



Present

Chairman

Councillor G Baron

Councillors

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor L Burton

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor A Neal

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillor M Royds

Councillor S Smith (from minute number 96)

Councillor J Whitehead

Councillor M Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

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

94. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Olaolu who was unwell and Councillor Powell due to work commitments.

95. To receive any Declarations of interest.

None.

96. To consider co-opting a member onto the vacant town council seat

A secret ballot was carried out. It was resolved that Council co-opt Scott Smith as a Councillor for the Healey and Whitworth Ward. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Rhodes. Councillor Baron thanked both applicants for their impressive applications.

97. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 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 September 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 Royds and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

98. Public Question Time.

A resident explained that she wanted to bring to council's attention an increasing frequency of road accidents in Shawforth. Councillor Baron reported that recent meeting had been held regarding this with Andy MacNae, MP for Rossendale and Darwen. Prior to the meeting, Councillor Baron had collated residents' thoughts and opinions on the matter and reported that our MP had raised this subject after the meeting in the House of Commons. Councillor Neal reported that he will be raising this issue at an upcoming LALC conference. Councillor Smith reported that LCC set the speed limit but the police are responsible for the enforcement of it and that he would be pressing for more speed enforcement works.

99. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

- a) 2024/0012/TPO - Healey Dene, Healey Dell, Whitworth, OL12 6BG. Proposal: works to trees within A2 of TPO. 1974 (Healey Dell No.2 Whitworth, specifically fell three

The clerk informed council that this decision had been determined and so was not considered.

- b) 2024/0392 - 30 Lloyd Street Whitworth, OL12 8AG. LDC: Side dormer and internal alterations.

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

- c) 2024/0394 - 27 Bleacher Close, Whitworth, OL12 8WB. Proposal: Householder: Construction of a summer house/shed on a raised frame within the rear garden of the property.

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

100. To discuss the future of the Healey stone bus shelter.
Councillors discussed this and will continue to monitor any anti-social behaviour.
101. To consider WTC commenting on Rossendale Borough Council's Affordable Housing SPD.
Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Council support Rossendale Borough Council's Affordable Housing SPD and considered that that the empty homes across Whitworth could be put to better use and that key infrastructure needs to be in place to support any additional housing.
102. To consider WTC commenting on Rossendale Borough Council's Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD.
Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Council support Rossendale Borough Council's Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD but added that additional funding should be spent on Whitworth's facilities to compensate for Whitworth taxpayers' money which is used to fund other sites across Rossendale. It was also resolved that an invitation be sent to RBC's CEO and Leader of the Council regarding this. These was moved by Councillor Neal and Councillor Whitehead.
103. To discuss the lack of grounds maintenance in Whitworth.
Councillors discussed various issues regarding grounds maintenance across Whitworth. Councillor Baron stated that he would contact RBC regarding the issues raised by fellow councillors.
104. To receive the report of the Town Mayor.
The Mayor reported that yesterday he had the pleasure of opening Panchi Whitworth. He also reported that a recent meeting had taken place with Andy MacNae (MP for Rossendale and Darwen). He reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner had also been due to attend but unfortunately had had to cancel his attendance at short notice. Councillor Baron reported that both will be invited back in six months' time to report back on items discussed. Councillor Baron also reported that he was looking forward to the upcoming Remembrance Sunday and Carol Service.
The Mayor also reported that Councillor Kim had been unwell recently and wished her all the best. He stated that she was a tireless worker but was now taking a leave of absence to recover.
105. The Chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors (Standing Orders 16 & 24 – 27, for information only).
Councillor Neal asked the Chairman if Council would like him to take a gift to present to the new Burgermeister of Kandel. Councillor Baron replied that he would be pleased for Councillor Neal to do this.
106. To receive reports from delegates and representatives to outside organisations (for information only).
Councillor Royds reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee (TLC) had held another popular First Aid course and will be holding another in approximately 6 months. The TLC continue to plan their Christmas events, and he gave thanks to Cllr Chorlton for his previous organising of these events. Councillor Whitehead gave an update on Whitworth Leisure Centre.
Councillor Royds reported that the Environment and Wildlife Committee had held their second meeting.
107. 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 Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.
108. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 7, 2024-2025.
The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 7, 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.
It was resolved that the next two agenda items be discussed to the exclusion of press and public. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.
*** members of the public left the chamber ***
109. To elect a person to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2024/2025.
Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Councillor Sarah-Rose Rhodes be elected to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2024/2025. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

110. To discuss the recruitment of an additional administrative member of staff at Whitworth Town Council.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that the position of an additional administrative member of staff is approved. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

It was resolved to allow press and public to return to the chamber. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.

*** members of the public returned to the chamber ***

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 9.15pm.