

At a meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

held on
THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2008

Present:

Chairman:- Cllr Mrs M Gibbons

Councillors:-

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

Officials:-

Clerk of the Council: Mrs K Douglas

Apologies:-

Apologies were received from Cllr Barnes, who was on holiday, and Cllr Mycock, who had a previous engagement she could not re-arrange.

Councillor Marie Gibbons was officially sworn in as Chair of the General Purposes Committee.

15. Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 3 April 2008, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record.

16. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Neal declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item number 5.
- Cllr Bradbury declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item number 5.
- Cllrs Chorlton, Grogan, Mellor, Ruane, Neal and Aldred (through his involvement with Town Twinning) declared an interest in the schedule of payments.

17. Public Question Time

A resident queried the opening hours of the toilets at Healey. Council explained that the toilets were RBC's responsibility, and that, up until recently, a member of the public had kindly opened and closed the toilets, but this had ceased. Council also reported that RBC were looking into various recommendations regarding the issue of public conveniences across the Valley. It was resolved that Council write to Cllrs Gladys Sandiford and Anne Cheetham regarding the issue of toilets in the town.

18. Planning matters:

a. **2008/0317 – erection of conservatory at 51 John Street, OL12 8BT.**

It was resolved that, in light of the number of conservatories already in place on the street, Council has no observations on this application.

b. **2008/0338 – Formation of new dormer and replacement of flat to pitched roof of existing rear dormer, and alterations to front and rear elevations at ‘Arran’, 10 Victoria Street, Whitworth, OL12 8PL.**

It was resolved that Council has no objections to this application.

c. **2008/0390 - Erection of detached bungalow and detached garage on land adjacent to Longacres House, Longacres Drive, OL12 8JJ.**

It was resolved that Council supported this application, and noted that the land falls within the Urban Form Boundary and not within Greenbelt, and that an application to build on this land was successful in 2004.

Council noted that application no 2008/0245 had received planning permission ‘approved without Conditions’. Council resolved that a letter should be sent to the Chief Executive at RBC, making the following points:

- a. Why an application that was refused by Committee a couple of weeks ago, and that received objections from the Town Council and residents when re-submitted, was not automatically given back to the Committee for decision but was decided upon by an Officer instead.
- b. Why the objections of the Town Council and local residents appear to have been over-ruled, or not considered.
- c. To request information on how many resident objections were received, and to clarify where notices were placed as some residents appeared not to have seen any.
- d. To request that officers from RBC planning address a closed session of a Town Council meeting to discuss concerns of the Town Council regarding the planning process.

19. **To consider a request from the Whitworth Warriors for funding towards their charity bike ride.**

Cllr Neal explained the letter of request, then...

*** Cllrs Neal and Bradbury left the Chamber ***

It was resolved that Council felt unable to directly support their request for assistance by way of a donation, but that Council would be happy either to offer the Warriors an interest-free loan up to £1.5k, or would enter into a contract with the Warriors to deliver the next 6 issues of the Whitworth Valley News in return for the £1.5k.

*** Cllrs Neal and Bradbury re-entered the Chamber ***

20. **To consider a request for funding for horticultural projects from CLAW.**

An initial resolution that Council pays nothing towards the hanging baskets in question was defeated, 5 votes against, 4 for. It was then resolved that Council

defers a decision on this request until the issue of funding regarding Christmas Lights is resolved with RBC, as this relates to funds that CLAW had indicated they would commit to for the Christmas Lights but then did not contribute to. In the meantime, CLAW should be pointed in the direction of the Neighbourhood Area Forum in terms of funding for this kind of request.

21. To consider a request from Whitworth Festival Park Bowling Club for £50 towards their annual Spodden Bowling Competition.

Resolved that Council agrees to give Whitworth Festival Park Bowling Club £50 from the Grants to Organisations budget towards the annual Spodden Bowling Competition. It was requested that the Clerk ensure that the Mayor is invited to the prize-giving ceremony.

22. To consider solutions to a perceived issue of public drinking in the town.

Resolved that Council write to RBC Chief Executive, CC'd to Tracy Brzozowski and Derek Hamill at RBC Licensing, regarding concerns over both on-street drinking and under-age drinking, to urge that a blanket ban on street drinking be put in place for Whitworth, with appropriate exceptions such as pub beer gardens.

23. To consider the appropriateness of a couple of gates in the town, which appear to be illegally erected.

Freeholds Road, Shawforth – due to some confusion over the actual siting of a gate, it was resolved that Council consults an accurate map and the matter is included on the agenda for the next meeting of Full Council.

Spring Place, behind D. Crowe's Butchers, Facit – resolved that Council writes to Bill Lawley at RBC to request that RBC makes contact with Mr Crowe to ask him to remove the gate that currently crosses the public right of way, and that Mr Lawley can find out more information from Mr Brian Taylor at RBC. Council also queries whether planning permission should have been sought by Mr Crowe before erecting the gate.

24. To receive an update on the land at Barlow Bottoms.

Resolved that Council's Tourism and Leisure Committee come up with a resolution regarding the land at Barlow Bottoms to be discussed at a meeting of Full Council.

25. To receive reports from representatives to outside organisations.

Councillor Grogan reported his attendance at the United Charities and the AE & Parish Trust, and explained that the next meeting would take place later this month.

Councillor Mellor reported back from the Rossendale Tourism Steering Group meeting, held at the Civic Hall earlier this week. It was a positive meeting and he ensured that major events in Whitworth were highlighted. He also mentioned Visit Rossendale as a way of promoting events in Whitworth.

Councillor Chorlton reported from the Tourism & Leisure Committee on the highly successful St George celebrations, and the plans for the Rushcart parade and celebrations.

Councillor Neal drew Council's attention to Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service's Risk Management Plan 2008-2011, and offered to leave a copy in the Council Office in case anyone wished to read it.

Councillor De Souza reported from the Cycleway Group, and informed Councillors that the official opening would take place on 6 July, to which all Councillors would be invited. She reported that the fate of the bridge at Shawforth is still to be decided but that Cty Cllr Serridge's surveys of the bridge sounded positive.

26. To receive and, if appropriate, adopt the financial statement presented by the Clerk.

The Clerk produced a bank reconciliation statements for end of year (31 March 08) and end May. It was resolved that the Clerk's statements be adopted and accepted.

27. To authorise the signing of orders for payment.

**** Cllrs Mellor, Ruane and Neal left the Chamber *** then
*** Cllrs Grogan, Aldred and Chorlton left the Chamber ****

The Clerk produced and explained a Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 3 of 2008/09.

Resolved that approval is given for the payments, with the exception of CLAW, contribution to running costs, £2000.00 - it was resolved that Council withholds this money until the various issues with the Chamber and Council Office have been resolved.

**** Cllrs Mellor, Ruane, Neal, Grogan, Aldred and Chorlton returned to the Council Chamber ****

28. Internal Audit

Members of the Committee carried out an internal audit.

- bank paying-in book, cheque book and bank statements;
- invoices and Schedule of Accounts Payable;
- balances against bank statements;
- petty cash account, vouchers and receipts;
- cash balances and cash held.

All was found to be in order.

PART B:

29. To receive an update on Facit Garden Centre.

It was resolved that Councillors are encouraged to send thoughts regarding restrictions on Ms Nutt's proposal through to the Clerk before the next meeting of Full Council on 19 June.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.00pm