

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 16th JULY 2026**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor N. Ahmed – in the Chair)

Councillors

*S. Ahmed
M. Ammer
M. Atkinson
C. Church
D. Cockburn-Price
S. Cockburn-Price
M. Hanif
B. Hartley
D. Hartley
Y. Iqbal
S. Land
D. Lord*

*A. Mahmood
N. McCollum
B. Newman
R. O'Connor
M. Stone
A. Sutcliffe
Y. Tennant
M. Waddington
L. Whipp
A. Whitehead
G. Whittaker*

Public: 1

Press: 0

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, Z. Ali, N. Ashraf, M. Aslam, R. Bashir, D. Gallear, M. Iqbal and M. Sakib).

His Worship the Mayor advised that in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rule 13 he had accepted an emergency motion regarding Local Government Reorganisation.



17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests and other registrable interests.

The following person declared a non-registerable interest in the item indicated for the reason stated.

Name	Item	Reason	Minute No.
Councillor A. Mahmood	Notices of Motion – NHS Corridor Care	Employee of the NHS	26(c)

18.

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 21st May 2026 be agreed as a correct record and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

His Worship the Mayor provided an update on various visits and events he had attended since the last Council meeting. This included:

- Open Day at Marsden Grange Care Home
- Opening of Home-Start in East Lancashire with Pendle Leisure Trust Family Fun Day, which was a fundraiser for Home-Start to support local families
- Soft Opening of Pendle Community High School and College's Vocation Education Centre and Café
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue – King's Trust Community Project Handover
- Eid in the Park Festival
- Colne Grand Prix
- Colne Gala
- Armed Forces Day Flag Raising
- Danceability Disco in Colne for adults with learning disabilities
- Pendle Festival of Culture
- Pendle Business Awards
- Launch of a Life Skills Cafe

The Leader, Councillor A. Mahmood reported that the Government had announced its decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire. Under the plans four new Unitary Councils would be created replacing the County's 15 Councils. The new Unitary would be called Pennine Lancashire and Pendle Borough Council would be joined with Burnley, Hyndburn, Blackburn with Darwen and Rossendale Councils.

He mentioned that the Council was disappointed that the Government had not reached the decision it was hoping for which was for Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale to come together as one Council. He felt a strong case had been made for Pendle residents, businesses and communities however, the outcome of the decision was respected. The priority now was to work constructively with the other Councils to ensure the Unitary Council was established which would continue to provide the best possible services and the areas interest were fully represented as the new council was created.

The new council would assume responsibility for all local government services in their area once the changes were implemented. A team of officers had been established and were ready to implement the changes needed for the new unitary councils going live on 1st April 2028.

The next step was for legislation to be considered by Parliament around November 2026 which it was expected would be passed around February/March 2027. Elections would then be held in May 2027 to form a Shadow Council.

20. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There was one question on notice from a member of the public but the Mayor determined that, in the absence of the questioner, it would not be dealt with.

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

There were no questions from Members of the Council.

22. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the work of the Executive.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

23. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Chris Church Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee submitted the Committee's Annual Report for 2025/26.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report for 2025/26 be noted.

24. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Lancashire Police and Crime Panel Representative for Pendle.

At the Annual Council meeting held on 21st May 2026 four nominations were put forward Councillor A. Sutcliffe (Con), Councillor M. Atkinson (PCR), Councillor B. Hartley (Lib Dem) and Councillor F. Ahmad (PCI).

Following receipt of nominations from all Lancashire Councils for 2026/27 and subject to political balance rules Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council had determined that this Council be informed that an Independent Member from Pendle was required. Therefore, Councillor F. Ahmad

had been appointed as the Council's representative on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel for 2026/27.

(b) Pendle Public/Private Partnership (with Liberata)

Council were advised that the Pendle Community Independents (PCII) Group had replaced Councillor M. Hanif with Councillor M. Iqbal on the Pendle Public/Private Partnership (with Liberata).

(c) Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board

Council were advised that following the appointment of Councillor B. Newman as the Council's representative on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board at the Annual Council meeting on 21st May 2026, the Council had subsequently been informed that the Board was no longer in existence and consequently this organisation would be removed from the Representatives on Outside Bodies.

25. MAYORALTY

Council is advised that the Deputy Mayor for 2027/28 is to be selected from the Pendle True Independents (PTI) Group.

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Planning Reform

It was moved by Councillor A. Mahmood and seconded by Councillor M. Hanif that Council notes:

- (1) the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 which severely restricts the decision-making powers of local elected members on planning decisions.
- (2) the introduction of Schedule 2 applications which remove the flexibility of ward councillors to refer an application to a committee.
- (3) the removal of councillors who are democratically elected by residents to determine planning applications with the Government giving more power to a nominated officer.
- (4) the proposed Local Government Reorganisation due process which could result in officer(s) with no link to Pendle determining applications opposed by local residents.

Council resolves to:

- (1) Write to Pendle's MP's Jonathan Hinder and Oliver Ryan asking that they publicly oppose the erosion of democratic accountability and raise this at the highest level.
- (2) That the Chief Executive write to the Local Government Association to raise this democratic deficit at the highest level.

- (3) That the Leader be asked to raise this as an urgent item at Lancashire Leader level.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Promoting Tolerance and Cohesion across Pendle

It was moved by Councillor Y. Tennant and seconded by Councillor M. Hanif:

- (1) Council notes the peaceful coexistence over decades of Pendle residents from diverse backgrounds.
- (2) Council notes with concern the recent incident in Brierfield which led to false speculation being spread by certain people trying to create community disharmony.
- (3) Council commends all those people across Pendle who work every day to promote tolerance and cohesion.

Council resolves to:

- (1) Request that all elected members work together in the best interests of Pendle.
- (2) That the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council be asked to arrange a multi-agency meeting to discuss further ideas to promote tolerance and cohesion across Pendle.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly

(c) NHS Corridor Care

It was moved by Councillor F. Ahmad and seconded by Councillor R. Bashir:

Council notes the continuing poor service being provided to Pendle residents at Royal Blackburn Hospital by East Lancashire NHS Trust with many people forced to wait in corridors for 24 hours.

Council notes the promise by the Labour Government to invest in our NHS which is yet to be seen.

Council resolves:

To ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to urgently undertake a review of NHS East Lancashire Trust and invite the Chief Executive Martin Hodgson, his Board Members and Pendle's MP's Jonathan Hinder and Oliver Ryan to appear in person to face questions.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(d) Local Government Reorganisation

It was moved by Councillor Chris Church and seconded by Councillor S. Land:

Council congratulates HM Government on spending millions of pounds and so many months on consultation over Local Government Reorganisation only to come up with the option that most of us suspected they wanted from the start.

Council now greets our neighbours and future colleagues with the hope that we can all join Together, and make the best that we can of the situation we find ourselves in.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor Y. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor M. Hanif:

That a letter be sent to the Local Communities Minister with a request that the position regarding Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire be reconsidered as this Council was against the decision made for a 4 Unitary Council model.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED**, and it was:

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to the Local Communities Minister with a request that the position regarding Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire be reconsidered as this Council was against the decision made for a 4 Unitary Council model.

His Worship the Mayor _____