



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
THURSDAY 18th September 2025 at
7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor Whitehead

Councillors

Councillor Baron

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Butterworth

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Neal

Councillor Smith

Councillor Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Business Admin Apprentice: Miss A Luxton

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Councillor Whitehead announced that Councillor Aldred has resigned from the Council. Councillor Whitehead paid tribute to Councillor Aldred's long involvement with the council of over 50 years.

80. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Burton and Cllr Greenwood due to being unwell.

81. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None.

82. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 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 17th July 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 Whitworth.

83. Public Question Time.

A member of the public emailed regarding the overgrown weeds on the verges at Valley View. Councillor Neal reported that RBC planning to invest in additional green spaces equipment. Councillor Smith agreed with Councillor Neal and reported that RBC previously maintained the verges. Councillor Whitehead suggested planting wildflowers to improve the aesthetic of the verges. Councillor Baron suggested asking RBC what health and safety considerations have changed resulting in the verge now being deemed unsuitable for mowing when it previously maintained. Councillor Whitehead agreed to contact green spaces at RBC.

84. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

- a) *2025/0334 - 18 Wallbank Drive, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8TZ - Lawful Development Certificate: Single storey rear extension*

It was resolved that Council have no objection to this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

- b) *2025/0335 - 8 Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8SS - Householder: First floor side extension with extended loft conversion.*

It was resolved that Council have no objection to this planning application provided that the applicant can provide Lancashire County Council Highways with amended plans showing the required off street parking This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Neal.

85. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 4th September 2025.

It was resolved that Council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on 4th September 2025. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

86. To discuss a recommendation from Finance Monitoring Committee regarding paying the Town Caretaker a Christmas bonus.

It was resolved that Councillors accept the recommendation to pay the Town Caretaker a Christmas bonus of £175. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Butterworth.

87. To discuss a recommendation from Finance Monitoring Committee regarding the removal of bushes at the corner of Cowm Park Way and Tong Lane.

It was resolved that Councillors accept the quote for the removal of the bushes at the corner of Cowm Park Way and Tong Lane, as recommended by the Finance Monitoring Committee. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Neal.

88. To discuss a recommendation from Finance Monitoring Committee regarding the Christmas Tree at Moss Side Street.

It was resolved that Councillors accept the recommendation from Finance Monitoring Committee to buy a 4ft Norway Spruce, a half whiskey barrel planter and to use free soil if available, if not then to buy it from The Compost Shop. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

89. To discuss electric charging points in Whitworth.

Councillor Butterworth reported that a resident of Whitworth contacted him regarding mobility cars and electric vehicles being more affordable, however the problem of there being no charging points in Whitworth. Councillor Smith agreed that there is a gap in Whitworth for this and there are areas that would be suitable. Councillor Chorlton suggested that there would need to be a few locations so there is access for more people. It was resolved that Councillors would contact Lancashire County Council and Rossendale Borough Council regarding electronic charging points and explore different options for funding. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

90. To undertake a two-yearly review of the following Whitworth Town Council policies: Civic Protocol, Gifts and Hospitality, Equal Opportunities, Discipline Procedure, Recruitment and Social Media.

It was resolved that council accept and adopt the above-named policies. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

91. To discuss the planning of Whitworth Town Council's Remembrance Sunday commemorations.

Councillor Blezard discussed that the Tourism and Leisure Committee thought it was appropriate for the Town Council to take over Remembrance Sunday commemorations. Councillor Chorlton reported that he has recruited a good team of marshals however it is difficult organising them and the parade on the day. Councillor Whitworth reported he would be happy to support Councillor Chorlton with the organisation of the parade. Councillor Butterworth agreed to assist with finding volunteers for on the day.

92. To receive suggestions from members regarding projects to consider for the financial year 2026 - 2027.

Councillor Whitworth suggested the playground on Station Road needing to be improved due to the poor state it is currently in. Councillor Whitehead discussed the problems regarding

Rossendale Borough Council and the maintenance of the green spaces in Whitworth. Councillor Whitehead suggested extending the length of hours or employing a gardener to ensure Whitworth's green spaces are maintained. It was resolved that Councillors will discuss this agenda item in the next council meeting to allow Councillors more time to do further research. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

93. To discuss commenting on the Local Government Reorganisation Stakeholder survey from Lancashire County Council.

Councillors discussed this and provided the clerk with agreed responses to the survey.

94. To approve and accept the annual return as audited by the external auditors.

It was resolved that Council approve and accept the annual return as audited by the external auditors. This was moved by Councillor Neal and Councillor Baron.

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

The Mayor reported that she has attended various events that have reflected the warmth, resilience and community spirit of Whitworth. The Mayor attended the Swimming Club Exchange Welcome Party at the Ashcroft, the Heritage Day at St Bart's Church, Town Twinning meals and the Sportsman Chairty Bed Push. The Mayor thanked the Cricketfield Bowlers for their generosity, who raised £150 through a raffle at one of their competitions. She noted the unfortunate setback of two cancelled events being Proms in the Park and the Rushcart. She discussed her upcoming fundraising events which include Curry Night and the Over 50's Halloween Party and is asked for donations from local businesses to help cover costs for food, entertainment and raffle prizes for the Halloween Party. She reported other upcoming events including a Speed Quiz Night, a Christmas Quiz and plans for a daytime 80's Festival. The Mayor concluded by expressing that Whitworth thrives because of its community and to continue building a town we're proud to call home.

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

Councillor Neal raised parking concerns outside of St Anselm's Primary school. Councillor Whitehead reported that she will contact St Anselm's headteacher regarding this issue.

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

Councillor Whitworth reported that Whitworth Playgroup needs a fridge replacing. Councillor Neal reported that he attended a conference at Aintree as a delegate from Lancashire, as well as the Burnley and Pendle Annual General Meeting. Councillor Blezard reported that a new gym is being installed in the Leisure Centre and that the TLC have many upcoming events such as Santa's Grotto and Christmas Light Switch on, Santa's Express and the Duck Race.

98. 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 Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

99. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 7, 2025-2026.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 7, 2025-2026 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

100. 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 9pm.