



Whitworth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 21st March 2024 at 7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor M Royds

Councillors

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor G Baron

Councillor L Burton

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor A Neal

Councillor K Olaolu

Councillor D Powell

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillor J Whitehead

Councillor M Whitworth

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

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

217. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting by Councillor Blezard who was working.

218. To receive any Declarations of interest.

None.

219. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 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 22nd February 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

220. Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked if members of Whitworth Town Council had been communicating with the senior police authorities with regard to the lack of policing in Whitworth. Councillor Neal reported that three weeks ago himself and Councillor Royds had attended a conference in Blackpool with the police. Councillor Powell stated that the state of policing across the country is appalling and that he felt that the police in Lancashire are doing the best that they can and suggested writing to the local MP to urge an increase in the police's budget from central government. Councillor Olaolu updated the resident on her communications with Andrew Snowden and Andy Pratt and explained that she is a member of the Off-Road Motorcycle Group and is continuing to apply pressure for more policing with regards to this. Councillor Royds explained that he had attended at Police Headquarters and there is a lack of reports to the police. A member of the public suggested that the police need to assist with reporting and stated problems they had had with reporting via 101. Councillor Royds will contact the member of the public regarding this. Councillor Powell suggested that if a crime is taking place, 999 should be phoned. Councillor Neal thanked the member of the public for raising these issues. Councillor Royds agreed that a letter could be sent regarding this from Whitworth Town Council to the PCC. Councillor Neal reported that he would ask the Chief Executive of RBC regarding this.

221. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

- a) *2024/0078 55 Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth, OL12 8SS – single storey bungalow extensions with front and rear dormers with balcony to the front of the new extension.*

Cllr Royds explained that this planning application had been withdrawn and so would not be discussed this evening.

- b) *2024/0046 The Offices, Peel Mill, Market St, Shawforth, OL12 8HN – replacement windows and insertion of new window openings*

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

- c) *2024/0048 12 Wallbank Drive, Whitworth, OL12 8TZ – rear dormer extension, with a hung tile finish*

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

- d) *2024/0059 42 Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth, OL12 8SS –demolition of domestic outbuilding and construction of a detached dwelling*

Councillor Neal stated that any building works should be done in natural stone and that the access should be from the existing access point. It was resolved that Council support this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

- e) *2024/0064 9 Oak Close, Shawforth, OL12 8NJ – erection of double full width dormers to both sides and front porch*

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

222. To discuss Highways concerns in Whitworth.

It was resolved that council suspend standing orders to allow County Councillor Scott Smith to speak. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Powell.

County Councillor Scott Smith updated members on numerous Highways concerns including the safety concerns at Broadley, the condition of roads, grit bins, road markings, traffic management, dropped kerbs, road resurfacing and the Love Clean Streets app.

It was resolved that council reinstate standing orders. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Powell. Councillor Royds thanked Councillor Scott Smith for his attendance and the information provided this evening.

223. To nominate a Deputy Mayor of Whitworth for the 2024/2025 municipal year.

It was resolved that Councillor Olaolu be nominated as Deputy Mayor of Whitworth for the 2024/2025 municipal year. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

224. To discuss creating a Whitworth Wildlife Committee.

Councillors discussed this and agreed to defer this item to a later meeting.

225. To review, and if appropriate change, the trustees of Farrow Hoyle Charitable Trust.

The clerk read a statement from a current trustee of Farrow Hoyle Charitable Trust who was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Neal asked that it be placed on record the council's kind thanks to Mrs Madeline De Souza for her outstanding contribution to those less fortunate. It was resolved that Council appoint Councillor Louise Burton as a trustee of Farrow Hoyle Charitable trust from May 2024. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

226. To discuss Farrow Hoyle Charitable Trust.

Councillors discussed Farrow Hoyle Charitable Trust. The clerk was requested to check GDPR regulations regarding applicants' bank statements.

227. To discuss the proposed works planned at Whitworth Cemetery.

It was resolved that Council approve the proposed works planned at Whitworth Cemetery. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

228. To discuss a donation application from Friends of Whitworth Library.

It was resolved that Council approve a £50 donation to Friends of Whitworth Library and in the future that any applicants make a business case for approval to the Finance Monitoring Committee, who then report back to Full Council. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

229. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee

It was resolved that Council reviewed and noted the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

230. To review the quotes for PCSO vehicle.

It was resolved that Council move this item to the end of the agenda and discuss it to the exclusion of the press and public. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

231. To discuss a contribution from Rossendale Borough Council regarding the sale of Landgate in 2012.

It was resolved that Council move this item to the end of the agenda and discuss it to the exclusion of the press and public. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Baron.

232. To decide on the recipients of the 2024 Dr Alan Morris Award and Mayor of Whitworth's Young Achiever Award.

It was resolved that Council move this item to the end of the agenda and discuss it to the exclusion of the press and public. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Baron.

233. To discuss membership of the Rural Market Town Group for 2024/2025

It was resolved that Council decline the invitation to be a member of the Rural Market Town Group for 2024/2025. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

234. To receive the report of the Town Mayor.

The Mayor reported that he had attended a few useful meetings in recent weeks including the Business Crime Conference in Blackpool where he had the chance to speak to Andy Pratt in person; a training session at Police HQ Hutton regarding the Community Road Watch programme; a Healey Dell walkthrough with other councillors, an officer from RBC and the RMBC Ranger; and finally a CCLA Property fund meeting.

He also stated that he would be attending the Mayor of Rossendale's Charity evening tomorrow, Whitworth Playgroup next week and reminded everyone present of the upcoming Mayor's Spring Party on 27th of April. He also stated that his year of office was sadly coming to an end and that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve and represent Whitworth throughout the year.

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

Cllr Neal asked if the Mayor thought it was unhelpful for a beneficiary of the replacement cattle grid to make inappropriate comments at a Rossendale Borough Council meeting. The Mayor considered that Rossendale was a separate council to Whitworth Town Council but considered that an individual received the same answers at the RBC meeting that they had received at a previous Whitworth Town Council meeting.

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

Cllr Olaolu reported that 420 trees had been planted at Waingap Woods and that she was meeting Ian and the Lengthsman regarding protecting these. She also reported that she had done a recce before the Healey Dell Management Committee and was disappointed that fly tipping hadn't been cleared. She informed members that she is meeting an officer from RBC there to discuss this. She also reported that an abundance of wildflowers had been lost from Healey Dell due to the installation of the play area.

Cllr Chorlton reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee were working on their plans for the upcoming year and that a D Day afternoon tea event is planned for 9th June.

Cllr Neal reported that NALC meet on the 16th of April, and he will ask about the imposition of standing charges from utility companies.

237. 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.

238. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 12, 2023-2024.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 12, 2023-2024 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payable. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.

Councillor Powell left the meeting.

239. 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.

240. To review the quotes for PCSO vehicle

It was resolved that Council take out a new lease for the community vehicle as per the 36-month quote provided by RRG and that, prior to the new lease's renewal expiring, a police representative meet with Whitworth Town Council to discuss the vehicle.

241. To discuss a contribution from Rossendale Borough Council regarding the sale of Landgate in 2012

It was resolved that Whitworth Town Council pledge and transfer £45,000 to Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC for the works to renovate the learner pool area. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Baron.

242. To decide on the recipients of the 2024 Dr Alan Morris Award and Mayor of Whitworth's Young Achiever Award.

The details of this decision will be redacted until after the awards presentation on 9th May.

It was resolved that the recipients of the 2024 Dr Alan Morris Award [REDACTED], and the recipients of the Mayor of Whitworth's Young Achiever Award [REDACTED] This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm.