



# Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of  
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at  
7.30pm in the Council Chamber

## Present

Chairman

Councillor Smith

Councillors

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Butterworth

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Marshall

Councillor Neal

Councillor Ritson

Councillor Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

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

### 17. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Burton, Greenwood and Whitehead who were on holiday.

### 18. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Neal declared a non-pecuniary interest in the schedule of payments.

### 19. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026, and to approve them by the signature of the chair.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 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 Whitworth.

### 20. Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked Whitworth Town Council why the green spaces in Whitworth are looking so unkempt. Councillor Smith replied that there had been similar comments at a recent RBC meeting from across the borough. Councillor Ritson suggested a letter of complaint be sent to RBC regarding this.

### 21. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

a) 2026/0105 Sunnyside Rest Home, Coupland Close, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8QQ.  
*Proposal: Full: Addition of single storey link extension between buildings, creation of addition off-street parking spaces, alterations to the existing building including the addition of patio doors and internal reconfiguration to provide addition bedrooms.*  
Councillors declined to comment on this application.

b) 2026/0122 Reddish Hill Farm, Market Street, Shawforth, Lancashire, OL12 8XD.  
*Proposal: Change of use and conversion of 2 agricultural buildings to form 2 dwellings including the raising of a roof and the addition of a minor extension.*

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

c) 2026/0145 423 Market Street, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 8QL  
*Proposal: Erection of car port and terrace to the rear of 423 Market Street. Installation of one side of boundary fence to match existing and rear gates for access to car port.*

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

22. To discuss Rossendale Borough Council's consultation for a new local plan.

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.

A representative from RBC's Forward Planning Team informed those present regarding the timetable and reasoning behind Rossendale's new Local Plan. Councillors discussed this.

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

23. To discuss Whitworth Town Council aligning with the new shadow local authority's election cycle, commencing from 2027.

It was resolved that Council approve an alignment with the new shadow local authority's election cycle, commencing from 2027. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Butterworth.

24. To discuss the parks in Whitworth.

Councillor Smith reported an update from RBC's cabinet member for Environment and Corporate Services regarding recent funding for Rossendale parks. Councillors discussed this.

It was resolved that Council will consult with local schools regarding the provision of play equipment and letters will be written to RBC requesting investment in the parks in Whitworth and requesting a breakdown of parks capital spending across the borough. This was proposed by Councillor Ritson and seconded by Councillor Smith.

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

No report was given as the Town Mayor was not in attendance.

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

Councillor Neal asked if councillors were aware that Lancashire Constabulary had given notice on the police room at The Ashcroft and asked if Whitworth Town Council could request sight of the usage log for the PCSO's police vehicle.

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

Councillor Blezard reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee had held a recent meeting and plans are underway for an August event.

Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Leisure Centre can still accommodate new members and are keen to liaise with the community regarding future fitness classes.

Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Sports Council held the Senior Fell Race this week, the Skyline walk had over 600 entrants and that unfortunately the Junior Fell Race will not take place this year due to DBS delays.

Councillor Whitworth reported that he had attended a recent LALC meeting a few weeks ago.

Councillor Whitworth reported that there had been a productive recent Flood Forum meeting and they will be putting an editorial piece in the next edition of the Whitworth Valley News.

28. 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 Blezard and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

29. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 2 and 3, 2026-2027.  
The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 2 and 3, 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 Chorlton.

30. 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.