

**At a meeting of**  
**WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**held on**  
**THURSDAY, 17 JULY 2008**

**Present:**

**Chairman:-** Cllr Mrs M Gibbons

**Councillors:-**

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

**Officials:-**

Clerk of the Council: Mrs K Douglas

Approx 10 members of the public were also in attendance, as was County Councillor Sean Serridge.

**Apologies:-**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mycock, who had a previous engagement she could not re-arrange. Cllr Mellor was running late and also sent apologies.

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**51. Minutes**

It was resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 5 June 2008, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record.

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**52. Declarations of Interest**

- Cllr Chorlton declared an interest in the schedule of payments.
- Cllr Neal declared a personal interest in item c of planning applications.

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**53. Public Question Time**

A number of residents from Hallfold attended the meeting and were represented by a Mrs Ashworth; they wished to raise their concerns regarding the state of the roads and drains along Hallfold. It was resolved that Council writes to Graham Harding at LCC Highways to express general concern regarding the state of the highways in Whitworth, highlighting the specific problems around Hallfold.

Mrs Ashworth of Hallfold also raised concerns regarding the parking outside the gates close to St Bartholomew's School. Cllr Gibbons was able to answer Mrs Ashworth's queries as she and Mrs Ashworth had been liaising directly previously. No resolution was required.

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**54. Planning matters:**

- a. **2008/0377: single storey extensions to northerly and westerly elevations, re-roofing of building with a pitched roof and provision of associated bin storage / maintenance area at St John with St Michael CE School, Moss Side Street, Shawforth, OL12 8EP.**

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

- b. **2008/0386: erection of 105 dwellings and associated infrastructure at Orama Mill, Hall Street, OL12 8UA.**

It was resolved that, whilst Council does not oppose new housing within Whitworth, 105 dwellings would be inappropriate for this site; therefore Council objects to this application, on the grounds of the excessive amount of residential traffic that this number of houses would generate both in and around the local area and for cars travelling the only road in and out of the village, Market Street, and the close proximity of this development to local schools (in terms of more cars on the road, deemed too dangerous and congestive). It was also resolved that Council should suggest that, should the application be successful, the Town Council be involved and consulted when decisions are made as to how Section 106 is to be spent, and secondly, that any monies resulting from this 106 agreement are to stay and be used within the Whitworth boundaries.

- c. **2008/0417: certificate of lawfulness for an existing use as manufacturing and retail at The Fudge Factory, Spring Place, Millfold, OL12 8DN.**

Whilst documentation for this certificate was initially issued to the Town Council as a planning application and with an official application number, correspondence has since been received from Linda Fisher at RBC advising that the Town Council is not required to comment on the certificate as it is a matter of law, not of planning opinion. Therefore the Chair judged that this application should not be heard.

- d. **2008/0426: conversion of stable to dwelling at 767 Market Street, Whitworth, OL12 8LS.**

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

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**55. To consider the provision of a new gate at Waingap Wood.**

It was resolved that more information regarding the type and material of the proposed gate is required before Council makes a decision on this agenda item, and that the Clerk should report back to Council as and when further research is completed.

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**56. To consider a proposal of the erection of a plaque at the new post box in Facit in memory of Mr Eric Bollington.**

It was resolved that a plaque would not be appropriate on this occasion, but that thanks should be offered to Mr Bollington by way of the Whitworth Valley News, and that the Rochdale Observer should be contacted regarding a possible editorial piece.

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**57. To consider the current state of the drains and gulleys in the town.**

It was resolved that Council writes to LCC Highways regarding the state of the gulleys and drains, including those on the side roads, and especially on John

Street, Whitworth. Additionally, Cty Cllr Serridge offered to broker a meeting between the Town Council and Highways.

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**58. To consider an upgrade to the town's CCTV system.**

It was resolved that Council contact both the Police and the security company that installed the system, to open up discussions as to whether it would be appropriate and feasible to link the town's CCTV cameras at Lords and either end of the town to a central police camera system.

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**59. To consider the problem of a lack of changing facilities for sports grounds in the town, especially at Leavengreave playing field.**

It was resolved that Council contacts Mike Forster at RBC to see if they have any plans for the pitch at Leavengreave, and to see if RBC have any plans for sports facilities in Whitworth under the 'Play and Open Spaces Strategy'. It was also resolved that an item is added onto the September GP agenda for Council to give official seal of approval to the newly formed Sports Council.

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**60. To receive reports from delegates and representatives to outside organisations.**

Cllr Neal reported that the next meetings of the Healey Dell Management Committee would take place on Tuesday 7 October and Tuesday 9 December. These are open and public meetings, and Cllr Neal requested permission to use the Council Chamber for these meetings, which Council granted.

Cllr De Souza reported from the Cycleway steering group meeting. The Shawforth-Britannia section of the cycleway will need to remain closed until a decision is made about the old railway bridge. The next meeting will be held in August once Groundwork and RBC have met to discuss said bridge. The official opening of the Cycleway was a success.

Cllr Aldred reported back from the Christmas Lights working group and issued Councillors with a written report, which was approved. It was resolved that Council approves the £775 overspend on the Christmas lights budget for 2007.

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

The Clerk produced a bank reconciliation statement, and it was resolved that the Clerk's statements be adopted and accepted.

**62. To authorise the signing of orders for payment.**

*\*\*\* Cllr Chorlton left the Chamber \*\*\**

The Clerk produced and explained a Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 5 of 2008/09. It was resolved that approval is given for the payments.

*\*\*\* Cllr Chorlton returned to the Council Chamber \*\*\**

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**63. To consider further a proposal for a cinema project in Whitworth.**

It was resolved that Council gives the go-ahead for a cinema project, with funds of £400 (£300 for hire of Community Cinemas plus £100 for hire of Civic Hall) from the special projects budget, on the understanding that the intention is for the event to pay

for itself and, ideally, make a small profit. Council stipulates that one event is held and that a decision on further events is made depending on the success of the initial event.

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

It was resolved that Council gives CLAW £100 towards the cost of horticultural projects, from the Horticultural Projects budget.

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**65. Internal Audit**

**Members of the Committee carried out an internal audit.**

- 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.

***There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.30pm***