



Minutes of the meeting of Whitworth Town Council's Environment and Wildlife Committee held on Thursday 22nd January 2026, 7pm, Council Chamber

1. Welcome

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

2. In attendance

WTC Councillor Janet Whitehead (JW)

Steve Haigh (SH) E&WC member

Sue Neilson (SN) E&WC member

No members of the public were present.

Apologies: Ian Wright (IW), Treescapes and Karen Cowley, Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society.

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

Kim Olaolu (KO) E&WC member

Andrew Thorpe (AT) Farmer, Landowner and

Chair of the Commoners Association

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.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

4. Updates from members:

(i) Updates on local building works.

SN reported that she had raised issues regarding Albert Mill at Whitworth Town Council's recent Full Council meeting and had requested councillors request the Environment Agency to take soil, water and air samples at the site.

(ii) Tree planting plans at Waingap.

SN reported on IW's behalf regarding upcoming tree planting at Waingap Woods. SN reported that she had shared details of this on social media and JW has asked 41st Rochdale (Whitworth) Cubs to assist on the day. The committee discussed the plans for the day.

(iv) Picnic area and pond at back of Cowm Reservoir

SN reported that UU are unable to commit to any works in the area at this time. KO reported that she had been in communication with UU who unfortunately have no plans to put the water back in the area. JW suggested two organisations that may be able to assist with any works required there.

(vi) Any other updates.

SN reported on IW's behalf regarding the planned tree felling at Britannia. SN reported that plans continue for this and are at an advanced stage with contractors, however there is no confirmed date for commencement, for the reasons which have been shared previously. SN reported that she is preparing a grant application to replace the fencing at the Mildred Crabtree Picnic Area.

5. To discuss future educational presentations in local schools.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. Any other business.

KO reported on communications with RBC and Rossendale Civic Trust regarding the chapel buildings at Whitworth Cemetery.

SH reported that three chairs had been reupholstered and were now back in the chapel at Whitworth Cemetery.

7. Date and time for next meeting.

Those attending suggested meeting on Monday 13th April at 7pm in the Council Chamber at The Ashcroft. However, this date needs to be confirmed with Whitworth Town Councillors before confirming.

8. Thanks for attendance and close of meeting.

Attendees were thanked and the meeting closed at 7.30pm.