



### Present

Chairman

Councillor G Baron

### Councillors

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor L Burton

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor A Neal

Councillor D Powell

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillor M Royds

Councillor J Whitehead

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

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

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Whitworth who was on a training course and Councillor Olaolu who was unwell.

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

Councillor Neal declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda items 9 and 10.

### 76. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 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 18<sup>th</sup> July 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 Royds.

### 77. Public Question Time.

None.

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

#### a) 2024/0320 – 5 Westgate, Whitworth, Rossendale, OL12 8UW. Householder: Addition of a single storey outbuilding and creation of two off-street parking places.

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

### 79. To consider commenting on a planning appeal reference APP/B2355/W/24/3348457 against a planning decision taken by Rossendale Borough Council in relation to Hodge Hill Nook Farm Whitworth Rake Whitworth Rossendale OL12 8XJ.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Council support the decision of RBC's planning department. This was moved by Councillor Neal and Councillor Whitehead.

### 80. To appoint representatives and delegates on the following committees and outside representation; Appeals Committee, Tourism and Leisure Committee and Whitworth Sports Council.

It was resolved that Councillor Rhodes be appointed on to the Appeals Committee, Councillors Burton and Powell be appointed on to the Tourism and Leisure Committee and Councillor Powell be appointed on to Whitworth Sports Council. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

### 81. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting Tuesday 17th September 2024.

It was resolved that council move this item to the end of the agenda. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Powell.

### 82. To consider appointing a new Honorary Townsman of Whitworth.

It was resolved that council move this item to the end of the agenda. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Powell.

83. To consider Whitworth Town Council applying to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Fund.

It was resolved that Councillor Whitehead will apply on behalf of the Town Council. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

84. To receive and comment on a safety measures report on Tonacliffe Road produced by Councillor Mike Royds.

Councillors Royds presented the report to councillors and councillors discussed the report.

85. To approve and accept the annual return as audited by the external auditors.

It was resolved that Council approve and accept the annual return as audited by the external auditors. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds. Councillor Neal requested that thanks be given to the external auditor and the clerk for their hard work on this.

86. To receive the report of the Town Mayor.

The Mayor reported that he had been quite busy planning the Mayor's Ball, which is due to be held in October. He reported that he had been overwhelmed with nice news stories and nominations for the awards and that every nominee will receive a handwritten letter of thanks from the Mayor. He thanked councillors for all their support since he became Mayor. He also said how much he was looking forward to the upcoming meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the MP for Rossendale and Darwen with regard to highway safety concerns in Whitworth.

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

Councillor Whitehead asked when the stone bus shelter will reopen again. Councillor Baron responded that he had already had a discussion about this with the clerk, and it will reopen in early October. He reported that the situation will be monitored after it is reopened. Councillor Baron also reported that the stone bus shelter will be added as an additional agenda item at the next council meeting to allow all councillors to comment on this.

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

Councillor Neal gave an update on the National Association of Local Councils.

Councillor Royds reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee (TLC) are planning their Christmas events and thanked two members of the TLC for spending a day in the council chamber checking ducks the previous week.

Councillor Whitehead gave an update on Whitworth Leisure Centre.

89. 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 Powell.

90. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 6, 2024-2025.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 6, 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 Whitehead.

91. 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.

It was resolved to exclude the press and public from the remaining agenda items. This was moved by Councillor Royds and seconded by Councillor Powell.

\*\*\* Councillor Neal left the chamber \*\*\*

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

92. To consider appointing a new Honorary Townsman of Whitworth

Councillor Aldred explained his reasons for nominating Councillor Neal to be an Honorary Townsman of Whitworth. He cited his 37 years of service on Whitworth Town Council as well as his many years representing Whitworth on Rossendale Borough Council and his recent representation on the National Association of Local Councils.

Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the nomination. It was resolved that Councillor Neal be appointed an Honorary Townsman of Whitworth. This was moved by Councillor Aldred and seconded by Councillor Powell.

93. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting Tuesday 17th September 2024.

It was resolved that Council receive and noted the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee and accepted the recommendation of the committee for the budget for Honorary Townsman expenses. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

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

\*\*\* Councillor Neal returned to the chamber \*\*\*

\*\*\* Members of the public returned to the chamber \*\*\*

Councillor Neal read out a personal statement and expressed his gratitude to Whitworth Town Councillors for bestowing the honour of becoming an Honorary Townsman upon him.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.