



# Whitworth Town Council

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

## Present

Chairman

Councillor Whitehead

Councillors

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Burton

Councillor Butterworth

Councillor Chorlton

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Councillor Greenwood

Councillor Neal

Councillor Rhodes

Councillor Whitworth

Four members of public was present; no members of the press were present.

248. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Ritson who was attending a different meeting and Councillor Smith who was on holiday.

249. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Chorlton declared a personal interest in the schedule of payments and Councillor Greenwood declared a personal interest in planning application 2026/0099.

250. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026, and to approve them by the signature of the chair.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Blezard and seconded by Councillor Butterworth.

251. Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked Whitworth Town Council for funding for Whitworth Leisure Centre. Councillor Whitehead replied that WTC will call a Finance Monitoring Committee meeting to discuss this.

252. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

- a) 20260/0099 - Ravenswood, Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth, Lancashire OL12 8SJ - Proposal: Change of use from C3 (dwellinghouse) to C2 (residential institution) for a children's home for up to four children with two staff sleeping overnight (existing Certificate of Lawfulness in place for three children).

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

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

It was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the public to speak regarding this agenda item. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

County Councillor Daniel Matchett updated those present regarding present plans for the land and a discussion took place regarding the land.

It was resolved that Standing Orders be reinstated. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

254. To discuss a memorial application for Whitworth Cemetery.

It was resolved that Council approve a memorial application for Whitworth Cemetery. This was moved by Councillor Blezard and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

255. To discuss a suggestion for improvements to a piece of land at North Street.

Councillor Butterworth outlined plans for improvement to the aforesaid piece of land. It was resolved that Council approve a suggestion for improvements to a piece of land at North Street. This was moved by Councillor Butterworth and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

256. To appoint Sarah Cutler to the position of Administration Assistant at Whitworth Town Council.

It was resolved that Council appoint Sarah Cutler to the position of Administration Assistant at Whitworth Town Council. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

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

The Mayor reported that she recently had the pleasure of attending the Mayor of Rossendale's Charity Ball, spending the evening in company of great people celebrating the spirit of civic service and community. She also reported that her recent band concert raised approximately £800 for the Mayor's Charity Fund and gave thanks to Whitworth Vale and Healey Band and all who supported the event.

The Mayor also stated that she was very much looking forward to attending Marilyn's Honorary Townsman event on Saturday night and also the Mayor's final fundraising event – an 80s Day Disco on 25<sup>th</sup> April. She reported that there have already been over 100 tickets sold for the event but that she would love to see even more people attend and enjoy the day. She closed her report by saying it had been a privilege to serve as the Mayor for the past year.

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

Councillor Neal asked if members were attending the upcoming Honorary Townsman event.

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

Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Leisure Centre had plans to install an InPost locker. Councillor Blezard reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee had recently held an Easter Trail.

Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Sports Council recently held their AGM where their chair, secretary and treasurer were re-elected. She also reported that plans are underway for Skyline on 24<sup>th</sup> May and that they are looking for additional marshals if anyone is able to help. She also reported that a small Sports Festival will be taking place in June.

Councillor Rhodes reported that the Environment and Wildlife Committee met earlier in the week and there is a tree planting session organised for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 10am at Waingap Woods.

260. 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 Neal and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.

261. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 1, 2026-2027.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 1, 2026-2027 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 Rhodes.

262. 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 8.35pm.