



Whitworth Town Council

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on Thursday 15 May 2025 at The Ashcroft, Whitworth Civic Hall, Market Street, Whitworth

Present:

Chairman: Councillor Gareth Baron (item 1) / Councillor Janet Whitehead (all items thereafter)

Councillors:

Councillor G Baron
Councillor K Blezard
Councillor L Burton

Councillor J Greenwood
Councillor R A Neal
Councillor S Rhodes

Official: Miss Rachel Hodson, Clerk of the Council

In attendance: Family and guests of the Mayor Elect, distinguished guests, and members of the public.

- Before the meeting commenced a minute's silence was held in honour of retired councillor and former Mayor, Mike Royds who had recently passed away.
- The Mayor addressed those in attendance, stating what an honour and privilege it had been for him to serve 12 months as Mayor. He had thoroughly enjoyed attending numerous engagements across the Whitworth during his Mayoral year. The Mayor thanked the people of Whitworth, fellow members of the Council, his Mayoress and the Town Clerk for their support, and offered his best wishes to the incoming Mayor.

1. To elect a person to the position of Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

It was resolved that Councillor Janet Whitehead be and is hereby elected Town Mayor of Whitworth for the Municipal Year 2025/2026. Councillor Whitehead then made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillor Whitehead welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was moved by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Burton.

2. To elect a person to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

It was resolved that Councillor Louise Burton be and is hereby elected Deputy Town Mayor of Whitworth for the Municipal Year 2025/2026. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Whitehead.

3. To offer a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Gareth Baron.

It was resolved that the thanks and best wishes of the Town Council be extended to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Gareth Baron. This was moved by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Blezard.

4. To offer a vote of thanks to the retired councillor and former Mayor, Mike Royds.

It was resolved that a vote of thanks be offered from the Town Council. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Whitehead. Cllr Neal spoke about Mike's dedication to the people of Whitworth and the Town Council send their best wishes to Mike's family at this difficult time.

5. To receive apologies for absence and the reasons for apologies.

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting by Cllr Whitworth who was on holiday and Cllr Aldred who was unwell.

6. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

No declarations of interest were received.

7. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 March 2025, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 March 2025, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Rhodes.

8. To consider the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 17 April 2025, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 April 2025, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Cllr Burton and seconded by Cllr Baron.

9. To review, and if appropriate accept, the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

It was resolved that the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 be accepted. This was moved by Cllr Rhodes and seconded by Cllr Greenwood.

10. To appoint all Town Council Members to Whitworth Town Council's General Purposes Committee.

It was resolved that all Members be appointed to the General Purposes Committee. This was moved by Cllr Rhodes and seconded by Cllr Neal.

11. To appoint new members onto the Farrow Hoyle Committee.

It was resolved that Councillors Kim Blezard, Louise Burton, Julie Greenwood and Janet Whitehead be appointed to the Farrow Hoyle Committee. This was moved by Cllr Baron and seconded by Cllr Smith.

12. To appoint representatives and delegates to committees.

It was resolved that the following Councillors be appointed to the relevant organisations:

The other committees are then proposed en bloc

Grievance Committee: Cllrs Aldred, Greenwood, Whitehead

Appeals Committee: Cllrs Chorlton, Baron, Smith

Finances Monitoring Comm: The Mayor plus Cllrs Aldred, Burton, Greenwood and Neal

Tourism & Leisure Committee: Cllrs Blezard, Burton, Chorlton and Whitworth

Farrow Hoyle Committee: Cllrs Blezard, Burton, Greenwood and Whitehead

Personnel Working Group (clerk's appraisal): The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllrs Blezard and Whitworth

Hallfold Conservation working group: Cllrs Chorlton, Rhodes and Whitworth
Spodden Valley Revealed working group: Cllrs Chorlton, Rhodes and Whitworth

Outside Bodies:

Burnley Area LALC: Cllrs Neal and Whitworth
RBC Standards Committee: Cllrs Aldred and Baron
Healey Dell Man. Comm: Cllrs Smith and Whitehead
Rochdale A.E. & Parish Trust: Cllr Neal
Whitworth Community Partnership: Cllrs Greenwood and Rhodes
Whitworth Sports Council: Cllrs Blezard and Whitworth
Hallfold Playgroup: Cllr Whitworth
Whitworth Flood Forum: Cllrs Rhodes, Smith and Whitworth
Multi-agency Meetings: Cllrs Greenwood and Neal
Crook Hill Funding Panel: Cllr Neal and the Town Clerk
Rossendale Connected: Cllr Greenwood
Whitworth in Bloom: Cllrs Baron, Smith and Whitehead
Named member to work closely with Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC and report back to Whitworth Town Council: Cllr Blezard

This was moved by Cllr Greenwood and seconded by Cllr Blezard.

13. To confirm the dates, time and place of meetings of the Council for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

It was resolved that the dates, times and place of meetings of the Council for the Municipal Year 2025/2026, as presented to the Council, be approved and adopted. This was moved by Cllr Blezard and seconded by Cllr Neal.

14. To appoint an Internal Auditor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

This item was deferred for a later agenda.

15. To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to lay before the Council.

The Mayor addressed those in attendance, stating what an honour it is to be Mayor of Whitworth for a second time. The Mayor confirmed that she is very much looking forward to the year ahead and would be raising funds for Whitworth causes throughout the year. The Mayor offered thanks to her fellow councillors, town council staff and thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for their hard work over the previous year.

16. To answer questions from Councillors.

None were put.

17. Public Question Time (Standing Order 68).

None.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8pm, and invited all present to join her, and her family and friends for light refreshments.