



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
THURSDAY 19th June 2025 at
7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor Whitehead

Councillors

Councillor Aldred

Councillor Baron

Councillor Butterworth (from agenda item 4)

Councillor Burton

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Neal

Councillor Smith

Councillor Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

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

18. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Greenwood who was unwell, Cllr Blezard who was marshalling at the Junior Fell Run and Cllr Rhodes who was working.

19. To receive any Declarations of interest.

Councillors Neal reported a personal and prejudicial interest in the schedule of payments and Councillor Smith reported a personal interest in the schedule of payments as trustee of Rossendale Leisure Trust.

20. To discuss co-opting a member onto the vacant Whitworth Town Council seat for the Healey and Whitworth ward.

A secret ballot was carried out. It was resolved that Council co-opt Steven Butterworth as a Councillor for the Healey and Whitworth Ward. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Baron. All applicants were thanked for their impressive applications.

21. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 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 15th of May 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 Baron.

22. Public Question Time.

Members of the public asked about the planning application for Brenbar Crescent, raised concerns about the amended application and reported issues with contacting the planning department at Rossendale Borough Council. They also reported concerns that emailed comments against the planning application not being taken into account. Councillor Smith reported that any comments received by RBC would be noted and considered by the planning department. Councillor Baron reported that a higher number of individual comments would be more effective than one single comment sent in.

A member of the public spoke about parking issues at Tong Lane flats. Councillor Neal responded that this should be brought up with Together Housing.

A member of the public asked for an update on the Albert Mill Site. Councillor Neal reported that the planning inspectorate took a decision against RBC last week in favour of the owner.

A member of the public also reported that there is someone sleeping rough on Healey Dell. The clerk reported that she had contacted the local PCSO regarding this.

A representative from Whitworth Town Twinning Committee reported that they are looking for new members to assist with a delegation from Kandel and left membership forms with the clerk.

23. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

a) 2025/0140 - 311 to 315 Market Street, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8PW - Lawful Development Certificate: Proposed rear single storey extension to provide additional surgery rooms

It was resolved that Council support this application but raised concerns about the limitations of parking in the locality. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Smith.

b) 2025/0151 - The Chalet, 7 Healey Grove, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8RX - Proposed Certificate of Lawfulness: replacement and extension of existing dormer.

This item was not discussed as approval has already been given for the application.

c) 2025/0014 – Whitworth Clinic, Brenbar Crescent, Whitworth, OL12 8BB – demolition of the existing building on the site, and erection of 9 dwellings – 7 terrace dwellings and 2 semi-detached dwellings.

It was resolved that Council strongly object to this planning application on the following grounds:

- 1) the development is not in keeping with the local area and therefore goes against RBC's own Local Plan.
- 2) the current application would be an overdevelopment of the site.
- 3) highway safety concerns regarding the increase of traffic on Brenbar Crescent and within the development itself.
- 4) the felling of trees prior to the planning application, resulting in an incorrect calculation of Biodiversity Net Gain of the development.
- 5) the site is a former gas works site and WTC would like to request that the Environment Agency conduct a full site inspection for its suitability to be developed on.
- 6) the planned development would be too close to the River Spodden and the site would be significant risk of flooding.
- 7) loss of residential amenity regarding neighbours both on Brenbar Crescent and Market Street.
- 8) the impact on local infrastructure caused by the proposed development.

This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Smith.

d) 2025/0172 - 15 Water Street, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8TX - Proposed Certificate of Lawfulness: Erection of a 950mm high railing fence to retain private parking at front of property.

It was resolved that Council have no objection to this planning application, provided it has no impact on other local residents. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

24. To discuss a grant application from Festival Park Bowling Club.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to allow members of the public to speak. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Neal.

A member of Festival Park Bowling Club explained the need for the grant.

It was resolved that standing orders be reinstated. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Neal .

It was resolved that £300 be granted to Festival Park Bowling Club. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baron.

25. To discuss a Neighbourhood Plan for Whitworth.

It was resolved that councillors agree in principle with commencing a Neighbourhood Plan for Whitworth. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

26. To discuss the provision of public access toilets in Whitworth.

It was resolved that this item be added to a future Finance Monitoring Committee agenda. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Baron.

27. To discuss setting up a working group to focus on provisions for young people in Whitworth.

It was resolved that a working group be set up to focus on provisions for young people in Whitworth. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Butterworth.

28. To discuss Whitworth Town Council becoming a member of Lancashire Peat Partnership (LPP).

It was resolved that Whitworth Town Council become a member of Lancashire Peat Partnership. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Smith.

29. To discuss a change of bank signatories for Whitworth Town Council's accounts with Unity Trust Bank plc and CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

It was resolved that Councillors Gareth Baron, David Chorlton, Alan Neal, Scott Smith and Janet Whitehead and Town Clerk Rachel Hodson are appointed as signatories on Whitworth Town Council's accounts with Unity Trust Bank plc and CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

30. To appoint Abbie Luxton to the position of Business Administration Apprentice at Whitworth Town Council.

It was resolved that Abbie Luxton is appointed to the position of Business Administration Apprentice at Whitworth Town Council. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Neal.

31. To discuss additional councillors being appointed onto the Environment and Wildlife Committee.

It was resolved that Councillors Baron and Butterworth are appointed onto the Environment and Wildlife Committee. This was moved by Councillor Baron and Councillor Whitworth.

32. To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2024-2025 (attached).

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

33. To adopt and approve the Statutory Annual Accounts for the financial year 2024-2025 (attached).

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

34. To adopt and approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2024-2025 (attached).

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

35. To adopt and approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2024-2025 (attached).

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

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

The Mayor reported that her diary is beginning to fill up and that she was looking forward to her upcoming Proms in the Park event on Sunday 6th July which will feature both the senior and junior band. She thanked a member of the public for their donations of tea and coffee towards the event. She has been to visit the local Brownie Group and this year she is keeping a blog of her attendances. She reported that other upcoming events include a bed push, an over 50s Halloween Party and a bed push.

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

None.

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

Councillor Neal reported that Burnley and Pendle are inviting applications for a new area secretary and that he had recently attended a conference attended by the new Chief Constable. He reported that there are two new green speed indicator devices in Whitworth.

39. 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 Baron and seconded by Councillor Smith.

*** Councillor Neal left the chamber)

40. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedules 1, 2 and 3, 2025-2026.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Reports 1,2 and 3 2025-2026 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedules of Accounts payable. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

*** Councillor Neal returned to the chamber ***

41. 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 9.10pm.