



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
THURSDAY 18th December 2025 at
7.30pm in the Council Chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor Whitehead

Councillors

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Burton

Councillor Chorlton

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Business Admin Apprentice: Miss A Luxton

Councillor Neal

Councillor Smith

Councillor Whitworth

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

Prior to the meeting, a minute's silence was held in honour of a former Mayor, Ian G. Mycock who had recently passed away.

157. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Greenwood and Councillor Baron who were unwell and Councillor Butterworth and Councillor Ritson who had another engagement.

158. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Chorlton declared a personal interest in the schedule of payments.

159. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2025, and to approve them by the signature of the chair.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2025 were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

160. Public Question Time.

None.

161. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

- a) 2025/0410 – *The Barn Studd Brow Whitworth Rochdale Lancashire OL12 8LU – Proposal: Full: Erection of chicken coops, lambing sheds and telegraph pole with camera & bird box (Retrospective).*

It was resolved that Council object to this planning application on the grounds of the pole being too high and concern regarding loss of privacy of the neighbouring properties. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

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

It was resolved that Council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on 9th December 2025. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

163. To discuss Whitworth Town Council commenting on Lancashire County Council's 2026-2027 budget consultation.

It was resolved that Whitworth Town Council would comment on the consultation both as a collective and individually. Councillors provided the clerk with agreed responses to the survey and comments to send to Lancashire County Council. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Neal.

164. To receive and note the draft meeting schedule for the 2026-2027 municipal year.
It was resolved that Council receive and note the draft meeting schedule for the 2026-2027 municipal year. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Blezard.
165. To discuss a grant application from Whitworth Men in Sheds.
It was resolved that Whitworth Men in Sheds be granted £350, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Burton.
166. To discuss a grant application from Whitworth Historical Society.
It was resolved that Whitworth Historical Society be granted £350, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Blezard.
167. To receive the report of the Town Mayor (not for discussion).
The Mayor reported that she has attended numerous festive community events such as the Christmas Light Switch On, Carol Concerts and local fairs which have spread joy and spirit throughout Whitworth. The Mayor reported that she held a Christmas Quiz at the Cock and Magpie, which raised £245 for the Mayoral Charity and she thanked everyone who took part and contributed. The Mayor reported on upcoming events such as a Sponsored Silence, a Band Concert and an 80's Day Disco. She discussed looking forward to seeing people who will attend these events and promised to continue the tradition of community togetherness. Finally, the Mayor extended her heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported her throughout the year and acknowledged the community group volunteers who work tirelessly all year round to make our parish a better place for everyone.
168. The Chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors (Standing Orders 16 & 24 – 27, for information only).
None.
169. To receive reports from delegates and representatives to outside organisations (for information only).
Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Leisure Centre are interviewing for a new manager. Councillor Blezard also reported that Whitworth Leisure Centre have had their Christmas party and had a visit from the Grinch and Santa who handed out presents to children. Councillor Blezard reported on the Tourism and Leisure Committee's recent Santa Express event and the upcoming New Year Annual Duck Race.
Councillor Neal reported that since being appointed as President of LALC, he has visited numerous Town and Parish Council across Lancashire.
170. 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.
171. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 11, 2025-2026.
The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 11, 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 Burton.
172. 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 8.10pm.