

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

Chairman

Councillor L Burton

Councillors

Councillor K Blezard

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor M Ritson

Councillor J Whitehead

Official Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Business Admin Apprentice: Miss A Luxton

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

145. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Councillor Baron, Councillor Butterworth and Councillor Greenwood who were unwell, Councillor Neal, Councillor Smith and Councillor Whitworth who had another engagement and Councillor Rhodes who had a family emergency.

146. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None.

147. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2025, 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 4th September 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 Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

148. Public Question Time.

None.

149. Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

a) 2025/0381 – High Barn Farm, Studd Brow, Whitworth, Lancashire, OL12 8LU – Full: Level and fence section of the grass field to use as a menage size of 30m x 20m.

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

b) 2025/0420 – 11 Healey Hall Farm, Shawclough Road, Whitworth, Lancashire OL12 7HA – Alterations to the front roof slope to provide 5nr velux sun tunnels and 1nr velux roof light. Alterations to the rear roof slope to provide 4nr veluz roof lights together with bank solar pv roof panels. The installation of an air source heat pump to the rear at ground level.

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

150. To discuss Whitworth Town Council commenting on Rossendale Borough Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs).

It was resolved that Whitworth Town Council would comment on the consultation as a collective and provided the clerk with agreed responses to the survey. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

151. To discuss Whitworth Town Council commenting on a consultation regarding the Local Government Pension Scheme.

It was resolved that Councillors would comment separately on this. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

152. To discuss Waingap Woods.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that the Lengthsman will review the area and report back. This was moved by Councillor Blezard and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

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

Councillor Blezard reported that Whitworth Leisure Centre is trying to raise funds for work on the building and the membership system has changed. Councillor Blezard reported that the Sports Council have had their Christmas celebrations and that their next meeting will be in January. Councillor Blezard also reported on the Tourism and Leisure Committee's success at the recent Santa's Grotto and Christmas Light Switch On and the positive feedback they have received and the upcoming Christmas Craft and Santa Express events.

154. 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 Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Blezard.

155. To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 10, 2025-2026.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Reports 10, 2025-2026 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

156. 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.