



# Whitworth

## Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of  
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL General Purpose Committee held on  
THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber

### Chairman

Councillor K Olaolu

### Councillors

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor G Baron

Councillor L Burton

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor A Neal

Councillor D Powell

Councillor M Royds

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillor M Whitworth

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

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

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

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Councillor Whitehead who had a family commitment.

### 61. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

Councillors Neal and Royds declared a personal interest in the schedule of payments as it included a payment for a LALC conference that they are attending on Saturday.

### 62. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, and to approve them by signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 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 Baron and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

### 63. Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked if Whitworth Town Council had a single contact that residents' concerns/queries could be directed to with regard to the BRSK telegraph poles that are being erected across Whitworth. Councillor Powell suggested that County Councillor Scott Smith would be a good person to contact regarding this. Councillor Neal suggested that County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick is the Cabinet member for Highways and Transport and may also be able to help. Councillor Baron explained that he had the contact details for BRSK's Lancashire Communities Build Manager and also has details for an engineering manager.

A member of the public asked about the ownership of John Street playing field and asked if there were any covenants on the land restricting its use. Councillor Neal suggested contacting Andy Buxton or Chris Grundy at Rossendale Borough Council as they are the owners of the land.

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

- a) 2024/0314 – 42 Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth, Rossendale, OL12 8SS. Proposal – erection of a side extension to form a domestic garage.

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

- b) 2024/0338 – 236 Market Street, Shawforth, Rossendale, OL12 8EG. Proposal – installation of Air Source Heat Pump to rear.

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

### 65. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

It was resolved that council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee held on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Baron.

66. To review and, if appropriate, accept an updated Financial Regulations policy.

The clerk updated councillors that NALC had published an updated Financial Regulations policy and this had been adapted for Whitworth Town Council. The clerk also updated members that the Finance Monitoring Committee had discussed the policy and made some further minor amendments, which was now before council for review. It was resolved that council accept the updated Financial Regulations policy. This was moved by Councillor Royds and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

67. To discuss a Community Asset Transfer of the building known as "The Bug" from Rossendale Borough Council.

Councillor Neal updated councillors on discussions he had had with officers of Rossendale Borough Council. Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Council defer this decision to a later meeting to allow additional information to be obtained. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Neal.

68. To discuss Christmas bonuses.

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

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

Councillor Royds updated members on The Rushcart, which was held last Sunday. He considered that there had been a terrific turnout for the parade, and he was so pleased to see so many beaming smiles on the day.

Councillor Baron updated members that he had met with the leisure centre manager and that the leisure centre had opened the pool recently. Councillors Baron and Whitehead will be meeting with the leisure centre manager again soon to discuss further plans for the building.

Councillor Neal reported that he had attended a few meetings recently and has become aware of Fairer Funding Streams.

Councillor Burton reported that she has had a few meetings with Councillor Smith with regard to Whitworth Square and also has some of the original paperwork from the original Heritage Lottery Fund.

70. To receive and, if appropriate, adopt the financial statement presented by the Clerk.

It was resolved that Council receive and adopt the financial statement presented by the clerk. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Royds.

71. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 5, 2024-2025.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 5, 2024-2025 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

72. 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.

73. To discuss Christmas Bonuses.

\*\*\* The public and the clerk left the chamber \*\*\*

Councillors discussed this.

\*\*\* Councillor Rhodes left the chamber \*\*\*

It was resolved that council pay the town caretaker a Christmas bonus of £175 and that the clerk and the lengthsman will receive a gift.

\*\*\* The public and clerk returned to the chamber \*\*\*

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.