



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
THURSDAY 20th November 2025 at
7.30pm in the Council Chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor Whitehead

Councillors

Councillor Baron

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Burton

Councillor Butterworth

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Neal

Councillor Ritson (from agenda item 4)

Councillor Smith

Councillor Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

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

122. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Greenwood who was unwell and Cllr Baron who had to leave after agenda item 3.

123. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None.

124. To discuss co-opting a member onto the vacant Whitworth Town Council seat for the Facit and Shawforth ward.

A secret ballot was carried out. It was resolved that Mackenzie Ritson be co-opted onto the vacant Whitworth Town Council seat for the Facit and Shawforth ward. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

*** Councillor Baron left the meeting ***

125. To receive any Declarations of Interest from the co-opted member (agenda item 3).

None.

126. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 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 16th October 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.

127. To consider the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 6th November 2025, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 6th November 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 Burton.

128. Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked if Whitworth Town Council could apply to Crook Hill for funding to assist with the repair/reinstatement of the footpaths at Waingap Woods.

129. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

None

130. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 16th October 2025.

It was resolved that Council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on 16th October 2025. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Burton.

131. To receive and note the six-month outturn.

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

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

It was resolved that Council appoint Councillor Smith onto RBC Standards Committee. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

It was resolved that Council appoint Councillor Blezard onto WTC Grievance Committee. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Neal.

It was resolved that Council appoint Councillor Chorlton onto WTC Finance Monitoring Committee. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Smith.

133. To authorise a donation to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Wreath, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was resolved that £100 be donated to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Wreath, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

134. To consider making a donation to the Scouts for the use of the Scout Hut for Remembrance Sunday, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was resolved that £100 be donated to 41st Rochdale (Whitworth) Scouts for the use of the Scout Hut for Remembrance Sunday, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

135. To discuss the maintenance at Waingap Woods.

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 Smith.

A member of the public spoke about the works she considered were necessary at Waingap Woods.

It was resolved that Council reinstate Standing Orders. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Smith.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Councillor Baron will be contacted for a report on the area, with a view to an application being submitted to Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund.

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

136. To discuss traffic enforcement measures outside Whitworth primary schools.

Councillors discussed this. 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 Ritson.

County Councillor Daniel Matchett reported that he was in agreement with the discussion. It was resolved that Council reinstate Standing Orders. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

It was resolved that Councillor Neal will invite County Councillor Daniel Matchett, LCC Head of Highways, Inspector Matt Plummer from Lancashire Constabulary and Rossendale and Darwen MP Andy MacNae to a meeting to discuss highway safety in Whitworth. This was moved by Councillor Ritson and seconded by Councillor Smith.

137. To discuss Whitworth Town Council responding to a survey from Groundwork regarding Scout Moor Community Wealth Fund.

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

138. To discuss a grant application from The Lighthouse Community Foodshare.

It was resolved that The Lighthouse Community Foodshare be granted £350, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

The Mayor reported that she had represented Whitworth Town Council at the following engagements

- Town Twinning's closing meal at Marios

- WAMDS performance at the Curtain Theatre
 - Dr Edward Tierney's funeral
 - Christ Church Healey's 175th anniversary
 - a Whitworth Cancer Research Committee fundraiser at The Swan
 - Brody's funeral, and she considered that the community will take a long time to recover from his passing
 - WCHS' GCSE awards evening which celebrated local young people's record achievements
- The Mayor spoke about her excitement regarding the upcoming Carol Service, Christmas Light Switch On and fundraising Quiz Night on the 11th December.

140. [The Chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors \(Standing Orders 16 & 24 – 27, for information only\).](#)

Councillor Neal asked if Whitworth Town Council could raise a formal complaint about the lack of street sweeping in Whitworth. Councillor Whitehead responded that she will send an email to RBC regarding this.

Councillor Smith asked if RBC had responded to the clerk's enquiry regarding Local Government Reorganisation. The Clerk responded that they had not but that she will send a follow up email regarding this.

141. [To receive reports from delegates and representatives to outside organisations \(for information only\).](#)

Councillor Neal reported that he had attended County Hall on 1st November and had been appointed President of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils.

Councillor Blezard reported that the Sports Council had had a good year and thanked everyone who had volunteered and supported their events. She reported that the Sports Council have had an influx of new members and were holding a celebratory Christmas get-together next week. Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Leisure Centre now has charity status and continues to be well supported by the community, although they are always looking for new members. She thanked everyone for their hard work in reopening the facility.

Councillor Blezard reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee are holding a Christmas Light Switch On event on Sunday 23rd November and thanked all the members of the committee for their hard work.

142. [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.

143. [To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 9, 2025-2026.](#)

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 9, 2025-2026 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Neal.

144. [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 8.55pm.