

Minutes of the Meeting of

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on

THURSDAY 14th December 2023 at 7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor M Royds

Councillors

Councillor R A Neal

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor M Whitworth

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor J Whitehead

Councillor G Baron

Councillor L Burton

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Cllr Neal read out a personal statement.

### 159. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting by Councillors Olaolu, Powell and Rhodes who were unwell and Councillor Blezard who had an appointment.

1. To receive any Declarations of interest.

Councillor Chorlton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 8.

### To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2023, 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 16th November 2023, 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.

### Public Question Time.

Councillor Royds stated that he would like to inform those present of some good news that had occurred at 5pm that day. He showed those present that he had the keys to Whitworth Leisure Centre in his hands and said that now the real work begins.

A member of the public stated that they spoke on behalf of Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC and wished to thank the Mayor, councillors and the clerk for all their work involved in the transfer of Whitworth Leisure Centre from Rossendale Borough Council.

A member of the public handed in a Freedom of Information request to the clerk.

### Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

1. *2023/0545 - 5 The Hedgerows, Whitworth, OL12 8AW – Householder: Single storey rear extension, single storey front porch extension, side dormer extension, all existing windows are to be replaced with anthracite grey UPVC. All existing brick work is to be rendered over with a smooth white render, leaving the external corners as exposed brick. The existing profile tiled roof finish is to be removed and replaced with Planum clay interlocking low pitch smooth grey roof tile.*

It was resolved that council have no objections to this planning application. This was moved by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Neal.

1. *2023/0487 - Clonsilla, High Peak Road, Whitworth, OL12 8SR - Householder: Single storey bungalow extension with front and rear dormers with balcony to the front of the new extension with associated groundworks.*

It was resolved that council have no objections to this planning application. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Whitworth.

1. *2023/0546 - Land North Of Knott Hill House Knott Hill Old Lane Shawforth – Proposal: PIP erection of one dwelling.*

Councillor Neal questioned whether this proposal concerns an area of green belt and stated that he will communicate with the ward councillor for the area.

1. *2023/0533 - Land At John Henry Street, Shawforth – Proposal: Full: Erection of 4 no. semi-detached residential dwellings*.

Councillor Whitehead stated that she had already called this in as an RBC ward councillor for the area. She stated that she had concerns about the access road for construction vehicles and it was not in keeping with the area. It was resolved that council strongly object to this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

1. To discuss Whitworth Town Council stopping the use of chemical weedkiller by employees.

It was resolved that council stop the use of chemical weedkiller by employees. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

### To consider and comment on the proposed extinguishment of part of Footpath FP1405129 Rossendale, Highways Act 1980 Section 118.

It was resolved that Council support the proposed extinguishment of part of Footpath FP1405129 Rossendale, Highways Act 1980 Section 118. This was moved by Councillor Whitehad and seconded by Councillor Burton.

\*\*\* Councillor Chorlton left the meeting \*\*\*

1. To consider a proposal from the interview panel and appoint a new Parish Lengthsperson.

It was resolved that councillors accept the proposal from the interview panel and appoint Chris Rothwell as the new Parish Lengthsperson.

\*\*\* Councillor Chorlton returned to the meeting \*\*\*

\*\*\* Press and public were excluded from the meeting \*\*\*

1. To review the employment contracts of the Town Council employees

Councillors discussed the employment contracts of Town Council employees. It was resolved that annual leave entitlement be reviewed on appraisal and employees would begin on the statutory annual leave levels set by UK government. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

\*\*\* Press and public were invited back into the meeting \*\*\*

1. To receive and note the Minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 4 December 2023.

It was resolved that council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 4 December 2023. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Baron.

### To receive the report of the Town Mayor.

The Mayor reported that he had attended numerous events since the last meeting

* Visiting Gleeson Homes to open the show houses at Spring Mill
* Fundraising curry night at Ashoka raising £200 for the Mayor’s Charity Fund
* Shawforth Chapel Christmas Fayre, featuring a lovely performance by Whitworth Community Choir
* Tree planting at Barley View to commemorate their 5th anniversary, with entertainment by children from Our Lady & St Anselm’s RC Primary School
* St Bartholomew’s school fayre joined by the Mayor of Rossendale
* Rossendale Business Awards joined again by the Mayor of Rossendale
* Rochdale’s Civic carol service at St Chad’s Church by invitation from the Mayor of Rochdale
* Stronger Together’s Christmas lunch
* St Bartholemew’s Nativity

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress for stepping in at Whitworth Town Council’s Community Carol Service after the Mayoress unfortunately fell whilst attending Stronger Together’s Christmas lunch and both dislocated and fractured her wrist. He gave thanks to the first aiders on the scene and expressed his sadness at having to miss the Carol Service that night due them both being in A&E until just before midnight. This also meant that they both missed two events at Tonacliffe School, which apologies were sincerely sent for. The Mayor also reflected on the past 7 months since he became Mayor and thanked Cllr Kim for her tenacity regarding the cattle grid and the clerk for her hard work with numerous projects taken on by Council.

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

Cllr Neal asked if he should accept the award he was given in the Houses of Parliament for 35 years’ service as a councillor. Councillor Baron said that it was well deserved, and he did not need to ask permission to accept such a great honour.

Cllr Whitworth asked if any councillors had details of the section 106 money for Spring Mill. Councillor Neal responded that money was allocated to Lancashire County Council towards bus routes and libraries, and he will enquire with officers at RBC regarding this.

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

Cllr Neal reported that he was elected on to NALC’s Finance and Scrutiny Committee on Monday.

Cllr Chorlton reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee’s Santa Express will be happening this weekend, and the Duck Race will be taking place on New Year’s Day.

Cllr Whitworth reported that he had attended Whitworth Playgroup’s AGM and they are currently looking for funding alternatives. He asked if anyone knew of any funding opportunities to please get in contact with either himself or the playgroup directly.

1. 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 Olaolu.

### To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 9, 2023-2024.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 7, 2023-2024 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 Chorlton.

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.

Councillor Neal thanked the Mayor and Mayoress at the end of the meeting for the Christmas gifts provided for both councillors and staff.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.