



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
THURSDAY 16th January 2025 at
7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillors

Councillor Aldred

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Neal

Councillor Olaolu

Councillor Royds

Councillor Whitehead

Councillor Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Administrative assistant: Miss K Turner

1 member of public was present; no members of the press were present.

164. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Baron, Burton and Powell due to work commitments and Councillor Smith due to a family emergency.

165. To receive any Declarations of interest.

None.

166. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2024, 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 19th December 2024, 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.

167. Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked if Whitworth Town Council would comment on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report submitted to Rossendale Borough Council by Cubico. Councillors discussed this and agreed to submit individual comments on the report.

168. Planning Applications for consideration and comment

2024/0482 House O Th Hill, Hall Fold, Whitworth, Rossendale OL12 8XL. Proposal: Householder: First floor side extension above existing domestic attached garage.

It was resolved that Council wish to ask RBC planning officers to conduct a site visit to the property due to it being in the Green Belt. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

169. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on the 9th January 2025.

It was resolved to receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on the 9th January 2025. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds. Councillor Neal thanked the clerk and members of the Finance Monitoring Committee for putting a lot of time into the reports.

170. To receive and note the nine-month outturn.

It was resolved that Council accepted the nine-month outturn. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Royds.

171. To receive, and if appropriate accept, the planned budget for the 2025-2026 financial year.

It was resolved that Council receive and accept the planned budget for the 2025-2026 financial year. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead. Councillor Neal thanked the clerk and members of the FMC for their hard work in planning the budget.

172. To set the Precept upon the rating authority (Rossendale Borough Council) for the financial year 2025/2026.

It was resolved that Council levies on Rossendale Borough Council a precept for the financial year 2025/2026 to the sum of £80,082. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

173. To discuss recent flooding in Whitworth.

Councillor Neal placed on record his thanks to Councillor Whitehead and reported three recent flooding incidents in the area. Councillor Whitehead reported that RBC and Farrow Hoyle are assisting with flood prevention barriers for doors for some affected properties. Councillor Whitworth also reported on properties in Shawforth which had been seriously affected recently.

It was resolved that Council apply to the Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund for flood defences for Whitworth. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

174. To discuss commenting on a Government Consultation: 'Strengthening The Standards and Conduct Framework For Local Authorities in England'.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that councillors will respond to the consultation individually. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

175. To receive the report of the Town Mayor.

The Mayor submitted a written report in his absence. He reported that he was pleased with the proactive gritting of the primary routes and reiterated that grit bins are provided for the community to use themselves. He also reported that the Love Clean Streets app should be used for reporting grit bins that need refilling and Ward Councillors should help those that cannot use the app. The Mayor also reported that the 2nd part of the Scout Moor II consultation is approaching in February/March and reiterated the need to listen to the public sentiment and attend any upcoming public sessions.

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

Councillor Whitehead reported a comment from Facebook stating that Whitworth's footpaths look horrendous. The clerk responded that she would contact RBC to request the footpaths be cleaned, reminding councillors that this had not been able to be done recently due to the snow and ice.

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

Councillor Royds reported that the TLC had recently held their Santa Express and Duck Race events. He reported that the adverse weather had affected both events, but the children still

appeared to enjoy seeing Santa and the Duck Race raised a lot of money for future events. He thanked the hard-working volunteers, without whom these events would not be possible.

178. 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 Royds and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

179. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 11, 2024-2025.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 11, 2024-2025 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedules of Accounts payable. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

180. 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 8.25pm.