



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
THURSDAY 16th October 2025 at
7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor Burton

Councillors

Councillor Baron

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Chorlton

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Business Admin Apprentice: Miss A Luxton

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

Councillor Neal

Councillor Whitworth

101. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Whitehead who was attending a Mayoral engagement, Cllr Butterworth who was on holiday, Cllr Greenwood who was unwell and Cllr Smith who was attending another engagement.

102. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None.

103. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 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 18th September 2025 were correct and should be approved by the signature of the chairmen as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Neal.

104. Public Question Time.

A member of the public expressed concern about the lack of maintenance at Waingap Woods and concerns regarding the planning application for River Spodden at Albert Mill. Councillor Baron responded and informed the member of public that Waingap Woods had been discussed in a previous FMC meeting and an agenda item will be added for this at a future meeting. Councillor Baron also requested for Councillor Rhodes to contact the resident regarding the plans for tree planting in the area. Councillor Baron also explained that he shares the same concerns regarding the planning application for Albert Mill and has been in communication with the Environment Agency and planning enforcement at Rossendale Borough Council.

Another member of the public asked if there could be an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Mildred Crabtree picnic area to install a fence to protect the area. Councillor Baron and Councillor Neal responded and informed the member of public that no more taxpayers money will be spent in that area, however councillors are willing to work with the resident regarding lottery funding.

Another member of the public asked Council regarding Tree Preservation Orders on Jubilee Walk. Councillor Baron assured the member of public that he will confirm to her when he has more information.

105. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

- a) *2025/0382 - Albert Mill, Albert Street, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8PJ - Proposal: Full application to re-route existing culverted section of River Spodden, with ancillary engineering*

works including the blocking up of an existing culvert, daylighting of river and reprofiling of site levels.

It was resolved that Council strongly object to this planning application due to its environmental impact, concerns for the health and welfare of the residents, the impact to the River Spodden and water contamination and land contamination. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

- b) *2025/0332 - Land Off Market Street, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8NA – Proposal: Permission in Principle for the development of between 5 and 9 residential dwellings.*

It was resolved that Council strongly object to this planning application due to lack of infrastructure, lack of information of number of houses and lack of parking. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Neal.

- c) *2025/0391 - 417 Market Street, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8QL - Application to confirm that the existing use of the property as a 6-bed HMO (Use Class C4) is lawful.*

It was resolved that Council object to this planning application due to failing to follow the Article 4 protocol. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

106. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 18th September 2025.

It was resolved that Council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on 18th September 2025. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Neal.

107. To discuss a recommendation from Finance Monitoring Committee regarding a new phone and broadband contract.

It was resolved that Councillors accept the recommendation from Finance Monitoring Committee to use TalkTalk for a phone and broadband contract. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

108. To undertake a two-yearly review of the following Whitworth Town Council policies: Breastfeeding, Community Engagement Strategy, Training and Development, Lone Working and CCTV (see attached).

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

109. To appoint a representative onto RBC Standards Committee and Whitworth Town Council's Grievance Committee and Finance Monitoring Committee.

It was resolved that this item will be deferred to a future meeting so more Councillors can be involved in the discussion. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

110. To discuss providing a comment to Lancashire County Council's on the following proposals:

- a) To introduce a prohibition of waiting on Market Street, Whitworth, the west side, from its junction with the centreline of Millfold for a distance of 15 metres in a southerly direction.

It was resolved that Council support this proposal. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

- b) To introduce a prohibition of stopping on school entrance markings Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm in Cowm Park Way North, Whitworth, Rochdale, the east side, from a point 346 metres north east of its junction with the centreline of Tong Lane for a distance of 25.56 metres in a north easterly direction.

It was resolved that Council support this proposal. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

111. To discuss a recommendation from the Environmental and Wildlife Committee regarding tree planting plans at Waingap Woods.

It was resolved that Council accept the recommendation from the Environmental and Wildlife Committee regarding tree planting plans at Waingap Woods and agree to contribute £100. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

112. To receive suggestions from members regarding projects to consider for the financial year 2026 - 2027.
Councillor Neal discussed the park at Station Road and suggested creating a match fund of £1000 from the council. It was resolved that Council will discuss this suggestion at a future Finance and Monitoring Committee meeting. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.
113. To receive the report of the Town Mayor (not for discussion).
This item was deferred to a later meeting due to the Town Mayor not being present.
114. The Chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors (Standing Orders 16 & 24 – 27, for information only).
None.
115. To receive reports from delegates and representatives to outside organisations (for information only).
Councillor Neal reported on a LALC executive meeting. Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Leisure Centre has been closed this week due to a new gym being fitted and invited members to visit to see the improvements. Councillor Blezard also reported on the upcoming Tourism and Leisure Committee events. Councillor Whitworth reported on next year's Skyline and the changes the Sports Council are making to improve the event. Councillor Blezard reported that Christopher Rothwell will now be managing the Skyline walk.
116. 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 Chorlton.
117. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 8, 2025-2026.
The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 8, 2025-2026 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Neal.
118. 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 8.45pm.