

Minutes of the Meeting of
WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL General Purpose Committee held on
THURSDAY 4th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber

Chairman

Councillor L Burton

Councillors

Councillor G Baron

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor J Greenwood

Councillor A Neal

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillor M Whitworth

Councillor J Whitehead

Official Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Business Admin Apprentice: Miss A Luxton

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

66. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Councillor Smith who was on holiday, Councillor Butterworth who had another engagement and Councillors Aldred and Blezard who were unwell.

67. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Neal declared a personal interest in the schedule of payments as it included a payment to LALC.

68. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2024, 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 5th December 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 Whitworth.

69. Public Question Time.

A member of public stated that the grass verge on Cowm Park Way North has a high volume of vehicles parked there and causes congestion and a possible hazard when crossing the road and asked if anything could be done to assist with maintaining safety in the area. Councillor Whitehead explained that she understood this issue, and this has already been raised to Lancashire County Council. However, LCC reported that the parked cars act as a natural traffic calming measure. Councillor Whitehead stated that people do slow down when driving in that area and that even with parked cars, it is still wide enough for emergency services to get past. Councillor Neal commented that the member of public could get in contact with Whitworth's County Councillor, Daniel Matchett, to raise this issue to see what could be done and ask if he could do an on-site visit. Councillor Burton suggested getting more signage for this area. Councillor Baron explained that he will speak to Councillor Matchett personally to make him aware of this.

70. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

- a) **2025/0267** Construction and operation of 17 wind turbines with a maximum height to the tip of the blade of 180 metres (above ordnance datum), together with associated ancillary infrastructure comprising crane pads and hard standings; new access tracks; improvement and widening works

to Scout Road; onsite substation; underground electrical infrastructure and cabling; fencing and boundary treatments; external lighting; drainage infrastructure; habitat and moorland restoration works; public right of way works; landscaping; temporary construction compound and staging area; underground electrical grid connection to the Rossendale Bulk Supply Point; and associated engineering works; alongside the retention of and improvements to existing access tracks associated with the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm - Scout Moor Wind Farm, Gincroft Lane, Edenfield, Bury, Lancashire

Councillors discussed this and the possible effects if this planning application were to go ahead. It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to allow members of the public to speak. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton. A member of the public stated that they believed that the three biggest issues are the effect of the view, increase risk of floods and infrasound concerns. Councillor Baron explained the studies that have been done regarding infrasound and the negative effects it can have on mental health. Another member of the public discussed the cost to taxpayers and the carbon emissions emitted through the development of the wind turbines. It was resolved that standing orders be reinstated. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

It was resolved that council object to this planning application on the following grounds –

- Destruction of rare habitat
- Increased risk of flooding
- The effect on the local watercourse for local farmers
- The visual impact on the town
- The adverse environmental impact of the development
- The effects on residents' mental health due to the infrasound of the proposed turbines.

This was moved by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Whitehead. Councillor Neal wanted it to be placed on record that he did not cast a vote regarding this item.

71. To discuss Station Road Play Area.

Councillor Neal stated that Councillor Royds did a lot of work on this, and he proposed to carry the work on in this area. He explained that there are grants available for improving play areas. Councillor Neal explained the surface level of the area needs to be raised. Councillors agreed for this item to be discussed at a future Finance Monitoring Committee meeting to allow Councillor Neal to do some research into funding opportunities.

72. To undertake a two-yearly review of the following Whitworth Town Council policies: Safeguarding, Volunteering, Records Management, Health and Safety, Grievance Procedure, Freedom of Information, Complaints Procedure.

It was resolved that council accept and adopt the above-named policies. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

73. To discuss a grant application received from Stronger Together Carers Group, using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor Neal expressed his admiration for the tremendous work the Stronger Together Carers Group have done, and it is a shame for the few issues they have had with a few young people. Councillors discussed that Stronger Together have already received a £200 grant from Whitworth Community Partnership to help fund CCTV cameras. It was resolved that Council approve a grant to Stronger Together Carers Group of £150. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

74. To discuss a proposal for Whitworth Town Council to offer for sale a mid-year bracket and Union Flag.

Councillor Baron suggested that the existing tree brackets that are used for Christmas trees on brackets would be a good base to fly a flag from, making the brackets dual purpose. Councillor Chorlton explained that around 10 or 12 years ago, the TLC did this with the help of volunteers

who helped to put them up and take them down. Councillor Chorlton discussed that it is a good idea for occasions such as St George's day, however getting the amount of help needed through volunteers may be an issue. Councillor Burton explained that if people have flags in a bracket, it will make the village look neater. Councillor Chorlton agreed to work with Councillor Baron on this and to bring this back to a future council meeting.

75. To discuss the building known locally as "The Bug".

Councillors discussed this.

*** Councillor Whitehead left the building to attend another engagement ***

It was resolved that Whitworth Town Council agree to Rossendale Borough Council making the necessary arrangements for the sale of the building known locally as "The Bug", with any residual funds due to be received by Whitworth Town Council. This was moved by Councillor Baron and seconded by Councillor Neal.

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

Councillor Neal reported that he has been invited to attend a city region conference at Aintree. Councillor Greenwood updated councillors on information from the Multi Agency meeting, which included the Lighthouse now having CCTV, the Lighthouse's plans for a Reverse Advent Calendar at Christmas and the Lighthouse kindly storing the school uniform leftover from the uniform project that took place over the summer. Councillor Greenwood also reported on the issues with delays in fly tipping being collected, not having an update from RBC on the £15,000 planned spend for Whitworth and her help to support girls in sport with netball.

Councillor Baron reported that he has volunteered to undertake some maintenance around the crypt at St Barts and is waiting on insurance for permission for this to go forward.

Councillors Rhodes reported on the success of St Barts heritage day and the plans for bell ringing going forwards.

Councillor Chorlton reported that the Rushcart takes place on Sunday and encouraged members to assist with marshalling if possible.

77. 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 Neal and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.

78. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 5 and 6, 2025-2026.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Reports 5 and 6, 2025-2026 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

79. 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.

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