

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 16th MAY 2024**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor B. Newman – in the Chair)

Councillors

<i>M. Adnan</i>	<i>M. Iqbal</i>
<i>F. Ahmad</i>	<i>Y. Iqbal</i>
<i>N. Ahmed</i>	<i>M. Kaleem</i>
<i>S. Ahmed</i>	<i>S. Land</i>
<i>Z. Ali</i>	<i>D. Lord</i>
<i>M. Ammer</i>	<i>K. McGladdery</i>
<i>R. Anwar</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>N. Ashraf</i>	<i>R. O'Connor</i>
<i>M. Aslam</i>	<i>K. Salter</i>
<i>N. Butterworth</i>	<i>M. Stone</i>
<i>C. Church</i>	<i>M. Strickland</i>
<i>D. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>A. Sutcliffe</i>
<i>S. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>Y. Tennant</i>
<i>D. Gallear</i>	<i>D. Whipp</i>
<i>M. Hanif</i>	<i>T. Whipp</i>
<i>D. Hartley</i>	

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T. Ormerod).



1. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH

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

RESOLVED

That Councillor M. Aslam be elected Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor M. Aslam – in the Chair)

2. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21st March 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR

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

RESOLVED

That the best thanks of the Council be hereby tendered to Councillor B. Newman and his Mayoress Mrs L. Newman for their services as Mayor and Mayoress during their term of office.

4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor Y. Tennant, seconded by Councillor D. Whipp, supported by Councillor N. Ahmed and –

RESOLVED

That Councillor M. Ammer be hereby appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

5. MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE

MOTION

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

RESOLVED

That an allowance of £6,130 be paid to the Mayor for the purpose of enabling him to meet the expenses of the office and that such allowance be paid to the credit of the Mayor at the Council's bankers and any credit balance remaining at the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council be re-appointed to the Council's account.

6. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Mayor reported that he had appointed Reverend Rick Ormrod, Father Gerard Kelly and Imam Quari Khalid Mehmood to the office of Mayor's Chaplain for the Municipal Year 2024/25 and duly signed such appointments to the Council.



The time having reached 6.40 p.m. the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned and there was a short break to allow the Mayors guests to leave the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 7.00 p.m.



7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor M. Adnan declared a prejudicial interest in minute number 15(c) Taxi Licensing as he was a member of the taxi trade.

8. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE

(a) Appointment of Leader

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal and –

RESOLVED

That Councillor A. Mahmood be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

(b) Appointment of Deputy Leader

It was moved by Councillor A. Mahmood, seconded by Councillor F. Ahmad and –

RESOLVED

That Councillor D. Whipp be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

(c) Appointment of Executive

The Leader reported that he had appointed the following Members with Executive responsibilities –

Councillor Asjad Mahmood	Growth and Regeneration
Councillor David Whipp	Resources and Transfer of Services
Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	Housing, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Tom Whipp	Planning and Regulatory Services
Councillor Zafar Ali	Environment and Climate Change
Councillor Mohammad Hanif	Leisure Services
Councillor Dorothy Lord	Community Safety

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 POLITICAL BALANCE RULES

It was reported that, whenever the allocation of seats on Committees was reviewed, the Council was required to apply the statutory political balance rules. The rules applied to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Development Management Committee, Licensing Committee, Taxi Licensing Committee, Accounts and Audit Committee and the Employment Appeals Committee and the Standards Hearing Committee. They did not apply to the Area Committees or the Executive.

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal and -

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

10. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

(a) Appointment to Committees

Council considered the appointment of Members to Committees for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor D. Whipp –

That the following be agreed:

- (a) Accounts and Audit Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 5 Members
- (b) Licensing Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 9 Members
- (c) Taxi Licensing Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 7 Members
- (d) Employment Appeals Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 3 Members
- (e) Standards Hearing Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 5 Members
- (f) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 7 members
- (g) Development Management Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 12 members
- (h) Area Committees – not politically balanced

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor Y. Iqbal –

That Pendle's True Independent Group be allocated one seat on the Development Management Committee with the remaining membership split being 4 Conservatives, 3 Liberal Democrats and 4 Independents resulting in one less seat for the Conservatives.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED**.

