



# Whitworth Town Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm in the council chamber

### Present

#### Chairman

Councillor G Baron

#### Councillors

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor L Burton

Councillor A Neal

Councillor K Olaolu

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillor M Royds

Councillor J Whitehead

**Clerk of the Council:** Miss R Hodson

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

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Whitworth who was on holiday and Councillor Chorlton who could not attend due to work commitments.

### 18. To receive any Declarations of interest.

None.

### 19. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 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 16<sup>th</sup> May 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 Whitehead.

### 20. Public Question Time.

A representative from a local business stated that they had attended council to answer any questions that councillors have regarding their business. Councillor Neal stated that he had contacted Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) to check that appropriate permissions and licences had been applied for. Councillor Whitehead responded that RBC had confirmed that no change of use was required for the business. The representative confirmed that there was no change in business use for the property, and that customers would be directed to local car parks and that the storage of deceased persons and any vehicles would be at a different facility.

### 21. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

*a) 2024/0200 63 Longacres Drive, Whitworth, Rossendale, OL12 8QX - Householder: Conversion of garage to extended existing kitchen, new porch extension, extend pitched roof over existing flat roof with front and rear dormers.*

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

*b) 2024/0182 Change of use to HMO - Whitworth Working Mens Club, 273 - 277 Market Street, Whitworth, Rossendale, OL12 8PW.*

It was resolved that Council object to this planning application on the grounds of lack of parking, highway safety concerns, inappropriate location for the development and concerns for local vulnerable people. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.

c) *2024/0242 Birchcliffe, Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 8SJ - Householder: Proposed extension to the rear of the dwelling consisting of additional living space at ground floor level and within the roof space at first floor level.*

It was resolved that Council support this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.

**22. To discuss the remainder of the Landgate proceeds received from Rossendale Borough Council.**

It was resolved that Council defer this decision to the next Finance Monitoring Committee meeting who will then make a recommendation to Full Council. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

**23. To discuss the installation of a Letters to Heaven mailbox at Whitworth Cemetery.**

It was resolved that council support the installation of a Letters to Heaven mailbox. This was moved by Councillor Olaolu and seconded by Councillor Burton.

**24. To discuss creating an Environment and Wildlife Committee.**

It was resolved that an Environment and Wildlife Committee of Whitworth Town Council be created with Councillors Olaolu, Rhodes, Royds and Whitworth being appointed onto the Committee. This was moved by Councillor Olaolu and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.

**25. To discuss awarding a trophy at Samba Dance's annual awards.**

It was resolved that the Mayor of Whitworth will award a trophy on behalf of Whitworth Town Council at Samba Dance's annual December awards. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.

**26. To consider joining the Public Rights of way delivery scheme and the Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme for 2024/2025.**

It was resolved that Council join the Public Rights of Way Delivery Scheme and the Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme for 2024/2025. This was moved by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

**27. To consider commenting on Rossendale Borough Council's revised version of its Valuation Checklist documentation.**

It was resolved that Council comment on Rossendale Borough Council's revised version of its Valuation Checklist documentation and state that Town and Parish Councils and Borough Councillors should receive notification of all planning applications, including certificates of lawfulness.

**28. To discuss supporting a campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries and their disposal.**

It was resolved that Council support a campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries and their disposal. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

**29. To consider a donation application from Whitworth Valley Football Club.**

Councillors discussed this and other funding options were suggested. Councillors recommended applications to other organisations and for Whitworth Valley Football Club to return if there was a shortfall in funds awarded.

**30. To discuss the potential closure of Shawforth Chapel.**

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Council note the comments from councillors this evening. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

**31. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 9th May 2024.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were received and noted. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.

**32. To discuss approving the use of a prepayment card for Farrow Hoyle Charitable Trust purchases.**

It was resolved that Council approve the use of a prepayment card for Farrow Hoyle Charitable Trust with a recommendation of a £500 balance used. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

**33. To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2023-2024 (attached).**

It was resolved that the Annual Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2023-24 was received and noted. This was resolved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

**34. To adopt and approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2023-2024 (attached).**

It was resolved that Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2023-2024 was adopted and approved. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.

**35. To adopt and approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2023-2024 (attached).**

It was resolved that section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2023-2024 was adopted and approved. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.

**36. To receive the report of the Town Mayor.**

The Mayor reported that he was loving being Mayor and was pleased how supportive the general public had been. He reported that he continues to work hard as a councillor and was pleased how dedicated his fellow councillors are to Whitworth. He reported that he has lots of visits coming up and that his current main focus is to help raise money for the talented youngsters who train at Valley Thai Boxing to enable them to compete abroad.

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

Councillor Neal asked if he should name the individual who he believes has damaged a drain near the cattle grid on Whitworth Rake. The Chairman responded that without evidence, no names should be stated. Councillor Neal also asked the Chairman is he was aware that Whitworth residents could apply to Rochdale Ancient and Parish Educational Trust. Councillor Baron responded that yes, he was aware and that applications were currently being submitted.

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

Councillor Olaolu updated members that RBC have approved repairs to works on the chapel at Whitworth Cemetery. Councillor Whitehead reported that the members of Whitworth In Bloom had been working hard with recent planting and appealed for any volunteers who wanted to join them to get in touch.

Councillor Burton stated that she continues to report illegal off road motor bikes travelling up Whitworth Rake and reported that 30 of them had recently been witnessed driving up towards the moors. Councillor Baron stated that the what 3 words app was particularly useful to the police when reports are made in identifying specific locations of incidents.

**39. 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.

**40. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 1,2 and 3 2024-2025.**

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 1, 2 and 3 2024-2025 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedules of Accounts payable. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

**41. 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.