

Minutes of the Meeting of

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on

THURSDAY 15th December 2022 at 7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor J Whitehead

Councillors

Councillor R A Neal

Councillor K Olaolu

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillor M Royds

Councillor D Powell

Councillor G Baron

Councillor M Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Nine members of public were present; no members of the press were present.

1. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Barnes who is unwell and Councillor Calderbank who has work commitments.

1. To consider the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17th November 2022, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17th November 2022, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

1. To consider the Minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 6th December 2022, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 6th December 2022, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

1. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Whitworth declared a personal interest in item 7 as he is a trustee of Whitworth Playgroup.

1. Public Question Time.

A resident asked for an update on the Trim Trail. Councillor Whitehead explained that this item would be addressed later in the agenda.

A resident asked if LCC had put the brakes on works being done on the cattle grid. Councillor Whitehead responded that she was unaware that this was the case. Councillor Neal responded that LCC had been obstructive but RBC had emailed that day reporting that they have spoken to the landowner and work should be progressing soon. Councillor Neal said that he would keep members updated.

Councillor Baron asked on behalf of a resident if double yellow lines could be put in place around the area that was the site of a road traffic collision last week. Councillor Powell stated that there are several roads that connect with Market Street where traffic enforcement would be beneficial. Councillor Whitehead reported that she has already emailed Whitworth’s County Councillor regarding this. Councillor Neal suggested that when Councillor Smith attends Full Council in January that this could be discussed. Councillor Chorlton said that unless there is traffic enforcement in Whitworth then sadly putting double yellow lines would not be effective.

1. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:
2. 2022/0325 - Whitworth High School Hall Fold Whitworth Rochdale Lancashire OL12 8TS Discharge of condition 3, 4, 12 \_ 13 pursuant to planning permission reference 2021/0270.

It was resolved that council support this discharge of conditions. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

1. 2022/0606 householder 609 Market Street Whitworth Rossendale OL12 8QS Conversion of vacant office (Class E) to dwellinghouse (Class C3)

It was resolved that council support this as residential property in Whitworth is in short supply. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

1. 2022/0541 land at Chapel Street Whitworth - Erection of 2 no. three-bedroom dwellings, with access, parking and landscaping. Improvement and demarcation of surrounding parking area

It was resolved that Councillor Neal will email planning for more details regarding parking. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

1. To discuss giving a donation to Whitworth Playgroup.

It was resolved that council suspend standing orders to allow public to speak about this agenda item. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Powell.

A trustee of Whitworth Playgroup spoke about the length of time that the playgroup has been running for, it’s invaluable support for the people of Whitworth and how, as a not for profit charity, it is finding it hard to make ends meet in relation to rising food costs, etc as it is not receiving any additional core funding. She spoke about the playgroup being an important asset to the community. Councillor Powell reported that he was saddened to hear this as he used to go there as a child and he felt that Council had an obligation to the people of Whitworth to support the playgroup by donating the rest of the council’s donation budget. Councillor Powell asked if the Finance Monitoring Committee could review the support given by Council. Councillor Chorlton reported that he would ask the trustees of Farrow Hoyle if they could support the playgroup. Councillor Neal reported that council should give half of the rest of donation budget and that he would match this donation from his own funds. Councillor Whitworth supported what the trustee had said and reported that funds were needed for a balance bike and that the playgroup needed help finding sources of funding. Councillor Aldred asked if Council could support Whitworth Playgroup on a regular basis. The trustee informed Council that Whitworth Playgroup has received a grant form from LCC & RBC but grants can take months to come through and the Playgroup needs money now. The trustee also reported invaluable support from the Lighthouse Foodshare. Councillor Baron said that he would speak to the trustee after the meeting about a possible private donor.

It was resolved that council reinstate standing orders. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

It was resolved that council donate £125 to Whitworth Playgroup and an agenda item would be included onto the next meeting of the Finance Monitoring Committee regarding ongoing funding for Whitworth Playgroup. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by David Chorlton.

1. To discuss sponsoring a programme for WAMDS.

It was resolved that council donate £50 to sponsor a programme for WAMDS. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

1. To determine the level of public liability cover that contractors require to undertake work for Whitworth Town Council.

Councillor Olaolu suggested a level of public liability insurance for contractors who undertake work for Whitworth Town Council. Councillor Chorlton spoke about a lack of clarity on this previously. Councillor Neal suggested that NALC should be contacted as they have a suggested sliding scale regarding levels of public liability insurance for councils.

