



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on
THURSDAY 19th December 2024 at
7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor G Baron

Councillors

Councillor Aldred

Councillor Burton

Councillor Chorlton

Councillor Neal

Councillor Rhodes

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Councillor Royds

Councillor Smith

Councillor Whitehead

Councillor Whitworth

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

148. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Powell due to a prior commitment and Councillor Olaolu who was unwell.

149. To receive any Declarations of interest.

Councillors Aldred and Neal declared a personal interest in agenda item 6

150. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 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 21st November 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.

151. Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked if members of Whitworth Town Council are for or against the proposed wind farm by Cubico. Councillor Baron reported on a previous resolution by the Town Council and each member of the Council gave their current personal opinions.

A member of the public asked about the stop notice at Albert Mill. Councillor Neal reported that RBC are awaiting a decision from the Planning Inspectorate and the courts. Councillor Baron stated that he felt that Whitworth Town Council should reach out to get an answer on this and that he was happy to take this on.

152. Planning Applications for consideration and comment

None.

153. To discuss a budget request from the Town Twinning Committee.

It was resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the audience to speak. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith. A member of the Town Twinning Committee gave some history regarding the Town Twinning Committee and requested that monies be allocated in the 2025-2026 budget for future twinning visits. It was resolved to reinstate Standing Orders. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Smith.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Whitworth Town Council in principle support the Town Twinning Committee but there will not be a fixed amount allocated to them in the 2025-2025 budget. The Town Twinning Committee will be encouraged to apply for an in-year donation from Whitworth Town Council, following the same process as other community organisations. This was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Royds.

154. To receive and note the draft meeting schedule for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

Councillor Chorlton requested an amendment to add in an extra General Purposes Committee meeting on 5th March 2026. It was resolved that Council accept the amended draft meeting schedule for the 2025/2026 municipal year. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

155. To receive and note the amended meeting schedule for the 2024/2025 municipal year.

It was resolved that Council accept the amended meeting schedule for the 2024/2025 municipal year. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Smith.

156. To consider appointing a new Honorary Townsman.

Councillor Whitehead explained her reasons for nominating Arnold Ashworth to be an Honorary Townsman of Whitworth. Councillors unanimously accepted the nomination. It was resolved that Arnold Ashworth be appointed an Honorary Townsman of Whitworth. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

157. To consider appointing additional members on to the Environment and Wildlife Committee.

It was resolved that Councillor Whitehead be appointed an additional member of the Environment and Wildlife Committee. This was moved by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Royds.

158. To receive the report of the Town Mayor.

The Mayor reported that his inbox had been busy due to the recent flooding in the area and that he shared the frustrations of local residents. He also reported that had recently had several pleasant visits including Stronger Together's Christmas party and reported that WTC's recent donation to Whitworth Playgroup had already been used to buy specialist play equipment. He wished everyone a merry Christmas.

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

Councillor Rhodes reported that Hebden Bridge have a Christmas tractor run and asked if such an event would be possible in Rossendale. Councillor Baron suggested that this could be put on a future Tourism and Leisure Committee (TLC) agenda.

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

Councillor Neal reported that in February there is a two-day NALC conference. Councillors reported on a successful Christmas Craft event hosted by the TLC and upcoming Santa Express and Duck Race events.

161. 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 Whitworth.

162. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 10, 2024-2025.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 10, 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 Rhodes.

163. 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 9pm.