



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
Thursday 17th September 2026 at
7.30pm in the Council Chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor Burton

Councillors

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Butterworth

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Greenwood

Councillor Neal

Councillor Rhodes

Councillor Smith

Councillor Whitworth

Councillor Whitehead

Administrative assistant: Miss S Cutler

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

72. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Marshall who was on holiday and Ritson who was unwell.

73. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Smith declared an interest in agenda item 7. Councillor Chorlton declared a personal interest in agenda item 8. Councillor Blezard declared a personal interest in agenda item 10. Councillor Neal declared a non-pecuniary interest in the schedule of payments.

74. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2026, and to approve them by the signature of the chair.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2026 were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

75. Public Question Time.

None

76. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

a) 2026/0102 Ending Hill, Market Street, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8RW. Proposal: erection of a storage building to be used for the agricultural purposes.

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

b) 2026/0323 42 Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8SS. Proposal: amendment to increase length of garage by 1 metre to the rear.

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

77. To discuss responding to the National Public Confidence in Policing survey.

Councillor Neal raised concerns regarding issues in Whitworth and the lack of police presence in the area. Councillors discussed this and gave their collective responses to the administrative assistant.

78. To discuss contacting Royal Mail regarding Whitworth's postal address referencing Rochdale.

It was resolved that Whitworth Town Council notes that Whitworth is situated within the Borough of Rossendale and the county of Lancashire, but Royal Mail currently uses ROCHDALE as the post town for Whitworth addresses. The Council believes that this causes unnecessary geographical and administrative confusion and does not properly reflect Whitworth's location and identity.

The Council therefore resolves:

1. To ask Royal Mail to replace ROCHDALE with ROSSENDALE as the post town for Whitworth addresses, while retaining the existing postcodes wherever possible.
2. To authorise the Town Clerk to submit this request to Royal Mail and undertake the necessary correspondence.
3. To seek the support of Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and the Member of Parliament for the proposal.

This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

*** Councillor Chorlton left the council chamber ***

79. To discuss a nomination for Honorary Townsman.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Council recognise Councillor Chorlton's 20 years of service and proposed that he be presented with a 20-Year Service Award, comprising of a medal and certificate. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Butterworth.

*** Councillor Chorlton returned to the council chamber ***

80. To discuss a grant application from The Ashcroft, Rossendale Leisure Trust.

It was resolved that Council did not approve this grant application. Councillor Butterworth agreed to give funding personally. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

81. To discuss a grant application from Whitworth Leisure Centre

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

82. To discuss road safety in Whitworth

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that a proposal be raised at the next LALC meeting to request that all highways classified as RTIs be changed to KSIs, as this is becoming a significant issue in Whitworth. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

83. To discuss an application for a memorial bench at Whitworth Cemetery

It was resolved that Council approve this application. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Smith.

84. To approve and accept the annual return as audited by the external auditors

It was resolved that that Council approve and accept the annual return as audited by the external auditors. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Smith.

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

The Mayor reported that she attended the Party on the Pitch, which she described as a fabulous and very well-organised event. She noted that the event finished at a reasonable time and that she

and her family thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. The Mayor also attended the Rushcart Festival, which she described as a very successful and well-organised event, with busy stalls. She reported that her stall had sold out before the end of the event and lastly, she has upcoming events in support of cancer research at The Band Club and Lobden Golf Club.

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

None

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

Councillor Blezard reported that the TLC Rushcart event was a great success. She commended everyone involved for their hard work and contribution to making it such an enjoyable and successful day.

Councillor Blezard reported that this year's TLC Santa Express will be the final event by the current organisers and that there are a lot of things in motion behind the scenes.

Councillor Butterworth reported that he had attended a meeting of the Rochdale and Ancient Parish Educational Trust and noted that funding may be available for Whitworth residents for financial assistance for educational purposes.

88. 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 Whitworth.

89. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 7, 2026-2027.

The administrative assistant explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 7, 2026-2027 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

90. 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 8:50pm.