Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
Thursday 16th July 2026 at
7.30pm in the Council Chamber

Present
Chairman
Councillor Burton
Councillors
Councillor Butterworth
Councillor Marshall
Councillor Greenwood
Councillor Neal
Councillor Ritson
Councillor Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson
Administrative assistant: Miss S Cutler
One member of public was present; no members of the press were present.

38. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Chorlton who had a family commitment, Blezard and Whitehead who had another engagement, Smith who was on holiday and Rhodes who was celebrating a birthday.

39. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None.

40. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2026, and to approve them by the signature of the chair.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2026 were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Ritson and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

41. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2026, and to approve them by the signature of the chair.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2026 were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Ritson and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

42. Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked if councillors are following up on concerns regarding the development at the former Albert Mill site. Councillor Neal reported that RBC had had on online meeting with the Environment Agency regarding the site. Councillor Ritson stated that he would contact County Councillor Daniel Matchett and ask him to update the resident regarding the involvement of Lancashire Public Health.

43. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

a) *2026/0034 Eagley Bank, Shawforth, Lancashire, OL12 8HE. Householder: First floor extension to side elevation over existing ground floor.*

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

44. To discuss commenting on a planning appeal regarding Ravenswood, Tonacliffe Road Whitworth, Lancashire. OL12 8SJ. 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 object to this planning application on the grounds of highway safety and in agreement with RBC's planning officers' original grounds for refusal. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

45. To discuss a grant application from Stronger Together.
It was resolved that Council approve this grant application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

46. To discuss Rossendale Borough Council's consultation for a new local plan.
The councillors discussed the consultation and gave the clerk their collective responses. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

47. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 7th July 2026.
It was resolved that Council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 7th July 2026. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

48. To receive and, if appropriate, accept the three-month outturn presented by the clerk.
It was resolved that Council accept and note the three-month outturn presented by the clerk. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

49. To discuss the Whitworth Police Community Support Officer's vehicle.
It was resolved that Council would like Lancashire Constabulary to provide evidence that the Whitworth Police Community Support Officer's vehicle is only being used in Whitworth. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

50. To discuss Whitworth awards.
It was resolved that Council would like to create a Whitworth Roll of Honour. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Greenwood.

51. To review the membership of the Local Government Reorganisation working group.
It was resolved that the membership of the Local Government Reorganisation working group will consist of Councillors Ritson, Smith and Whitworth. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Marshall.

52. To approve a bank mandate to remove Councillor Janet Whitehead as a signatory on the NatWest Mayor's Charity bank account and add Councillor Louise Burton.
It was resolved that Council approve a bank mandate to remove Councillor Janet Whitehead as a signatory on the NatWest Mayor's Charity bank account and add Councillor Louise Burton. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Marshall.

53. To receive the report of the Town Mayor (not for discussion).
The Mayor reported that she has attended numerous engagements since becoming Mayor, including Mayormaking at Rossendale Borough Council, a flag raising ceremony for Armed Forces Day, Stronger Together, her own Civic Sunday Service and the Whitworth Community High

School awards ceremony. She also reported that she was attending a fundraising afternoon tea event at Healey Dell Tea Room on Sunday.

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

Councillor Neal asked if the Mayor could write to County Councillor Daniel Matchett regarding concerns about the pegasus crossing at Oakenshaw Avenue.

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

Councillor Neal reported that he had attended a Burnely and Pendle LALC meeting on the 1st of June.

56. 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 Whitworth.

57. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 4, 2026-2027.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 4, 2026-2027 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Butterworth and seconded by Councillor Neal.

58. 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 9.25pm.