



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
THURSDAY 19th March 2026 at
7.30pm in the Council Chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor Whitehead

Councillors

Councillor Baron

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Butterworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Councillor Neal

Councillor Rhodes

Councillor Smith

One member of public was present; no members of the press were present.

225. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Greenwood and Whitworth who were on holiday, Cllrs Chorlton and Ritson who were unwell, and Cllr Burton who had an appointment.

226. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None.

227. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2026, and to approve them by the signature of the chair.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2026 were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

228. Public Question Time.

None.

229. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

a) 2026/0060 - Former Shawforth Chapel, Market Street, Shawforth, Lancashire OL12 8HF - Change of use from use class F (public worship/hall or meeting place for the principal use of the local community) to class B8 (storage & distribution).

It was resolved that Council support this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

b) 2026/0059 – 15 Burnedge Close, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8BE – retrospective change of use of the building from a Community Centre (F2) to a Dwellinghouse (C3).

It was resolved that Council support this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

230. To discuss the provision of electric vehicle charging points in Whitworth.

Councillor Butterworth reported on progress with this agenda item. It was resolved that this item is deferred to the next council agenda to allow for more information to be provided. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baron.

231. To discuss Lancashire County Council owned land off Landgate, Shawforth.

It was resolved that this item be deferred to the next council agenda to allow for more information to be provided. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baron.

232. To discuss training.

The clerk provided councillors with details of available training provided by LALC, NALC and SLCC.

233. To discuss the Whitworth Police Community Support Vehicle.

It was resolved that Council move this item to the end of the agenda. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

234. To decide on the recipients of the 2026 Dr Alan Morris Award and the Mayor of Whitworth's Young Achiever Award.

It was resolved that Council move this item to the end of the agenda. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

235. To discuss approving an application for a Whitworth Town Council Corporate Purchasing Card.

It was resolved that Council move this item to the end of the agenda. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Smith.

236. To discuss a grant application from Whitworth Playgroup.

It was resolved that Council approve a grant application of £500 to Whitworth Playgroup. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

237. To discuss a memorial application for Whitworth Cemetery.

It was resolved that Council move this item to the end of the agenda. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

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

The Mayor reported that her upcoming fundraising band concert has now sold out and she thanked all who had bought a ticket. She also reported that plans are underway for her 80s Day Disco at The Ashcroft on Saturday 25th April and encouraged all to attend and embrace the spirit of the occasion.

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

Councillor Neal asked if the council would be in agreement for him to ask the National Association to bring in a parish byelaw regarding fining traffic management companies for issues with temporary traffic lights.

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

Councillor Blezard reported regarding Whitworth Sports Council that preparations are well underway for Skyline and that the Sports Festival is coming back.

Councillor Blezard reported that a member of the TLC has organised an Easter Trail around Whitworth which starts soon.

Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Leisure Centre has recently employed two new managers and that things are looking positive.

Councillor Baron reported that he will be resigning in May and stated how much he had enjoyed being a councillor for the past four years.

241. To receive and, if appropriate, adopt the financial statements presented by the Clerk. It was resolved that Council receive and adopt the financial statements presented by the clerk. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

242. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 15, 2025-2026. The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 15, 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.

It was resolved that the next four items on the agenda be discussed to the exclusion of press and public. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baron.

*** members of the public left the meeting ***

243. To discuss the Whitworth Police Community Support Vehicle.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that the Whitworth Police Community Support Vehicle will not be renewed when it reaches the end of the current hire period. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Baron.

244. To decide on the recipients of the 2026 Dr Alan Morris Award and the Mayor of Whitworth's Young Achiever Award.

The details of this decision will be redacted until after the awards presentation on Thursday 14th May 2026.



245. To discuss approving an application for a Whitworth Town Council Corporate Purchasing Card.

It was resolved that Council delegate this decision to the Town Clerk. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

246. To discuss a memorial application for Whitworth Cemetery.

It was resolved that a working group of Councillors Blezard, Butterworth, Neal and Rhodes meet with officers of Rossendale Borough Council at Whitworth Cemetery to discuss the application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

*** members of the public returned to the chamber ***

247. 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 9.05pm.