



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
THURSDAY 20th February 2025 at
7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor Baron

Councillors

Councillor Burton

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Neal

Councillor Olaolu

Councillor Royds

Councillor Smith

Councillor Whitehead

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

2 members of public was present; no members of the press were present.

181. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Aldred who was unwell, Councillor Whitworth who was on holiday and Councillor Rhodes who was running late.

182. To receive any Declarations of interest.

None.

183. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2025, 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 the 16th of January 2025, 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 Whitehead.

184. Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked what Council knew about a planning application at Tong End. Councillor Neal reported that the location was included in RBC's forward plan as well as a number of other sites. Councillor Smith stated that the local plan was adopted by RBC in 2021 and covered development across the borough. The removal of the site from green belt would not affect any other statutory consultee's considerations. Councillors Neal, Royds and Smith, as Rossendale Borough Council Councillors, will make further enquiries regarding this site.

185. Planning Applications for consideration and comment

a) 2024/0481 - Land Off 4 Shanter Close, Shawforth, Lancashire, OL12 8HB - Outline application with all matters reserved for a proposed school building.

It was resolved that Council recommends that this goes to Development Control Committee at Rossendale Borough Council due to concerns regarding a retaining wall and potential for landslip. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

b) *2025/0019 - BCH (Rochdale) Ltd, Spring Place, Millfold, Whitworth, OL12 8DN - Extend the existing warehouse in two locations, to provide additional production capacity and provide a secure 'finished goods' storage area. Locally adjust / repair the external yard areas to suit.*
It was resolved that Council support this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

186. **To review and if appropriate adopt the Annual Investment Strategy.**

It was resolved that Council adopt the Annual Investment Strategy. Councillor Neal requested that thanks be put on record for the clerk's hard work in producing this. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

187. **To review and if appropriate adopt the Financial Risk Assessment and Financial Procedures.**

It was resolved that adopt the Financial Risk Assessment and Financial Procedures policy. Councillor Smith requested that thanks be put on record for the clerk's hard work in producing this. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Royds.

188. **To consider a donation application from The Ashcroft (Rossendale Leisure Trust).**

It was resolved that Council approve a donation of £140 to The Ashcroft (Rossendale Leisure Trust), using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

189. **To consider a donation application from Stronger Together**

It was resolved that Council approve a donation of £150 to Stronger Together, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Neal.

190. **To consider a donation application from Whitworth Valley Football Club.**

It was resolved that Council approve a donation of £375 to Whitworth Valley Football Club, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

191. **To consider a donation application from Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC.**

It was resolved that Council approve a donation of £562.51 to Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This was moved by Councillor Royds and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

192. **To consider setting up a working group to look into supporting parents and toddlers in Whitworth.**

Councillors discussed this and Councillors Neal, Smith and Whitehead will investigate this further.

193. **To appoint a representative onto Rossendale Connected and Whitworth Community Partnership.**

Councillors discussed this and stated that they considered that the two representations were no longer required.

194. **To discuss WTC's Environment and Wildlife Committee commenting on planning applications.**

Councillors discussed this and recommendations regarding comments on planning applications were given by members.

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

The Mayor reported that Valley Thai Boxing will be going to Thailand in March and encouraged all councillors to support their endeavours. The Mayor also reported on a recent sad case in

Whitworth involving an XL Bully dog. The Mayor stated that lots of events were coming up and he was happy to report that the new office administrative assistant in the Town Council office was keen to learn and progressing well.

196. The Chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors (Standing Orders 16 & 24 – 27, for information only).

Councillor Neal asked questions regarding Whitworth Leisure Centre. Councillor Baron responded that he has minutes from all WLC CIC's meetings, and that Councillor Whitehead has been reporting back at Finance meetings and Full Council with updates.

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

Councillor Whitehead updated members with regard to Whitworth Leisure Centre and said that she was happy for members to contact her between council meetings if they had any queries. Councillor Royds reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee were planning an Easter Trail and an event to celebrate VE Day.

Councillor Neal update members regarding Town Twinning and reported that a new Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer had been appointed. He reported that Town Twinning will be updating councillors at WTC's March meeting with regards to their new constitution. He reported that a delegation from Kandel will visit Whitworth between 2nd to 9th September.

198. 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 Smith.

199. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 12, 2024-2025.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 12, 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 Smith.

200. 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 8.45pm.