



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
Thursday 15th October 2026 at
7.30pm in the Council Chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor Burton

Councillors

Councillor Blezard

Councillor Butterworth

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Greenwood

Councillor Neal

Councillor Marshall

Councillor Ritson

Councillor Smith

Councillor Whitworth

Town Clerk: Miss R Hodson

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

91. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Whitehead who was at work.

92. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

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

93. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2026, and to approve them by the signature of the chair.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 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 Greenwood.

94. Public Question Time.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding overgrown foliage, a wall and drainage channel in Shawforth. Councillor Greenwood responded that she has contacted RBC, LCC and Together Housing regarding various locations across Whitworth and has supplied photos of the various issues. Councillors Neal and Smith reported that as borough councillors they do bring these matters to the attention of RBC.

Two members of the public spoke about the planning application for Scout Moor II.

95. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

a) 2025/0267 Land At And Adjacent To Scout Moor Wind Farm Rossendale And Rochdale.

Proposal: Construction and operation of 12 wind turbines with a maximum height to the tip of the blade of 180 metres (above ground level), together with associated ancillary infrastructure comprising crane pads and hardstandings; new access tracks; improvement and widening works to Scout Road; onsite substation; underground electrical infrastructure and cabling; fencing and boundary treatments; external lighting; drainage infrastructure; habitat and moorland restoration works; public right of way works; landscaping; temporary construction compound and staging area; underground electrical grid connection to the Rossendale Bulk Supply Point; and associated engineering works; alongside the retention of and improvements to existing access tracks associated with the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm (Further Environmental Information).

It was resolved that Council object to this planning application as councillors do not feel that the changes that have been made will reduce the impact of the development on Whitworth . This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

It was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow a member of the public to speak. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

A member of the public asked if the area could be designated as an area of natural beauty. Councillor Smith responded that he would investigate this.

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

96. To discuss a grant application from the Lighthouse Community Foodshare.

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

97. To discuss a grant application from Whitworth Playgroup.

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

98. To discuss commenting on LALC's proposal to become a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG).

Councillors discussed this and gave their collective responses to the clerk.

99. To discuss LCC's proposal to introduce a Bus Stop Clearway at any time (the effect of which will be to prohibit the stopping of vehicles) in the following lengths of road:

a) Market Street, Whitworth, the south side, from a point 115 metres east of its junction with the centreline of Shawclough Road for a distance of 37 metres in an easterly direction;

b) Market Street, Whitworth, the north side, from a point 98.8 metres east of its junction with the projected centreline of Shawclough Road for a distance of 37 metres in an easterly direction.

It was resolved that Council support the above proposals. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

100. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 1st October 2026.

It was resolved that Council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 1st October 2026. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Greenwood.

101. To receive and note the six-month outturn.

It was resolved that Council accept and note the six-month outturn presented by the clerk. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

102. To consider paying Whitworth Town Council staff a Christmas bonus.

It was resolved that Council approve the recommendation of the Finance Monitoring Committee and pay the Whitworth Town Council staff a Christmas bonus. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

103. To authorise a donation to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Wreath, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was resolved that Council authorise a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Wreath, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

104. To consider making a donation to the Scouts for the use of the Scout Hut for Remembrance Sunday, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was resolved that Council authorise a donation of £100 to the Scouts for the use of the Scout Hut for Remembrance Sunday using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

105. To discuss nominating sites to Rossendale Borough Council for potential future development.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Councillors Blezard and Smith are delegated to submit sites on behalf of Whitworth Town Council. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

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

The Mayor reported that she has had a busy few weeks and had represented the town at the following events:

- Whitworth Vale and Healey Band Club's MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Whitworth's Cancer Research Committee's Ladies Afternoon Tea
- Cllr Steve Woodhead's, the Mayor of Hebden Royd, Civic Service where she met the Mayor of Calderdale
- WAMDS's production of Hairspray

The Mayor also reminded those present regarding her upcoming fundraising event, a Vampire Masquerade Ball on 31st October.

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

Councillor Neal requested that the authorised signatories on the Council's bank account be reviewed. The clerk responded that she would put this on the next agenda.

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

Councillor Blezard reported that the Sports Council has recently met to discuss its future plans and will meet again next month.

Councillor Blezard reported that the TLC are currently planning their festive events.

Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Leisure Centre have lots of upcoming events including pumpkin picking and that they also have a new Hydrohex screen which can be used to teach sessions. She also reported that the former garage is being converted into a new studio.

Councillor Greenwood reported that Whitworth's Cancer Research Committee have an upcoming carol concert on Sunday 6th December.

Councillor Greenwood also reported from the Multi Agency meeting that PC Kenny is currently supporting Whitworth's PCSO until PC Bentley is replaced, that the PCSO is engaging with local schools re parking and a project called mini cops and that funding has been secured for Stronger Together's community café.

Councillor Greenwood reported from the Whitworth Community Partnership meeting that Holt Mill have a number of festive events planned and that St Barts bell ringers will be commemorating Remembrance Day.

Councillor Smith reported that St Barts Church as actively fundraising for new boilers.

109. 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 Ritson.

110. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 8, 2026-2027.

The administrative assistant explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 8, 2026-2027 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

111. 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.