

**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Monitoring Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Whitworth Civic Hall on
Thursday 4th September 2025 at 7pm.**

Members Present:

Cllr Whitehead (Chair)

Cllr Neal

Cllr Greenwood

Cllr Chorlton

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Business Admin Apprentice: Miss A Luxton

No members of the public were present.

1. To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Aldred as he was unwell.

2. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2025, 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 Wednesday 9th July 2025, 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 Chorlton.

3. To discuss a quote obtained for the removal of bushes at the corner of Cowm Park Way and Tong Lane.

It was resolved that councillors agreed a recommendation to Full Council to accept the quote received for the planned work as they considered it to be good value for money. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

4. To discuss paying the Town Caretaker a Christmas bonus.

It was resolved that councillors agreed to recommend to Full Council that the Town Caretaker should be given a £175 Christmas bonus. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Greenwood.

5. To discuss LCC's Local Delivery Scheme/Biodiversity Grant.

The clerk reported that LCC have withdrawn the Local Delivery Scheme and Biodiversity Grant, meaning that WTC will no longer receive the expected £800 from LCC in the 2025-26 financial year. Councillors agreed to still support Whitworth in Bloom by maintaining the planned budget for Horticultural Projects at £1000. Councillors discussed issues with Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and decided that, going forward, the Parish Lengthsman will no longer maintain these on behalf of LCC, as Whitworth Town Council no longer receive any contribution from LCC to assist with this. Instead, the clerk will report any PRoW issues directly to LCC and encourage local residents to do the same. Councillors requested that the Lengthsman produce a detailed report for LCC ProW team of any PRoW issues reported by the public.

6. To discuss the Mildred Crabtree Picnic Area.

Councillor Greenwood had sent in images of this area to display the poor and fragile state she felt the picnic area is in. Councillors discussed the area and concluded that it may be best to fix what is possible and slowly take away the fencing that is not needed. The picnic benches will remain as they are well use by members of the public.

7. To discuss the cattle grid at Whitworth Rake.

Councillor Neal raised his concerns regarding the area adjacent to the cattle grid, due to there being a slight step and perhaps for this to be made into a concrete slope. Councillor Whitehead suggested to obtain quotes for a concrete slope and Councillor Neal agreed to obtain these quotes and bring this item back to a future meeting.

8. To discuss the quotes for the phone and broadband contract.

Councillors discussed quotes and requested more quotes to be obtained from additional companies. These additional quotes should then be brought back to the next Finance Monitoring Committee (FMC) meeting.

9. To discuss the Christmas tree at Moss Side Street.

Councillors discussed the options to replace the Christmas tree at Moss Side Street. Councillor Chorlton suggested replacing the current tree with a new real tree, but this time in a planter. Councillors requested that the clerk obtain quotes for a 4ft to 5ft Christmas tree, a 4ft x 4ft x 18inch wooden planter and compost to fill this. Councillors requested this item be brought back to the next FMC meeting.

10. Any other business.

Councillor Greenwood enquired about the public toilet scheme. Councillor Neal reported that LCC will provide Whitworth Library employees with lockers to secure their items in, on request.

11. To set the date for the next meeting.

The next meeting has been arranged for 7pm on Thursday 18th September.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm.