



# Whitworth Town Council

## The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of **WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL** held on **Thursday 21 May 2026** at **The Ashcroft, Whitworth Civic Hall, Market Street, Whitworth**

### **Present:**

Chairman: Councillor Janet Whitehead (item 1) / Councillor Louise Burton (all items thereafter)

### **Councillors:**

Councillor M Ritson

Councillor K Blezard

Councillor S Smith

Councillor S Butterworth

Councillor D Marshall

Councillor M Whitworth

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor J Greenwood

Councillor R A Neal

Councillor S Rhodes

Official: Miss Rachel Hodson, Clerk of the Council

In attendance: Family and guests of the Mayor Elect, distinguished guests, and members of the public.

- The Mayor addressed those in attendance, stating what an honour and privilege it had been for her to serve 12 months as Mayor. She had thoroughly enjoyed attending numerous engagements across the Whitworth during her Mayoral year. The Mayor thanked the people of Whitworth, fellow members of the Council, her consorts and the Town Clerk for their support, and offered her best wishes to the incoming Mayor.
- Father Benjamin Garba blessed the meeting

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### **1. To elect a person to the position of Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/2027.**

It was resolved that Councillor Louise Burton be and is hereby elected Town Mayor of Whitworth for the Municipal Year 2026/2027. Councillor Burton then made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillor Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was moved by Cllr Chorlton and seconded by Cllr Whitehead.

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### **2. To elect a person to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/2027.**

It was resolved that Councillor Scott Smith be and is hereby elected Deputy Town Mayor of Whitworth for the Municipal Year 2026/2027. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Burton.

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### **3. To offer a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Janet Whitehead.**

It was resolved that the thanks and best wishes of the Town Council be extended to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Janet Whitehead. This was moved by Cllr Blezard and seconded by Cllr Rhodes.

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### **4. To receive apologies for absence and the reasons for apologies.**

None.

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**5. To receive any Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Blezard reported a personal interest in item 14 on the agenda.

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**6. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16th April 2026, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.**

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16th April 2026, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Cllr Ritson and seconded by Cllr Butterworth.

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**7. To consider the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.**

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14th May 2026, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Cllr Greenwood and seconded by Cllr Marshall.

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**8. To review, and if appropriate accept, the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.**

It was resolved that the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 be accepted. This was moved by Cllr Whitworth and seconded by Cllr Smith.

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**9. To appoint all Town Council Members to Whitworth Town Council's General Purposes Committee.**

It was resolved that all Members be appointed to the General Purposes Committee. This was moved by Cllr Butterworth and seconded by Cllr Chorlton.

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**10. To appoint new members onto the Farrow Hoyle Committee.**

It was resolved that Councillors Kim Blezard, Louise Burton, Julie Greenwood and Michael Whitworth be appointed to the Farrow Hoyle Committee. This was moved by Cllr Rhodes and seconded by Cllr Ritson.

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**11. To appoint representatives and delegates to committees.**

It was resolved that the following Councillors be appointed to the relevant organisations:

**The other committees are then proposed en bloc**

**Grievance Committee:** Cllrs Blezard, Greenwood, Neal

**Appeals Committee:** Cllrs Chorlton, Rhodes, Smith

**Finances Monitoring Comm:** The Mayor plus Cllrs Ritson, Greenwood and Neal

**Tourism & Leisure Committee:** Cllrs Blezard, Burton, Chorlton, Ritson and Whitworth

**Farrow Hoyle Committee:** Cllrs Blezard, Burton, Greenwood and Whitworth

**Environment and Wildlife working group:** Cllrs Butterworth, Greenwood, Rhodes and Whitworth

**Personnel working group (clerk's appraisal):** The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllrs Blezard and Whitworth

**Hallfold Conservation working group:** Cllrs Chorlton, Blezard, Rhodes and Whitworth

**Spodden Valley Revealed working group:** Cllrs Chorlton, Rhodes and Whitworth

**Local Government Reorganization working group:** Cllrs Blezard, Chorlton, Smith and Whitworth

**Outside Bodies:**

<b>Burnley Area LALC:</b>	Cllrs Smith and Whitworth
<b>RBC Standards Committee:</b>	Cllrs Ritson and Smith
<b>Healey Dell Man. Comm:</b>	Cllrs Butterworth and Greenwood
<b>Rochdale A.E. &amp; Parish Trust:</b>	Cllr Butterworth
<b>Whitworth Community Partnership:</b>	Cllrs Greenwood and Rhodes
<b>Whitworth Sports Council:</b>	Cllrs Blezard and Whitworth
<b>Whitworth Flood Forum:</b>	Cllrs Ritson, Smith and Whitworth
<b>Multi-agency Meetings:</b>	Cllrs Greenwood and Neal
<b>Crook Hill Funding Panel:</b>	Cllr Neal and the Town Clerk
<b>Rossendale Connected:</b>	Cllr Greenwood
<b>Whitworth in Bloom:</b>	Cllrs Butterworth, Smith and Rhodes
<b>Named member to work closely with Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC and report back to Whitworth Town Council:</b>	Cllr Blezard

This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Blezard.

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**12. To confirm the dates, time and place of meetings of the Council for the Municipal Year 2026/2027.**

It was resolved that the dates, times and place of meetings of the Council for the Municipal Year 2026/2027, as presented to the Council, be approved and adopted. This was moved by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Marshall.

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**13. To discuss a grant application from St Bartholomew's Primary School**

It was resolved that the grant application from St Bartholomew's Primary School be approved. This was moved by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Rhodes. Cllr Blezard abstained from the vote.

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**14. To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to lay before the Council.**

The Mayor addressed those in attendance, stating what an honour it is to be Mayor of Whitworth. She spoke about her next-door neighbour inspiring her to become a councillor. The Mayor confirmed that she is very much looking forward to the year ahead and would be raising funds for Whitworth causes throughout the year. The Mayor offered thanks to her fellow councillors, town council staff and thanked the Mayor and her consorts for their hard work over the previous year.

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**15. To answer questions from Councillors.**

None were put.

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**16. Public Question Time (Standing Order 68).**

None.

***The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7:56 pm, and invited all present to join her, and her family and friends for light refreshments.***