



**Minutes of the meeting of Whitworth Town Council's Environment and Wildlife Committee
held on Monday 13th April 2026, 7pm, Council Chamber**

1. Welcome

Attendees were welcomed by Councillor Rhodes to the meeting of this committee.

2. In attendance

WTC Councillor Sarah Rhodes (SR), Chair
WTC Councillor Julie Greenwood (JG) -
substituting for Councillor Janet Whitehead
WTC Councillor Mike Whitworth (MW)
Steve Haigh (SH) E&WC member
3 members of the public were present.

Sue Neilson (SN) E&WC member
Andrew Thorpe (AT) Farmer, Landowner and
Chair of the Commoners Association
Ian Wright (IW) Treescapes

Apologies: WTC Councillor Steve Butterworth, Kim Bradford E&WC member and Karen Cowley, Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society.

Minutes taken by Rachel Hodson (RH), Town Clerk.

**3. To consider the minutes of the EWC meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025,
and to approve them by the chairman as a correct record.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025, copies of which had been circulated to each member, were correct and should be approved by the signature of the chair of the committee. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.

**4. To consider the minutes of the EWC meeting held on Thursday 22nd January 2026,
and to approve them by the chairman as a correct record.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22nd January 2026, copies of which had been circulated to each member, were correct and should be approved by the signature of the chair of the committee. This was moved by Councillor Whitworth and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.

5. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting.

SN reported that United Utilities will now not be undertaking previously discussed repairs at Cowm Reservoir due to new health and safety rules.

6. Updates from members:

(i) Updates on local building works

SN enquired as to former councillor Gareth Baron's correspondence with the Environment Agency regarding Albert Mill. SR reported that she had been copied into these and will follow this up. There was a discussion between members regarding building works at Cowm reservoir.

(ii) Tree planting plans at Waingap

IW thanked members for the tree planting session on 31st January. There are plans for a further tree planting session on Saturday 25th April at 10 am.

(iii) Update on tree felling and replanting at Britannia

IW updated the committee that work has now been postponed until the first week in September as the Forestry Commission has extended the felling period to after the bird nesting season. IW

reiterated that there is still a legal obligation to fell the trees. IW reported that the plan is to restock after the felling and this will be done as soon as possible. Grant funding has been applied for, including boundary features.

(iv) Whitworth Quarry

SN reported that Marshals have ceased operations and a discussion ensued regarding the replacement operator.

(v) Update on Scout Moor 2 application

SN supplied an update on the Scout Moor 2 application.

(vi) Any other updates

SN supplied an update on the chapel at Whitworth Cemetery.

7. To discuss future educational presentations in local schools.

SR reported that this is still an ongoing discussion between members of the committee.

8. To discuss a proposed amendment to EWC Terms of Reference to specifically include the protection, conservation and appropriate enhancement of Whitworth's heritage assets, including listed buildings.

MW suggested that the proposed amendment might overburden the committee and suggested a working group be set up for this.

9. Any other business.

SR reported that she would like the committee to discuss a possibility of Sustainable Farming Initiative (SFI) funding at Waingap Woods and suggested it be added to the next meeting agenda. A member of the public requested an update at the next meeting regarding the orchard at Leavengreave, a lengthsman for Healey Dell and clearing out at Lower Cowm.

SN reported that as the next meeting will be in the 2026-2027 municipal year, a chair and vice chair of the committee will be elected.

SN reported that an application had been submitted for repairs required at the Mildred Crabtree Picnic Area.

SN asked a member of the public if they would write down their local knowledge regarding the history of Whitworth

10. Date and time for next meeting.

Monday 20th July, 7pm, WTC Council Chamber.

11. Thanks for attendance and close of meeting.

Attendees were thanked and the meeting closed at 8.35pm.