



Minutes of the Meeting of WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 18th July 2024 at 7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor G Baron

Councillors

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor L Burton

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor A Neal

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillor M Royds

Councillor M Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

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

42. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Whitehead due to a family commitment, Councillor Olaolu who was unwell and Councillor Powell due to a work commitment. Councillor Neal requested that the Council's best wishes were sent to Councillor Whitehead and her husband.

43. To receive any Declarations of interest.

None.

44. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2024, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2024, 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 Royds and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

45. Public Question Time.

A member of the public stated that Brenbar Clinic is going up for auction on 30th July and a pre-application for bungalows and 4 terraced houses has been submitted. They asked what Whitworth Town Council thought about this. Cllr Neal replied that he will be keeping a close eye on RBC's weekly application lists but that no application had been validated yet. Cllr Neal also reported his disappointment that Northern Care Alliance (NCA) had not been in touch with either himself or the Town Council, despite both contacting NCA previously with regard to future plans for the building. Cllr Baron reported that he will visit the site at the weekend. A member of the public expressed their concern that the area was already on a flood plain and that existing homeowners in the area are already struggling to sell houses due to this.

46. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

- a) *2024/0213 1 Orama Avenue Whitworth Rossendale OL12 8ED. Householder: Proposed single storey rear extension connecting to existing garage outbuilding.*

It was resolved that Council have no objections to this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

- b) *2024/0237 6 Stoneyroyd Whitworth Rochdale Lancashire OL12 8JL Householder: Single storey side extension, external K rendering of the dwelling and addition of mono pitched roofs to existing box dormers.*

It was resolved that Council have no objections to this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and Councillor Whitworth.

- c) *2024/0286 Land At Former Spring Mill, Whitworth: Minor amendments to the approved Landscaping Planting scheme regarding offsite landscaping following dialogue with our Management Company.*
It was resolved that Council have no objection to this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and Councillor Royds.
- 47. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 11th July 2024.**
It was resolved that Council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on 11th July 2024. This was moved by Councillor Neal and Councillor Royds.
- 48. To receive, and if appropriate accept, the three-month outturn presented by the clerk.**
It was resolved that Council receive and accept the three-month outturn presented by the clerk. This was moved by Councillor Royds and Councillor Whitworth.
- 49. To discuss the recommendations of the Finance Monitoring Committee with regards to the remainder of the Landgate proceeds.**
It was resolved that Council agree with the recommendations of the Finance Monitoring Committee and allocate £31,000 to Whitworth Leisure Centre, with the condition that the funds must be spent on building improvements. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.
- 50. To review and agree all direct debits leaving the Whitworth Town Council bank account.**
It was resolved that Council agree all direct debits leaving the Whitworth Town Council bank account. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth. Councillor Neal requested that it be put on record his thanks to the clerk for her hard work.
- 51. To approve a bank mandate to remove Mike Royds as a signatory on the NatWest Mayor's Charity bank account and add Councillor Baron.**
It was resolved that Council approve a bank mandate to remove Mike Royds as a signatory on the NatWest Mayor's Charity bank account. This was moved by Councillor Royds and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.
- 52. To discuss appointing members to the Finance Monitoring Committee.**
It was resolved that Councillors Mike Royds and Janet Whitehead are appointed as additional members to the Finance Monitoring Committee. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.
- 53. To discuss appointing an additional named member to oversee works undertaken by contractors for Whitworth Leisure Centre.**
It was resolved that Councillor Janet Whitehead is appointed as an additional named member to oversee works undertaken by contractors for Whitworth Leisure Centre. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.
- 54. To receive the report of the Town Mayor.**
The Mayor reported that he had had lots of engagement with the public and considered that his inbox had doubled since becoming Mayor. He reported that he loved helping people when he could and was pleased to be privy to information that could improve the town. He commended the superb effort from Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC and others in the wider community. He expressed his sadness about the recent news that Shawforth Chapel will be put up for sale.
- 55. The Chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors (Standing Orders 16 & 24 – 27, for information only).**
Councillor Aldred asked if the £25,000 given to Shawforth Chapel for solar panels from the Shawforth Windfarm monies by the Town Council could be reclaimed now that the Methodist Church are planning on selling the building. Councillor Baron said that he would discuss this with Reverend Burrows.
Councillor Royds asked if the Remembrance Tommys, located at each end of the town, could be rotated approximately 45 degrees to face oncoming traffic, so that they would be more visible to the community. Councillor Baron was in agreement with this.
Councillor Whitworth asked that progress be made on the request from the Fusiliers Association to remove the planting from in front of the War Memorial at the Memorial Gardens as the Memorial cannot be seen from the road. Councillor Baron agreed to discuss this with Whitworth In Bloom.
Councillor Neal asked if a meeting could be arranged with Mr Clive Grunshaw (the new Police and Crime Commissioner), Andy MacNae MP, the leader of RBC and Deputy with regards to Tonacliffe Road. Councillor Baron reported that he had previously discussed this with Councillor Scott Smith and would be happy to write to Clive Grunshaw regarding this.

Councillor Chorlton asked, on behalf of Councillor Whitehead who was unable to attend the meeting, if the Chairman could write to RBC regarding the neglected play area at Station Road. Councillor Royds reported that he has reported this play area numerous times and is attending a meeting next week with officers from RBC regarding this.

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

Councillor Whitworth reported that he had attended Whitworth Playgroup's AGM and reported that they had had a successful year.

Councillor Neal reported that he had attended a NALC meeting in London.

Councillor Chorlton reported that the TLC are assisting with a fundraiser for WLC CIC on Sunday and that the Rushcart is coming up in September. He also reported that Councillor Mike Royds has taken over as Chair of the Committee and will provide future updates from the Committee.

Councillor Rhodes reported that the Environment and Wildlife Committee had met and a conference in Whitworth was being planned for the end of the year by LCC. They hope to have information stalls present and hope to encourage local residents to attend.

Councillor Whitworth reported from Whitworth Sports Council that Jo Furtado is stepping down as the organiser of the Skyline walk and is looking for someone to take over the planning of this.

57. To receive and, if appropriate adopt the financial statements presented by the Clerk.

It was resolved that Council receive and adopt the financial statements presented by the Clerk. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.

58. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 4, 2024-2025.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 4, 2024-2025 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedules of Accounts payable. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

59. 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 8.22pm.