



Present

Chairman

Councillor Whitehead

Councillors

Councillor Aldred

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Burton

Councillor Butterworth

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Greenwood

Councillor Neal

Councillor Rhodes

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Business Admin Apprentice: Miss A Luxton

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

48. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Whitworth due to being on holiday, Cllr Baron due to work commitments and Cllr Smith due to another engagement.

49. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Greenwood and Cllr Neal reported a personal interest in agenda item 10. Councillor Neal declared a personal interest on the schedule of payments as he is the Town Council's representative on LALC.

50. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 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 19th June 2025 were correct and should be approved by the signature of the chairmen as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

51. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 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 27th June 2025 were correct and should be approved by the signature of the chairmen as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

52. Public Question Time.

A member of the public urged the councillors to look at the planning application of the proposed two new bungalows at the Land at Cowm. They raised concerns that this plan goes against the Reservoir Act 1975, focused on the safety of large reservoirs, moreover there are risks due to it being built on possibly contaminated soil and could lead to structural issues. Furthermore, if the proposed plan went forward, it would cause many other issues due to congestion on the already existing narrow roads down Tong Lane and Cowm park, as well an environmental impact. Another member of the public also raised similar concerns regarding this planning application and was concerned about the lack of privacy they would lose if these bungalows were built and the impact on local wildlife.

53. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

- a) *2025/0226 Hindle Pastures Highgate Lane Whitworth Rochdale Lancashire OL12 0TS - alterations and extensions to existing dwelling*
It was resolved that Council have no objection to this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.
- b) *2025/0185 767A Market Street, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 8LS – Proposed Certificate of Lawfulness: change of use to become a solo therapeutic residential children's home for one child to reside with two members of staff at all times.*
It was resolved that Council have no objection to this planning application due to it already operating as a residential children's home and will not cause any issues. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard.
- c) *2025/0216 Unit D, Holt Mill, Lloyd Street, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 8AA – Erection of new business unit.*
It was resolved that the Council object to this planning application due to it being on a single track lane which would cause problems with access for pedestrians and services. Councillors are also concerned regarding the proximity to the River Spodden and loss of residential amenity. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.
- d) *2025/0218 1 Coppice Drive, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 8QA – Lawful Development Certificate (Proposed) for a single storey rear extension.*
It was resolved that Council have no objection to this planning application because of other properties around have had extensions. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Greenwood.
- e) *2025/0223 Land At Cowm, Adjacent Back Cowm Lane, Whitworth, OL12 8BJ – Proposed erection of two detached dormer bungalows.*
It was resolved that Council strongly object to this planning application on the following grounds:
- *Environmental impact it would have, including on the Life for a Life memorial forest in the locality.*
 - *Loss of residential amenity*
 - *Impact on water courses and possible flood risk as the parcel of land is believed to be a flood plain*
 - *Impact on wildlife*
 - *Would cause possible issues with congestion and access due to Tong Lane struggling to currently manage the volume of traffic on it.*
 - *The area is of historical significance to Whitworth and the planned development is not in character with the area.*
- This was moved by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Blezard.*
- f) *2025/0236 Conister, Market Street, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 8RU - Lawful Development Certificate: Proposed rear and side dormers.*
It was resolved that Council have no objection to this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Greenwood.
- g) *2025/0237 Street Record, Eastgate, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire - Non-Material Amendment: plot boundary to delineate the plots from the bridleway updated from box hedge to 1.2m post and rail fence, and plot 46 handing updated from an As to Opp.*
This item was not discussed as approval has already been given for the application.
- h) *2023/0403 Millgate Market Street Shawforth Rossendale OL12 8NX - Proposal: Change of use from offices to 12 no. apartments*
It was resolved that Council object to this planning application due to the lack of sufficient car parking spaces, overdevelopment of the site, the lack of an ecology and tree report and highway safety grounds. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

54. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 9th July 2025.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on 9th July 2025 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 Blezard.

55. To receive and, if appropriate, accept the three-month outturn presented by the clerk.

It was resolved that the three-month outturn presented by the clerk was accepted. This was moved by Councillor Greenwood and seconded by Councillor Neal.

56. To discuss responding to Lancashire County Council's Local Natural Recovery Strategy Survey.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to allow members of the public to speak. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard. Members discussed the Lancashire County Councils Local Natural Recovery Strategy Survey and County Councillor Daniel Matchett spoke. It was resolved that standing orders be reinstated. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard. Councillors agreed on their responses for this strategy.

57. To discuss recommending that Lancashire County Council adopt the proposals for Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth as per former Councillor Mike Royds' September 2024 report.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to allow members of the public to speak. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard. Councillor Matchett discussed that a solution is needed, and he will try to facilitate this. It was resolved that standing orders be reinstated. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Greenwood. Councillor Neal thanked Councillor Matchett for his work on the behalf of the people on Tonacliffe Road and surrounding areas. It was resolved that Whitworth Town Council recommend that Lancashire County Council adopt the proposals for Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth as per former Councillor Mike Royds' September 2024 report. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Greenwood.

58. To approve a bank mandate to remove Councillor Gareth Baron as a signatory on the NatWest Mayor's Charity bank account and add Councillor Janet Whitehead.

It was resolved that a bank mandate to remove Councillor Gareth Baron as a signatory on the NatWest Mayors Charity bank account and to add Councillor Janet Whitehead be approved. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

59. To provide a recommendation of three areas in the Whitworth township to Rossendale Borough Council.

Members discussed this. It was resolved that the recommendation of the three areas in the Whitworth township to Rossendale Borough Council, in no particular order, be Knowsley Crescent/Quarry Street, Tong Lane/Cowm Park Way and Whitworth Square/St Barts Graveyard. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Burton.

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

The Mayor reported that she was proud to award the winners of the Environmental and Wildlife Committee's Peat competition for local schools.

The Mayor also discussed her attendance at a Cancer Research event hosted at the Rose and Bowl in which over £1,000 was raised. She reported her attendance at the awards evening for Whitworth Community High School at the Ashcroft and how lovely it was to see talented young people in Whitworth. She was sad to inform that she could not feedback on Proms in the Park due to the event being cancelled due to poor weather and details of an alternative fundraising event will be communicated at a later date.

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

Councillor Neal asked for an item to be added on to a future General Purpose Committee or Full Council meeting regarding the cattle grid at Whitworth Rake.

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

Councillor Neal reported that he will be attending a Burnley and Pendle committee meeting, and he will report back.

Councillor Chorlton reported that Councillor Blezard is now the new Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee (TLC) and that there are lots of good plans being made.

Councillor Rhodes reported on being the new Chairman of the Environment and Wildlife Committee and is planning to create a logo and a Facebook page. She also informed members that the next meeting will be the 11th August at 12 noon.

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

Councillor Ritson reported that he was pleased to be appointed on to Rossendale Borough Council to represent Whitworth. He reported he had been liaising with Lancashire Football Academy and is looking to provide and advocate for courses for the youth so they can build a career through football. It was resolved that standing orders be reinstated. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

The clerk reported that the TLC have discussed the organisation of Remembrance Sunday and have decided to that it should remain a Whitworth Town Council organised event.

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

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

64. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 4, 2025-2026.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 4, 2025-2026 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Blezard and seconded by Councillor Greenwood.

65. 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 8:50pm