

At a meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
held on
THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2008

Present:-

Chairman:- Councillor Mr J Mellor

Councillors:-

Councillor Mr T Aldred	Councillor Mrs M Gibbons
Councillor Mr S Baldwin	Councillor Mr J Grogan
Councillor Mr D Barnes	Councillor Mrs T Mycock
Councillor Mr D Bradbury	Councillor Mr R A Neal
Councillor Mr D Chorlton	Councillor Mrs K Ruane
Councillor Mrs M De Souza	

Officials:-

Clerk of the Council: Mrs K Douglas

Apologies:-

No apologies were received from Councillors. Councillor Mycock explained that she would need to leave at 8.30pm due to a prior engagement.

30 Declarations of Interest

CIlr Neal declared an interest in item 13 of the agenda, and in the schedule of payments.

31 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 April 2008, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record.

32 Public Question Time

A member of the public raised concerns regarding LCC Highways' proposal of adding double yellow lines on Market Street between Union Street and Coppice Drive, which would make life difficult for a number of residents. It was resolved that Council should write to LCC Highways and ask them to rescind their order for work, and should invite David Harrison, Daniel Herbert and Steve Bateson to attend a meeting regarding road issues in Whitworth and to review the issue of double yellow lines in the town.

33 Planning Applications:

- 1. Appeal Ref no: APP/Q2371/A/08/2074600/NWF re change of use of vacant former industrial land for the purposes of a waste transfer**

station including the erection of a canopy site at Station Road, Whitworth, Rossendale, OL12 8LJ

Council were asked for their comments again as this application has gone to appeal. It was resolved that the same comments are reiterated as were provided by Council when the initial application was made.

34 To adopt and approve the Statutory Annual Accounts for the year 2007-2008.

It was resolved that the accounts are adopted and approved.

35 To discuss whether the Council wishes to continue to support the Police Community Vehicle after the current contract runs out in April 2009.

It was resolved that Council should set up a meeting with the Lancashire Police Authority to discuss finances, and whether LPA would now consider taking on the financial responsibility for the car.

36 To consider a proposal for a Cinema project for Whitworth.

It was resolved that this item should be included on the next agenda under Part B, in order for Council to have a full and frank discussion about it, and that in the meantime Councillors should conduct their own research into the feasibility of the project with the relatives, friends and neighbours.

37 To consider Council's lack of storage space in the town, and a possible solution.

It was resolved that a meeting should be arranged with Rossendale Borough Council to look at the possibility of the Town Council taking back some of the storage space in the Cemetery.

38 To consider how the future of the Whitworth Medical Centre might be affected by the Government's plans for 'super surgeries'.

*** STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED ***

Following a discussion which included a contribution from Mr Reggie Lane, it was resolved that Council should do everything they can to support the Whitworth Medical Centre if and when a real threat of closure is on the cards. It was further resolved that Council should write to the Chief Executives of both East Lancs PCT and the Hospital Trust covering the area to express the support of the Town Council of the Medical Centre, although not necessarily against the polyclinics proposal. Additionally, it was resolved that Council should contact Marion Gelder at LALC to request that the issue is included on the agenda for the LALC conference later in the year.

39 To receive an update on the gate at Freeholds Road, Shawforth.

It was resolved that no further action can be taken by the Council on this item as the issue involves a dispute on private land.

40 To consider sending a delegate, or delegates, to the LALC conference in Chorley in October 2008.

It was resolved that Councillors Neal and Bradbury should attend the conference in October 2008 representing the Council.

41 To consider the condition of the Cemetery walls, in light of the recent conclusion regarding responsibilities for said wall by RBC.

Thanks were offered to the Clerk and to Councillor Chorlton for their work on this item. It was resolved that Council writes to George Graham at RBC to request that action be taken as soon as possible to remedy the situation.

42 To consider the recent planning application refusal for the Fudge Factory, Facit.

*** COUNCILLOR NEAL LEFT THE ROOM ***

It was resolved that the issue of the Fudge Factory should be added on to an agenda for a meeting with planning officers from RBC.

*** COUNCILLOR NEAL RETURNED TO THE ROOM ***

*** COUNCILLOR MYCOCK LEFT THE MEETING ***

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

It was resolved that, upon the advice of the Tourism and Leisure Committee, Council continues with its quest to seek use of the land at Barlow Bottoms for occasional events, and work starts in earnest to address the issues raised in a recent email from LCC.

44 To consider the rise in lorries entering and leaving Cowm Quarry.

It was resolved that Council makes the Police aware of concerns regarding the possible inappropriate driving of lorries entering and exiting the Quarry and asks them to be extra vigilant.

45 To consider whether to reinstate the railings around the Memorial Gardens.

It was resolved that Council defers a decision on whether to look to reinstate the railings until more research is done on possible funding opportunities, including looking at Aggregates Levy funding and possible advice from LALC.

46 To receive the report of the Town Mayor.

The Mayor reported on a meeting with LCC and RBC regarding the tri-partite charter. Discussions have now resumed, although progress is still slow. It is hoped that the Town Council will have a 'menu' of possible devolved services to consider by the time of the next charter meeting in August.

The Mayor also announced his intention to set up a Sports Council in the town, following positive discussions with sports leaders. The purpose of the Council would be to improve the sports facilities in the town and to act as a funding-

seeking body. The Mayor encouraged all Councillors to get involved, and mentioned that he will be kick-starting the Sports Council very soon.

47 The Chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors

Cllr Neal asked about the possibility of getting a plaque attached to the new post box at Facit by way of thanks to the gentleman, Mr Eric Bollington, who initially pushed for the post box – Mr Bollington recently passed away. It was resolved that Council defers this to July GP.

48 To receive and adopt minutes:

- a. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting – 8 May 2008.
- b. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 15 May 2008.

Resolved that Council adopts both these sets of minutes.

49 To Authorise the Signing of Orders for Payment

*** COUNCILLOR NEAL LEFT THE ROOM ***

The Clerk explained a Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 4 of 2008 and asked for approval.

Resolved that approval be given for the payment of the Schedule of Accounts.

*** COUNCILLOR NEAL RETURNED TO THE ROOM ***

PART B:

50 To receive an update on Facit Garden Centre.

It was resolved that discussions are now opened with Ms Nutt's solicitor via the Town Council solicitor, and that a contract is drawn up to include the proposals suggested by Council at a previous meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm