

# Minutes of the Meeting of

# WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL General Purpose Committee held on

# THURSDAY 7th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber

## Chairman

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| Councillor G Baron |

## Councillors

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| Councillor D Powell | Councillor R A Neal | Councillor K Olaolu | Councillor R Blezard |
| Councillor T Aldred | Councillor D Chorlton | Councillor J Whitehead | Councillor L Burton |
| Councillor M Royds |

Official Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

Twenty two 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 Councillor S Rhodes due to work commitments.

### To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None.

### Public Question Time.

A member of the public thanked Councillor Olaolu for keeping her updated with regards Millgate Baptist Church. She enquired what was happening with the Sports Festival. Councillor Whithead explained that she is no longer on the Sports Council and the Sports Council didn’t have enough volunteers to help to organise the event this year.

It was resolved that Council suspend standing orders to allow other members of the public to speak. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Powell. Another member of the public identified herself as being on the Sports Council and explained that the Sports Festival could not be held due to a lack of helpers. She offered to send an invitation to the member of the public for the next Sports Council meeting. Councillor Chorlton explained that the biggest issue is getting residents to help and that most of the marshals from the previous weekend’s Rushcart, do not live in the town. Councillor Powell agreed that volunteers are needed to put events on. Councillor Baron said that volunteers will continue to be encouraged to come forward.

It was resolved that Council reinstate standing orders. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Powell.

A member of the public identified herself as being the captain of the Over 50s Festival Park bowling team. She explained that there have been multiple problems with the younger generation and anti-social behaviour on the bowling green and with the bowling hut and spoke about the proposed fencing. She expressed concern about an alleged comment made by an independent councillor who said that the fencing would look offensive. The bowler also said that the members are annoyed because nothing was being done. Councillor Olaolu replied that she hadn’t said it would look offensive and that she had contacted PC Bentley to ask that the police to comment on the application. The member of the public replied that anti-social behaviour has continued throughout the summer and that the green has been damaged by bikes and an electric scooter, she also said that bowlers have been threatened when they challenge the behaviour. Councillor Powell explained that he is aware of the problems and has witnessed some of the behaviour. Councillor Neal explained that both himself and Councillor Whitehead have met with RBC officers regarding this issue and confirmed that the fence will be put up this year. Councillor Whitehead agreed that the fence is going to happen and that the application will be going to committee in October. She also explained that she is working with an officer at RBC regarding John St pitch so that the youngsters have an alternative place to play football.

A member of the public identified herself as representing Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC and asked that in light of emails received from RBC’s CEO, do council feel it is appropriate to request a face-to-face meeting with Rob Huntington. Councillor Powell responded that he fully agreed and that a meeting should be requested as soon as possible with the leader of RBC and Rob Huntington. Councillor Whitehead was concerned regarding the email received and reiterated that Whitworth Town Council are fully behind the reopening of the leisure centre, she also expressed concern that RLT no longer have the keys for the building and that the CIC need access to the pool. Councillor Whithead explained that RBC had not informed Whitworth Town Council that the keys were returned by RLT.

### Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

1. 2023/0354 - 15 Quarry Street Shawforth Rossendale OL12 8HD - householder - creation of patio, shed, fence, access steps, and part raised deck.

Councillor Whitehead explained that she had previously called this application in and that she wasn’t aware of any changes in this application from the previous one. Councillor Chorlton requested that an enforcement officer be asked to visit the property. It was resolved that Council object to this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

1. 2023/0360 - 5 The Hedgerows Whitworth Rossendale OL12 8AW – householder - erection of a single storey rear extension, addition of side and front roof dormers to existing detached dwelling, addition of a ground floor front extension, a change in external materials to the existing dwelling and the installation of a heat pump.

Councillor Whitehead felt this application looked fantastic and that her only concern was the it looked like a flat roof. It was resolved that Council are neutral on this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Powell.

1. 2023/0280 – Birchcliffe Tonacliffe Road Whitworth Rochdale Lancashire OL12 8SJ - householder: two storey extension to rear, single storey side extension and single storey porch extension to front.

