

WHALEY BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Mechanics Institute, Market Street, Whaley Bridge, High Peak, SK23 7AA
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Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th February 2025 The Meeting Room, Mechanics Institute, Market Street, Whaley Bridge

Present: Councillors: Thomas (Chair), Bowden, Gilmour, Glover, Lomax, Magowan, McCarthy, Ridgway, Smith and Taylor.

In Attendance: Six members of the public, DCC Cllr Ruth George and Andrew Fox, Town Clerk.

C24/251 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Webb and it was noted that Cllr Smith would be late.

C24/252 Declarations of Members' Interests and Dispensation Applications

None.

RESOLVED: To consider item 9 at this point of the meeting.
Mr Bill Carr was presented a community award for his dedication and commitment to the residents of Whaley Bridge through his hard work to regenerate the town over many years.
He was presented with a small plaque and a meal voucher and some flowers for Margaret Carr.

C24/253 Community Police

PCSO Karen Green attended the meeting and provided a report to the Council. Thanks were presented to PCSO Green for attending and she noted that she would provide more detailed location information in future reports.

C24/254 Public Participation

No members of the public wished to speak.

C24/255 Updates from County and Borough Councillors on matters of concern to the Town Council

Cllr Lomax provided a report at the meeting noting, that there have been new housing figures announced by central Government. This would likely mean a 250-500 increase to the amount of housing required in High Peak. If this cannot be met developers are able to build outside areas highlighted in the Local Plan as it will be short on the 5 year land supply. He commented that the Local Plan is being reviewed at the moment however it will be a while and more housing will have to be introduced due to the increased housing targets from Central Government.

Cllr George provided a oral report noting that some dates had been set for the work at Elnor Lane playground. It was noted that there were several volunteers for this project which would be carried out under the supervision of W4W. It was also

noted that High Peak Borough Council had pledged £20,000 of funding for new play equipment and that there have been site meetings with a contractor.

She noted that there has unfortunately been no movement on the sink hole forming on New Road as it is unadopted but she was hoping DCC would take action as it is dangerous.

She commented that the proposals for how the unitary Council in Derbyshire would operate would be going to consultation very soon as the Government were asking for proposals by the 21st of March. DCC would put forward their preferred option of a sole unitary authority with all district councils incorporated but will be asking for alternative suggestions.

She also noted that the day centres in New Mills and Buxton are scheduled to close. This should all fit at Eccles Fold assuming more places are provided. She noted that she had given various amounts of funding to local groups from her Councillor initiative fund.

RESOLVED: The Town Council will schedule a meeting to discuss the proposed Local Government reforms. It was noted that the Town Council would respond if it had a definite proposal.

C24/256 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the last meeting of Whaley Bridge Town Council held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 are a true and correct record of the meeting, subject to the amendment to item C24/231 to add a resolution that the structure on plot 11 should be removed, the Chair was authorised to sign them.

C24/257 Clerk's Report

RESOLVED: To note the Clerk's report.

C24/258 Finance etc

RESOLVED: That the Accounts for Payment listed below are paid.

	Feb-25	Payments	13/02/2025
Cheque Number	Payee	Description	Amount £
Whaley Bridge Town Council			
	Salaries	Net salaries	£4,247.15
	HMRC	PAYE	£916.99
	DCC	Pension Contribution	£1,302.73
DD	Zero	Telephone/Broadband Jan	£83.94
DD	Zero	Telephone/Broadband Feb	£83.94
DD	Zero	Set up and router fee	£32.51
DD	Trusted IT	Backup/365 Lic/Website	£126.44
DD	Trusted IT	Whaleybridge.com domain	£23.99
DD	Altodigital	Actual Final Photocopier charge	£190.20
DD	Altodigital	Final Photocopier Usage	£4.18
	Mechanics Institute	Office Rent	£476.66
	Mechanics Institute	Concessionary use	£216.00

	Mechanics Institute	Meeting Room hire	£37.00
	Warren Derbyshire	Work on Mechanics Institute Accessibility Project	£2,005.60
	Kingfisher Direct	Replacement Grit bin for Taxal (paid)	£67.50
	Chapel Mobile Physiotherapy	Grant	£300.00
	Hockerley Hall Garden Services	Shallcross Incline Maintenance and cutting back of FP 57	£350.00
	Shelter Maintenance	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£74.30
	Whaley Bridge Band	Grant	£140.00
	PPL PRS	Music Licence MI (paid by card)	£91.32
	S.H & S.M Kime	Work installing Brookfield Pond plaque (paid)	£200.00
	Stanway & Hallows	New led light tubes for MI	£36.00
	Leathley & Co	Mechanics Accounts Independent examination for MI as not authorised	£330.00
	Alliance Fire	Fire extinguisher service and replacement for MI paid by TC	£473.76
	Whaley Bridge Town Council	Total	£11,810.21
Mechanics Institute			
	Whaley Bridge Town Council	Wages offcharge	£1,586.75
DD	Total Energies	Gas	£460.09
DD	British Gas	Electricity	£226.98
DD	United Utilities	Water	£62.76
	Mechanics Institute	Total	£2,336.58
Sports Association			
DD	SAGE	Sage One Accounts	£39.60
764	Whaley Bridge Town Council	Wages offcharge	£773.36
DD	Water Plus	Water	£18.79
DD	Yu Energy	Electricity	£213.17
DD	High Peak Borough Council	Non-Domestic Rates	£55.00
	Sports Association	Total	£1,099.92
	Total Expenditure	Total	£15,246.71