In accordance with Rule 19.4 of the Standing Orders and at the request of two members a recorded vote was taken.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were:

Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church, M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Strickland, Y. Tennant, D. Whipp and T. Whipp

Those Members voting against the motion were:

Councillors D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, K. Salter and A. Sutcliffe.

Those Members who abstained from voting on the motion were:

Councillor N. Ahmed, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, D. Gallear, M. Kaleem, K. McGladdery, R. O'Connor and M. Stone.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor M. Stone and seconded by Councillor N. Ahmed –

That the 4 seats allocated to the Independent Group on the Development Management Committee be reduced to 3 by allocating one of their seats to Pendle's True Independent Group.

Upon being put to the vote the further amendment was **LOST**.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor N. Ashraf and seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal –

That the 3 seats allocated to the Conservative Group on the Taxi Licensing Committee be reduced to 2 by allocating one of their seats to Pendle's True Independent Group.

Upon being put to the vote the further amendment was **LOST**.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the following be agreed:
 - (a) Accounts and Audit Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 5 Members
 - (b) Licensing Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 9 Members
 - (c) Taxi Licensing Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 7 Members
 - (d) Employment Appeals Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 3 Members
 - (e) Standards Hearing Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 5 Members
 - (f) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 7 members
 - (g) Development Management Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 12 members
 - (h) Area Committees – not politically balanced
- (2) That Pendle's True Independent Group be allocated one seat on the Development Management Committee with the remaining membership split being 4 Conservatives, 3 Liberal Democrats and 4 Independents resulting in one less seat for the Conservatives.

11. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF COMMITTEES

(a) To appoint the Chair of Committees

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal that the Chair of the following Committees be agreed as:

- (a) Accounts and Audit Committee – Councillor R. Anwar
- (b) Development Management Committee – Councillor M. Adnan
- (c) Licensing Committee – Councillor Y. Tennant
- (d) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor C. Church
- (e) Senior Management Appointments Committee – Councillor D. Whipp
- (f) Taxi Licensing Committee – Councillor B. Newman

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

12. APPOINTMENT TO WORKING GROUPS

MOTION

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

The following Working Groups be appointed for the Municipal Year 2024/25 -

- (a) Climate Emergency Working Group – 7 Members
- (b) Governance Working Group – 5 Members

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

13. DATES AND TIMES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2024/25

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor M. Aslam, seconded by Councillor M. Ammer –

- (1) That meetings of the Full Council be held on the following dates:

- 18th July 2024
- 26th September 2024
- 19th December 2024
- 27th February 2025 (Special Budget)
- 27th March 2025
- 15th May 2025 (Annual Council)

- (2) That the dates of other meetings set out on the attached schedule be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

14. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Appointment to Organisations and Associations

MOTION

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

That the following amendments to the schedule be agreed:

Organisation

Representative

Airedale General Hospital Foundation Trust
Burnley and Pendle Citizens Advice Bureau
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS Board
District Councils Network
District Early Years Development and Childcare Forum
Forest of Bowland National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee
Growth Lancashire Ltd.
Joint Venture Brookhouse Group

Councillor C. Church
Councillor M. Hanif
Councillor M. Kaleem
Councillor A. Mahmood
Councillor R. Anwar
Councillor B. Newman

Joint Venture Company (PEARL Board 1, PEARL Board 2,
PEARL Brierfield Mill and PEARL Together)

Councillor A. Mahmood
Councillor N. Ahmed
Councillor A. Mahmood
Councillor D. Whipp
Councillor S. Cockburn-Price
Councillor M. Hanif
Councillor A. Mahmood
Councillor D. Whipp
Councillor C. Church
Councillor A. Mahmood
Councillor D. Whipp
Councillor Z. Ali
Councillor A. Mahmood