It was resolved that NALC should be contacted and then Whitworth Town Council will accept their suggested level of public liability insurance for contractors undertaking work for Whitworth Town Council. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

1. To discuss the future of Jubilee Gardens and the protection of flora and fauna.

Councillor Olaolu suggested that it would be good to preserve and rewild Jubilee Gardens. Councillor Whitehead reported that she had already emailed Timothy Blythe and Councillor Smith regarding this and that she is meeting with them in the new year. Councillor Whitehead said that there was funding from LCC that could be utilised for Jubilee Gardens. Councillor Neal reported that Jubilee Gardens is the responsibility of LCC.

1. To discuss the future of Hoyle Street urinals.

Councillor Olaolu reported that she has asked by members of the public to bring this to council. Councillor Neal reported that the urinals were closed due to the health and safety teams from both LCC and RBC as it was no longer fit for purpose. Councillor Neal did not feel it was appropriate for employees of Whitworth Town Council to be cleaning it given the urinals state of disrepair.

It was resolved that it is not cost effective to repair the urinals and that the Finance Monitoring Committee should investigate the cost of the urinal’s removal. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

1. To discuss acknowledging Rob Clegg’s achievements in completing 10 challenges in memory of his dad Ian Clegg.

Councillor Powell reported that Rob Clegg has set a Guinness World Record whilst undertaking his challenges. Councillor Whitehead reported the different challenges that Rob has achieved. Councillor Neal suggested putting Rob Clegg forward for Council’s Jeff Ogden award. Councillor Aldred suggested recommending Rob Clegg for RBC’s Roll of Honour.

It was resolved that Whitworth Town Council and its councillors elected for RBC recommend Rob Clegg on to RBC’s Roll of Honour. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Aldred.

1. To receive the report of the Town Mayor (not for discussion).

The Mayor reported a very busy time involving lots of Christmas fairs and that she has also had a photo shoot at the Lighthouse. The Mayor reported a wonderful afternoon for her Over 50’s party and that she enjoyed meeting with other local Mayors at Whitworth Town Council’s carol service.

1. To receive reports from delegates and representatives to outside organisations (for information only).

Councillor Whitworth reported back from the Flood Forum. Councillor Chorlton reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee are busy this weekend with Santa Express and the forthcoming Duck Race. Councillor Whitehead reported that Whitworth In Bloom are busy continuing with their winter planting, they have repaired a bench at the cemetery and work has been started at the back of the leisure centre.

1. To receive suggestions from members for projects to consider for the next financial year.

It was resolved that any suggestions be emailed to Councillor Neal. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

1. To consider quotes submitted for the stock fencing required at Waingap Woods.

It was resolved that council suspend standing orders to allow public to speak regarding this agenda item. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Neal.

A resident asked for an update regarding the repairs. Councillor Olaolu confirmed the area that the repairs will cover. Councillors Chorlton and Whitehead stated that the Finance Monitoring Committee will plan for money to be annually reserved for ongoing maintenance.

It was resolved that council reinstate standing orders. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Neal.

It was resolved that council will delegate authority to the Finance Monitoring Committee to consider quotes submitted for the stock fencing required at Waingap Woods. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Royds.

1. To consider quotes submitted for the Trim Trail repairs required at Waingap Woods.

It was resolved that council will delegate authority to the Finance Monitoring Committee to consider quotes submitted for the Trim Trail repairs required at Waingap Woods. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

1. To consider increasing the clerk’s hours from 25 hours to 30 hours a week.

It was resolved that this be moved to the end of the agenda to be discussed to the exclusion of the clerk, press and public. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Neal.

1. The chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors (Standing Orders 16 & 24-27, for information only).

Councillor Neal submitted a question to the chairman in advance of the meeting regarding requesting a face to face meeting with LCC CEO or LCC Head of Paid Services. Councillor Whitehead replied that Lee Mill Quarry site does not come under the remit of Whitworth Town Council but will email the individuals requested.

Councillor Powell asked if Council can support with maintenance of the cattle grid. Councillor Whitehead replied that if this benefits the people of Whitworth then she would support Councillor Powell’s suggestion.

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

It was resolved that Council adopt the financial statement presented by the Clerk. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

1. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 12, 2021-2022.

The Clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 12, 2022-2023 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the schedule of Accounts payable. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

1. To consider increasing the clerk’s hours from 25 hours to 30 hours a week.

\*\*\* The clerk and members of the public left the chamber \*\*\*

Councillors discussed the need for at least three General Purpose Committee meetings a year. It was resolved that the Town Clerks hours be put back to 30 hours per week starting from 1st January 2023. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Aldred.

\*\*\* The clerk and members of the public returned to the chamber \*\*\*

1. To carry out the internal audit.

Members carried out an internal audit of bank statements; invoices and Schedule of Accounts Payable; balances against bank statements and receipts and petty cash. All was found to be in order.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:00pm.