RESOLVED: To note the Financial Reports for January 2025 which had been circulated to all members, and the bank balances at 31st January stood at:

Whaley Bridge Town Council	£
CCLA Deposit Fund	183,000.00
Unity Trust - Current Account	50,383.65
Unity Trust - Deposit Account	37,084.07
Petty Cash	47.02
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	270,514.74
Mechanics Institute	£
Unity Trust - Current Account	5,211.96
Unity Trust - Deposit Account	14,463.77
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	19,675.73

Sports Association	£
Current Account	7,304.87
Deposit Account	68,898.97
Petty Cash	0.00
	76,203.84

It was noted that the date for the Town Council and Sports Association budget monitoring should be 1st April 2025 to 1st February 2025.

C24/260 Community Award

This item has already been covered.

C24/261 Mechanics Institute Refurbishment Project

Received a report from Cllr Thomas noting that the required financial due diligence had been carried out and that the recommendation was to sign the contract with Eagle Build (2020) Ltd.

There was a pre-contract meeting yesterday and it was noted that the start date would be the 7th of April, and the end date would be the 12th of September. Amy Hubble from High Peak Architects would be the acting contract leader and John Smith would be the site foreman.

Finally, it was noted that the timescale was too short for a grant application for the national lottery heritage fund although the chances of success were very low.

RESOLVED: To give the Clerk delegated responsibility to sign the contract with Eagle Build (2020) Ltd to carry out the work to the Mechanics institute at the agreed cost of £209,633.09.

It was noted that the furnishings would need to be removed, and the garage emptied by the 7th of April.

RESOLVED: The Clerk would have delegated responsibility to agree provisional sums in consultation with the Chair.

It was noted that the railway sleepers and large doors would need to be removed from the garage near the end of the contract and the Clerk will contact Cheshire Demolition to enquire whether they are interested in purchasing them.

C24/262 Mechanics Institute Refurbishment Project VAT Advisor

Received a report from the Clerk regarding the VAT situation with the Mechanics Institute Refurbishment Project. The two main options would be to register for VAT and reclaim the full amount or to zero rate parts of the contract under disabled work VAT Notice.

RESOLVED: To contract Alan Rashleigh and Associates to provide expert advice on the VAT for the project up to a maximum of £2,500.00. The Clerk will ask if they can bill on an hourly rate and would prefer if we can zero rate the project.

C24/263 Co-option of Town Council Vacancy

The deadline for applications will be set to just before the March Town Council meeting.

C24/264 Mechanics Institute Gas Costs

It was noted that we are outside the 12 month renewal window.

C24/265 Business Grant Request

It was noted that the business grant request for Riverside Wellbeing cannot be supported as the work already took place last year.

C24/266 Trees on the Shallcross Incline

Received a report from Cllr Ridgway regarding several small trees which also needed removing.

RESOLVED: The quote of £1,000.00 plus VAT for the removal of the small trees and vegetation. It was noted that the Clerk may have asked for more work to be done that what was required and will arrange a meeting with the contractor and Cllr Ridgway to confirm exactly what needs to be done.

C24/267 Town Council Clock

Received a report from the Clerk noting costs for a replacement clock.

RESOLVED: To set a budget of £2,460.00 to replace the town council clock with a drum clock of the same size from Polaris Clocks.

C24/268 Sunnybank Allotment Site

The minutes of the last allotment meeting had been circulated noting the discussion around the allotment site.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will draft a notice of eviction for the plots which are not complying with the terms and conditions and have not made improvements after being initially informed in November that their plot required substantial work. Another site visit would be carried out towards the end of February to check on progress. Finally plots which are in breach would be given some time to remove items from their plot or the Council would dispose of them.

RESOLVED: To increase the cost of the tenancy agreement to £52.00 per annum for the £30.00 plot prorated for the larger plots which were still on the site. This would be staggered over two years with the first increase taking the annual rent to £42.00.

RESOLVED: To split plot 11 through the middle of the plot as it would make more sense when offering it to new tenants in the future and previous plots have been split in this manner.

It was noted that the Clerk would bring costs for the siting of a 5000L tank with a water supply to the taps to the next meeting.

C24/269 Litter Bin Emptying Contracts

RESOLVED: To agree the costs of the litterbin emptying contract for Brookfield Pond of £343.14 plus VAT and the Canal Basin at £850.58 plus VAT. The Clerk was given delegated authority to sign the contracts.