LCC Health Scrutiny Committee
Lancashire Leaders
Lancashire Police and Crime Panel
LCC Lancashire Waste Partnership
Local Government Association
(a) General Assembly
(b) Voting re: Lancashire Leaders Group
Nelson Town Deal Board

Councillor N. Ahmed
Councillor M. Iqbal
Councillor A. Mahmood
Councillor D. Whipp
Councillor A. Mahmood
Councillor Z. Ali
Councillor D. Lord
Councillor A. Sutcliffe
Councillor D. Whipp
Councillor B. Newman
Councillor M. Hanif
Councillor D. Lord
Councillor M. Stone

North Western Local Authorities Employers Organisations
Pendle Community Safety Partnership Steering Group

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board
Pendle Leisure Trust Board

Annual Council (16.05.2024)

Pendle Public/Private Partnership (with Liberata)

Councillor M. Ammer
Councillor D. Cockburn-Price
Councillor M. Hanif
Councillor A. Sutcliffe
Councillor D. Whipp
Councillor M. Hanif
Councillor K. Salter
Councillor A. Mahmood
Councillor B. Newman

Pendle Vision Board

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Member Champions

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp, seconded by Councillor N. Ahmed and it was –

RESOLVED

That the following Councillors be appointed as Member Champions for the Municipal Year 2024/25 –

Armed Forces	Councillor N. Butterworth, Councillor D. Hartley and Councillor K. Salter
Dementia, Disability and Mental Health	Councillor D. Lord
Health and Wellbeing	Councillor M. Iqbal
Older People	Councillor N. Butterworth
Young People including Every Child Matters	Councillor D. Lord
Sustainable Travel	Councillor T. Whipp

15.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Electoral Abuse

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor D. Whipp -

Council congratulates all those dedicated members of staff who ensured a smooth election process.

Council notes that Section 4 Elections Act 2022 makes it an offence for candidates or campaigners to handle postal ballot papers.

Council notes with concern the unusual high number of postal vote returns in Bradley ward 48 hours before polling day.

Council notes this is the second year running where over 1000 postal votes were returned 2-3 days before polling day in Bradley ward.

Council resolves to:

- (1) Ask the Returning Officer to write to the Electoral Commission asking for an independent investigation by all authorities concerned to ensure no irregularities have occurred.
- (2) Write to HM Government to introduce legislation giving Returning Officers the power to reject postal votes where suspicious harvesting/storage of postal votes is taking place in a particular area.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Highway Maintenance

MOTION

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

Council notes the refusal of Lancashire County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways to our recent request for him to visit Pendle and meet with councillors to discuss the appalling condition of roads and pavements in Pendle, where he says, "a meeting would not add a further understanding or value to the current situation."

Council therefore reaffirms its previous resolution and repeats the request for the Cabinet Member to visit Pendle and see for himself the delapidated surfaces and inadequate repairs being carried out.

Council also resolves to ask the County Council to allocate a fair share of the £5m fund identified to repair the potholes which are in a dire condition within Pendle.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

Councillor M. Adnan declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and withdrew from the meeting during the discussion.

(c) Taxi Licensing

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor F. Ahmad and seconded by Councillor S. Ahmed –

Council notes the current taxi licensing policy (section 5.4) which prevents a licence application being submitted within 12 months of a refusal.

Council resolves that consideration of the removal of section 5.4 from the Taxi Licensing Policy be deferred and referred to both the Taxi Licensing Committee and the Executive for comment, and any recommendations be referred to Full Council.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor K. McGladdery and seconded by Councillor K. Salter –

That consideration of the removal of section 5.4 from the Taxi Licensing Policy be referred to the Taxi Licensing Committee.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

RESOLVED

That consideration of the removal of section 5.4 from the Taxi Licensing Policy be deferred and referred to both the Taxi Licensing Committee and the Executive for comment, and any recommendations be referred to Full Council.

His Worship the Mayor _____