

At a meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
held on
THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 2008

Present:-

Chairman:- Councillor T Mycock

Councillors:-

Mr T Aldred	Mrs De Souza
Mr D Barnes	Mr J Grogan
Mr S Baldwin	Mr J Mellor
Mr D Bradbury	Mr R A Neal
Mr D Chorlton	Mrs K Ruane

Officials:-

Clerk of the Council: Mrs K Douglas

Apologies:-

Apologies were received from Cllr Gibbons, who was away on holiday.

179 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Neal declared a personal interest in planning issues, and will take any comments to the Development Control committee.

Cllr Mellor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the schedule of payments.

180 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 December 2007, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record.

181 Public Question Time

*STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED *

The Edwards family addressed Council regarding their proposed move to Whitworth with the Fudge Factory. Councillors congratulated them on their achievements and welcomed them.

Mr & Mrs Miller from Market Street / Edward Street had concerns re opening hours and possible transference of a rat problem currently to be found at the Facit Mill site. Mr Edwards assured the residents that they would take every measure to avoid a rat problem (which would be damaging to their business) and that opening hours were still to be confirmed but likely to be until 8pm Thurs – Sun, and 6pm otherwise.

Mr & Mrs Miller also had concerns re parking, and requested the assistance of the town council should parking become an issue. Council agreed that request for assistance from LCC Highways could be lodged by the Town Council if required, and Mr Edwards assured the residents that parking was unlikely to be an issue.

182 Planning Applications:

App no. 2008/012: Erection of detached bungalow on land adjacent to Longacres Lane, Longacres Drive, Whitworth, OL12 8JJ

Resolved that Council has no objections to this application and requests that the materials used be in keeping with its surroundings.

183 To consider an Equal Opportunities Policy for the Council.

Resolved that Council adopts this policy.

184 To set the precept upon the rating authority (Rossendale Borough Council) for the financial year 2008/09.

Resolved that The Town Council agrees to set a precept of £49,966.

185 To consider a request from Community Fundraisers for funding towards Party in the Park 2008.

Resolved that, whilst the Council was in support of this venture, that funding should not be provided, and that it should be noted that Council has funds available to be applied for by charities and worthy causes directly. Funding has already been allocated to the Council's Tourism & Leisure Committee to provide a series of events this coming financial year.

186 To receive an update on the land at Barlow Bottoms, and to discuss possible options for use by the Town Council.

Resolved that Council write to Lancashire County Council requesting an agreement between the two councils for permission to hold a number of events on the land.

187 To consider a request from SELRAP (Skipton East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership) for support of their campaign to re-open the Colne to Skipton railway.

Resolved that Council fully supports this request and a letter be issued from the Mayor in support.

188 To consider a request from the Parks Inspector for funding (£300) towards a barrier to stop vehicles entering the MUGA / Ballpark from the Wallbank Estate.

Resolved that, as the issue is technically Rossendale Borough Council's responsibility and liability, that they find the funds for the barrier.

189 To consider the uptake in training opportunities from members.

No resolution required, however Cllr Neal urged all members to take up training opportunities when offered.

190 To consider a proposition for a new bus shelter on the Prom.

Resolved that Council is in support of this proposal.

191 To consider the condition of Facit Mill.

Resolved that Council write to Rossendale Borough Council to request a site visit by the building inspectors and a meeting with the current owners, to discuss the current dilapidated and dangerous state of the building, and the suggested rat infestation.

192 To receive the report of the Town Mayor.

The Mayor brought members' attention to both the Mayor's Ball on 19 April, and the Veteran's Band night at the end of February and urged support for both.

193 The Chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors (Standing Orders 14 & 23-26)

No questions had been submitted.

194 To receive and adopt minutes.

a. Minutes of General Purposes Committee – 10 January 2008

Resolved that Council adopts these minutes.

195 To Authorise the Signing of Orders for Payment

** Cllr Mellor left the room **

The Clerk explained a Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 16 of 2007 and asked for approval.

Resolved that approval be given for the payment of the Schedule of Accounts, with a note that the Clerk should investigate whether the work on the Cemetery Lodge roof can be claimed through the Council's insurance.

** Cllr Mellor returned to the room **

PART B:

196 To discuss the forthcoming process of deciding upon a Deputy Mayor.

Resolved that all members interested in being Deputy Mayor should register their interest with the Clerk by Monday 18 February 2008.

197 To attach the Whitworth Town Council seal to official documents.

The seal was attached to documents relating to the transfer of funds from the developers of Industry Street to the Council, in return for the removal of the Covenant, in front of all members present.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm