

Minutes of the Meeting of

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on

THURSDAY 16th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor M Royds

Councillors

Councillor R A Neal

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor M Whitworth

Councillor K Olaolu

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor J Whitehead

Councillor G Baron

Councillor Robbie Blezard

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

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

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

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting by Cllrs Burton and Powell who were unwell.

1. To receive any Declarations of interest.

None.

### To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2023, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2023, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, 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 Whitworth.

### Public Question Time.

A member of the public submitted a question prior to the meeting. She asked for an update on Whitworth Police Station and it’s opening hours. Cllr Royds explained that the Police Room at Whitworth is not a manned police station and that Lancs Constabulary does put out communications with times that residents can attend with any issues that they have. He also commented on Lancashire Constabulary’s limited resources at present.

A member of the public asked if there had been an objection to the cattle grid on Whitworth Rake. Cllr Royds informed those present that a resident had informed their council of their views, but that work would be going ahead on Monday as planned. Cllr Neal stated that he wanted to pay credit to Cllr Olaolu and to thank both the Mayor and the Clerk for their work done on this issue. He also thanked RBC for their contribution towards the cost of the project. Cllr Neal stated that he would be happy to discuss the resident’s concerns with her. Cllr Royds then asked the members of the public present if they were in favour of the works going ahead. All confirmed that they were.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the fencing at the picnic area near Lobden Golf Club. Cllr Olaolu explained that this project was discussed at a recent finance meeting and will be in the budget for next year.

### Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

1. 2023/*0476 55 Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth, OL12 8SS - Householder – Single storey side extension with front and rear dormers and balcony to the front of the new extension.*

It was resolved that council have no objections to this planning application. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Baron.

1. *2023/0495 1A Stoneyroyd, Whitworth, OL12 8JL – Householder - Re-submission of Planning Application 2023/0307 for Change of Use of land to residential garden and the erection of a Garden Room.*

It was resolved that council have no objections to this planning application. This was moved by Cllr Olaolu and seconded by Cllr Whitehead.

1. *2023/0506 7 Westgate, Whitworth, OL12 8UW – Householder - Two Storey side extension with single storey extension front and rear, plus Loft Conversion with rear dormer.*

It was resolved that council have no objections to this planning application. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Blezard.

1. To consider supporting the Climate and Ecology Bill.

It was resolved that council support the Climate and Ecology Bill. This was moved by Councillor Olaolu and seconded by Councillor Neal.

1. To discuss signing up as a plant-based council.

This item was postponed for discussion at a later date as a representative was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

1. To consider writing to the County Councillor and the LCC Highways about the poor service Whitworth receives from LCC Highways and all traffic management companies when any road works are taking place.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that councillors will contact Councillor Royds with their thoughts on the matter and he will then draft a letter to the appropriate organisations and representatives.

1. To receive and note the Minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 9 November 2023.

It was resolved that council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 9 November 2023. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Olaolu.

1. To consider the recommendations of the Finance Monitoring Committee for a phone and internet contract.

It was resolved that council accept the recommendations of the Finance Monitoring Committee for a new phone and internet contract with Talk Talk. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

1. To consider the recommendations of the Finance Monitoring Committee regarding staff Christmas bonuses.

It was resolved that council move this item to the end of the agenda to be discussed to the exclusion of press and public. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Neal.

1. To consider a donation to Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC.

Councillor Whitehead thanked the group of volunteers who were taking on this project and Councillor Neal stated that the transfer is going through the legal process at present. It was resolved that council move this item to the end of the agenda to be discussed to the exclusion of the press and public. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

1. To receive suggestions from members regarding projects to consider for the financial year 2024-2025.

It was resolved that any member should contact the clerk with suggestions for proposed projects to be included in the budget for 2024-2025.

1. 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 £50 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 Olaolu.

1. 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 £75 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 Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Neal.

### To nominate two councillors to be representatives for older persons and younger persons for the Rural Market Town Group.

### It was resolved that Councillor Olaolu be appointed the representative for older persons and Councillor Blezard be appointed the representative for younger persons for the Rural town Market Group. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

### To receive the report of the Town Mayor.

The Mayor reported that he and his Mayoress continue to enjoy the many events that they attend. They had recently attended the opening of a new local hardware shop. He was pleased to see so many smiling faces at his Business and Community Awards and had a very enjoyable experience throughout the whole process. He also reported that he had the pleasure of attending an awards ceremony by Dansworks Dance academy and thoroughly enjoyed the presentation by some very talented youngsters. He reported that he had also attended a Whitworth Community High School awards night, and a remembrance service in Blackburn that he attended alongside 15 other Mayors from across Lancashire. Finally, he expressed what an honour it had been to be involved in Whitworth’s own Remembrance Sunday commemorations and thanked everyone involved in organising the service. He also thanked Councillor Chorlton and his volunteers for assisting with the road closure.

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

Cllr Neal asked the Chairman if he could approach the bench and presented him with letters from residents of Tonacliffe Road concerning speeding vehicles in that area. Cllr Neal requested that an item be placed on January’s agenda to request a face-to-face meeting regarding these concerns. Cllr Royds stated that he would be happy for this agenda item to be discussed and informed members that he has undergone the training to use the speed guns and is awaiting sufficient police resources to accompany him in using one.

Cllr Whitehead asked if council would consider moving council meetings to earlier in the evening in the winter. Cllr Royds stated that this will be placed as an item on the next agenda for discussion.

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

Cllr Neal reported that he has been invited to the House of Lords in late November to discuss Town and Parish Councils.

Cllr Chorlton reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee will be out selling ducks on Friday night. He reported that Remembrance Sunday went very well. The Committee have upcoming events including the Santa Express and the Duck Race.

Cllr Whitworth reported that he had attend the flood forum the previous week and they had discussed the problems along Tong Lane and its gutter. LCC stated that they cleared them out regularly. He also stated that the areas at Sandbank Gardens and the bottom of Wallbank were areas of particular concern and this has been brought to LCC’s attention. He stated that there was a concern that trucks were not being washed down prior to leaving the quarry and this was adding to the problem of blockages. Cllr Whitworth also reported that Whitworth Playgroup’s AGM has been postponed and will report back from this in due course.

Cllr Royds reported that he had attended the open day at Whitworth Museum and considered it to be a fantastic resource in the town.

1. 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 Olaolu.

### To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 7, 2023-2024.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 7, 2023-2024 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payable. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

1. 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.

\*\*\* Members of the public left the chamber \*\*\*

1. To consider the recommendations of the Finance Monitoring Committee regarding staff Christmas bonuses.

It was resolved that council agree with the recommendations of the Finance Monitoring Committee and award a Christmas bonus of £150 each to the three current staff members. £150 would also be paid to John Leyland, former Parish lengthsman, for his assistance throughout the year.

1. To consider a donation to Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC.

It was resolved that council donate £600 to Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.