Councillor Neal reported that he had called this application in as a borough councillor. He expressed concern that previous Whitworth Town Council comments had been ignored and said that the extension could not be seen by the road and requested that the planning committee visit the site. It was resolved that Council support this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.

1. 2023/0390 – 613 Market Street Whitworth Rochdale OL12 8DY – proposal - new pitched roof to replace existing flat roof over dance studio.

Councillor Whitehead explained that the owners have had previous problems with the current roof leaking and it was costing them a lot of money in repairs. It was resolved that Council support this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

1. 2023/0373 - House O Th Hill Hall Fold Whitworth Rochdale Lancashire OL12 8XL - proposed change of use of dwelling (Planning Use Class C3) to children's home for 1 child with carer accommodation (Planning Use Class C2)

Councillor Neal explained that there is plenty of land surrounding the property for the child and felt the property can cope with this application. He also stated that he supported it as it is by a reputable organisation. Councillor Oalolu stated that the local residents all support the application. It was resolved that Council support this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

1. 2023/0351 - Whitworth Bowling Green Off Market Street Whitworth Rossendale OL12 8DP - the installation of 2 meter fencing around parts of Bowling Green

It was resolved that Council support this planning application in the strongest possible terms. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

1. 2023/0399 - Tesco Express Market Street Whitworth Rossendale - proposal install 2x fascia Sign, 1x projecting sign, 3x Vinyl , 6 x Plain Frosting , 2x Dibond panel & 1x gantry Sign

It was resolved that Council support this planning application. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

1. 2023/0405 - 7 Waingap View Whitworth Rossendale OL12 8QD - householder: Single storey rear extension

It was resolved that Council support this planning application as it is in keeping with the existing property. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Royds.

### To consider the need for signage at Waingap Woods.

Councillor Chorlton reported that the fencing and gates are now in place at Waingap Woods. There are currently issues with dog walkers letting dogs off their lead, residents walking off the footpath and campers and that signage was required instructing members of the public that this is not allowed. The signage will be put up at all the gates. It was resolved that Council erect appropriate signage at Waingap Woods.

1. To consider joining the Public Right of Way delivery scheme and the Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme for 2023/2024.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Council join the Public Right of Way delivery scheme and the Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme for 2023/2024. This was moved by Councillor Whithead and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

1. To consider a request for photography at Whitworth Cemetery.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Council approve the request for photography at Whitworth Cemetery but would require the photographs be sent for approval before being used and that any memorial inscriptions are blurred for anonymity purposes. This was moved by Councillor Chorlton and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

1. To consider joining the Rural Services Town Group.

It was resolved that Council join the Rural Services Town Group and reassess the membership in six months. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

1. To consider applying to the Woodland Trust for a tree planting pack.

Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that Councill will apply to the Woodland Trust for a tree planting pack and that Councillor Olaolu will accompany Councillors Neal and Royds to Waingap Woods to discuss the location for planting. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Olaolu.

1. To consider Whitworth Town Council’s subscription to NALC.

Councillor Neal updated members on a recent NALC meeting held in London. It was resolved that Council look into its NALC subscription and it be put on an agenda early in 2024. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Royds.

1. To consider supporting Whitworth Vale and Healey Band and their fundraising concert by sponsoring an advert in their programme for £50.

It was resolved that Council support Whitworth Vale and Healey Band and their fundraising concert by sponsoring an advert in their programme for £50. This was moved by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

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

Councillor Neal reported an upcoming zoom meeting of LALC executive committee and that the next Burnley and Pendle meeting is on the 18th September. Councillor Chorlton reported that the Rushcart had been held the previous weekend and that it had been the biggest parade to date. He said that the Mayor should be specially recognised for his work on the day and that the next TLC meeting was on Tuesday 12th September followed by a duck checking evening on the Thursday. Councillor Blezard reported that the Sports Council met a few days ago and that they were looking into grants available for the CIC and also that they were gathering information from clubs regarding the sports festival.

### 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 Chorlton.

### To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 4, 2023-2024.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 4, 2023-2024 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payments. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Powell.

### 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 9pm.