotments would not be affected by the boundary of the site.

**90. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**91. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS TO THE LEADER, A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OR A REPRESENTATIVE ON AN OUTSIDE BODY ON MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor M. Iqbal asked the Leader if he would join him in saying thank you to every single resident across Pendle who complied with government rules during the COVID restrictions and would he join him in publicly condemning Andrew Stephenson MP for his attempt to divide the community.

The Leader thanked the residents of Pendle but did not agree to condemn Andrew Stephenson MP.

In a supplementary question Councillor M. Iqbal asked the Leader if he would join him in his disappointment that Andrew Stephenson MP portrayed one face in public but behind closed doors portrayed a different picture to his friends in Government. He also referred to the leaked WhatsApp messages from Matt Hancock and Nadeen Dorris which had been reported in the Daily Telegraph two weeks ago.

In response the Leader said he did not agree and that the account given was incorrect. The decision made in relation to the implementation of the Covid restrictions was based on evidence from Lancashire's Director of Public Health.

Councillor D. Whipp asked the Leader if he agreed with him that residents in Pendle were particularly disadvantaged due to having the longest lasting local restrictions in the country and did he feel that the MP had been two faced in his approach.

The Leader said the MP's views during the Covid pandemic were clear and to suggest otherwise was misleading.

**100. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the work of the Policy and Resources Committee. There were discussions around the Corporate Plan and in particular the safety of the taxis in the Borough as well as the Pendle Leisure Trust review.

**101.**

**MAYORALTY**

Council was advised that the Deputy Mayor for 2023/24 was to be selected from the Conservative Group.

It was announced that Councillor M. Goulthorp would be the Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 municipal year.

**102.**

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2023/24**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted for approval the Council's Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24. The document set out how the investment and borrowing operations of the Council were to be managed within the framework established by the Treasury Management Policy Statement. It was noted that the Statement should be read in conjunction with the Council's Capital Strategy which was approved by the Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023.

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed, seconded by Councillor D. Cockburn-Price and –

**RESOLVED**

That the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement, incorporating the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, the Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2023/24, as set out at Appendix A attached to the report be approved.

**103.**

**PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023**

In accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 the annual Pay Policy Statement for 2023 was submitted for approval.

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed, seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood and –

**RESOLVED**

That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 financial year be approved and that it be published on the Council's website.

**104.**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**(a) Policing**

It was moved by Councillor C. Church and seconded by Councillor T. Whipp –

Council notes the widespread concern of Pendle residents about inadequate policing and the outcry following the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) maximum increase in Council Tax for policing.

Council resolves that the PCC be requested to make improvements to policing in the Borough and to meet with an all-party group of Pendle Councillors to discuss this request.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

Council (23.03.2023)

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**(b) Pendle Wizz Bus Service**

It was moved by Councillor T. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Lord –

Council notes that Transdev is axing the fast Colne to Burnley double-decker service, the Pendle Wizz, which operates between Skipton and Burnley; passengers would suffer longer journey times; overcrowding would become worse; and that students at Burnley College would be particularly badly affected due to the loss of the route past the college.

Council resolves that Transdev is requested to retain the existing service.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**(c) Energy Bill and Pre-Payment Meters**

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Lord –

Council notes the huge windfall profits of energy companies and the bonuses being paid to energy company bosses. Council also notes the extreme difficulty many Pendle residents and businesses face due to current high energy costs, particularly where pre-payment meters were in use.

Council resolves that the Chief Executive write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that consumers' energy bills are reduced by curbing windfall profits and bosses' bonuses; and that the Government legislate to outlaw the use of pre-payment meters.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**105. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 100 (B)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the Chairman agreed that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency, the ground being that a decision was required to protect and enhance services and to retain staff.

**106. ENGINEERING SERVICES**

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood –

Council (23.03.2023)

Council notes the essential role that civil engineers in Engineering Services have played in implementing strategic projects across Pendle for many years and securing external funding for such schemes (including over £600,000 of European funding for flood alleviation work in Earby) together with carrying out smaller projects for Area Committees and corporate clients and further notes that future projects and programmes are heavily dependent on civil engineering expertise.

Council recognises the advantages of in-house expertise in getting schemes off the ground, through project development, design, funding, and implementation, often without fees to ensure successful completion of initiatives.

Council also recognises the significant income to the Council from fees charged to external projects and the potential for this income to be increased.

Therefore, Council is concerned at the imminent loss of civil engineering staff from the authority, with two posts set to become vacant. Council believes that urgent efforts be made to retain civil engineering staff, especially in view of the shortage of engineers applying for local authority posts and notes that additional fee income would cover the cost of packages to retain existing staff.

Accordingly, Council resolves that as a matter of urgency the Chief Executive be requested to produce a package of measures to retain civil engineering staff based on generating additional fee income covering costs, producing a neutral impact on the Council's budget and that this package be offered to the postholders affected without delay.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor \_\_\_\_\_