

# Minutes of the Meeting of

# WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL General Purpose Committee held on

# THURSDAY 30th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber

## Chairman

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| Councillor G Baron |

## Councillors

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| Councillor L Burton | Councillor D Chorlton | Councillor K Olaolu | Councillor M Royds |
| Councillor S Rhodes |

Official Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

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

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

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Councillors Blezard and Aldred who were unwell, Councillor Neal who was representing Whitworth in the Houses of Parliament and Councillor Whitehead.

### To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None.

1. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September, 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 7th September, 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 Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Royds.

### Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked why there had been a lack of communication and consultation regarding the installation of the replacement cattle grid. Councillor Royds replied that the state of the previous cattle grid was well known throughout Whitworth. He explained that there had been long delays in ensuring the legal obligations and appropriate land registry requirements were met. Councillor Royds explained that once the confirmation came through that these had been satisfied, the cattle grid was in stock and the contractor had a suitable time in his work schedule. Once Whitworth Town Council were made aware of this, a message was set out to all affected residents.

A member of the public thanked council for all the work done over the past few years and expressed their pleasure that everything had come to fruition.

A member of the public presented Councillor Olaolu with a card for her hard work working with the commoners and farmes and expressed thanks to the whole of the council as an appreciation for all the work done with regard to the cattle grid. Councillor Royds stated that council are planning an official opening of the grid a week on Saturday, weather dependent. Councillor Baron read out a thank you on behalf of Councillor Neal who wished to thank Councillor Olaolu, members of the Finance Monitoring Committee, officers at RBC, Councillor MacNae and Councillors Whitehead and Royds in their capacities as Mayor for all their work in regards to the cattle grid.

### Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

1. 2023/0519 – 9 New Way, Whitworth OL12 8AN – first floor “build over” extension to existing dwelling.

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

1. To consider changing the start times of Whitworth Town Council council meetings.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that this item is deferred until next year to allow all councillors to contribute to the discussion. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Burton.

1. To discuss assisting Stronger Together with room hire for their Christmas events.

The Clerk informed Council that Rossendale Leisure Trust has come to an agreement with Stronger Together regarding room hire and so the item was not discussed.

1. To discuss being involved in Lancashire County Council’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Lancashire.

It was resolved that Council feel it is vital to involved in Lancashire County Council’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Lancashire. This was moved by Councillor Olaolu and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

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

Councillor Chorlton reported that the Tourism and Leisure Committee had had a night selling duck sponsorship which was very successful. He said that the Santa Express was planned for 16th and 17th December and the Duck Race for New Years Day. He also reported that all poppies were now displayed for the Poppy and Me Project. He gave thanks to Steve Parker, Cllr Mike Royds, Clive Morton, Mark Ambrose, BCH, Brendon McLaughlin and Triple 7 Refurbs for their contributions towards the project. He stated that once costs have been recovered, all profits will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

### 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 Royds and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

### To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 8, 2023-2024.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 8, 2023-2024 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 Olaolu.

### 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 8pm.