C24/270 Whaley Bridge Football Club Youth Session

The Clerk provided a short report noting that there was now around 30 attending the weekly session and that each attendee is charged £2.00.

RESOLVED: To agree to pay the grant to the Football Club of £580.00 for the youth session and for £290.00 for the Wild Cats Girls Team.

Further grant funding will be considered at a later date.

C24/271 Recommendations From Whaley 4 Wards

The following agreements of the Regeneration Committee were noted; W4W will carry out working parties at the Elnor Lane playground. Volunteers will have to have training, and only trained volunteers will use equipment,
The Clerk will ask for an update on footpath 86,
The Clerk will contact the Railway pub regarding the issue of cigarette butts on the street,
The Clerk will contact PC Schofield about the boy racers in Whaley Bridge,
The Clerk will contact DCC about the island near Tesco's, the sign is not visible in the dark and there is a danger that motorists may hit a pedestrian or the island.
The Clerk will contact the scouts about the large hedge asking if a work party can be arranged.

C24/272 Reports from Committees and representatives on outside bodies

a) Regeneration Committee

Nothing further to report.

b) Personnel Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for the 5th of March.

c) High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership

The latest newsletter was circulated and Cllr Lomax commented that there is still issues with some trains.

d) Whaley Bridge Allotments Working Group

Nothing further to report.

e) Whaley Bridge Sports Association

The next meeting is scheduled for the 26th of February.

f) High Peak and Cheshire for Ukraine

Nothing to report.

C24/273 Correspondence

RESOLVED: To note correspondence received from 15th January:

1. DCC – Community News 20 January 2025.
2. Peak Tree Services – Request to deposit wood chippings at the Sunnybank Allotment site.
RESOLVED: To refuse this request as the site does not need that many wood chippings.
3. DCC – Community News 3 February 2025
4. Canoe Foundation – Grants to improve access to waterways.
RESOLVED: The Council would support being used as the qualifying body for an application if a proposal could be put forward with permission from the CRT.
5. Peak District National Park – Consultation on Active Travel routes.
6. DALC – Newsletter January 2025.
7. Resident on Orchard Road – Complaint regarding refusal of a request for additional grit bins.

The Clerk noted that he had not received a response from United Utilities regarding the water outages and that he would chase this.

C24/248 Planning

RESOLVED: To note the following decisions of High Peak Borough Council:

Decisions Made by Committee – None

Delegated Decisions

DET/2025/0001 Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed Portal Steel Frame Building, Concrete Fibre Roof, Yorkshire Board Sides, Concrete Block Walls. Greenbotham Farm , Unnamed Road From New Road To A6 , Bridgemont , Whaley Bridge , Derbyshire , SK23 7EE.	Application Withdrawn
DOC/2024/0049 Discharge of conditions 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13&15,16 &18 in relation to application HPK/2022/0220. 42 Elnor House , Elnor Lane , Whaley Bridge , Derbyshire , SK23 7EU.	Approved
HPK/2024/0464 First Floor Rear & Side Extension with Part 2 Storey Side Extension. 65, Whaley Lane, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, SK23 7BA.	Approved
HPK/2024/0264 Demolition of existing buildings, redevelopment of site for 8 dwellings and associated works. 10-12, Bridgemont, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, SK23 7PB	Approved

RESOLVED: That the Council has the following comments on the new applications

New Applications Received since 15th January 2025	
Applications	Comments
DOC/2025/0001 Discharge of condition 8 relating to HPK/2018/0164. 141 WHITE HORSE INN , Buxton Road , Whaley Bridge , Derbyshire , SK23 7HX.	No Comment
DOC/2024/0129 Discharge of Condition 4 in relation to HPK/2024/0298. The Cock Hotel , Buxton Road , Whaley Bridge , Derbyshire , SK23 7JE.	No Comment
HPK/2024/0524 Application Variation for Condition 5 for HPK/2022/0233 FULL and HPK/2022/0267 LBC. 3 The Winch Cottage, Bings Road, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, SK23 7HW.	No Comment
HPK/2024/0240 (Appeal) Removal of Condition 2 in relation to HPK/2006/0358 - APP/H1033/A/07/2033715. Shallcross Hall Farm, Shallcross Road, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, SK23 7BZ	No Comment

C24/274 Exclusion of the Press and the Public

RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

C24/275 Ground Maintenance and Hanging Baskets

RESOLVED: To accept the quote from Fran Frodsham of £2,255.00 for the provision of 32 half barrel planters and the grounds maintenance contract.

RESOLVED: To accept the quote of £1,950.00 plus VAT from David Ross Nursery for the provision of 65 hanging baskets.

RESOLVED: To confirm the contract with Lumberjack Tree Care for the watering and storage of the hanging baskets at £2,300.00 with a 5% margin for increased costs.

The meeting closed at 9.52pm

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting

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Chairman

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Date