

**LEEK TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Chairman:** Cllr. L. Swindlehurst

**Present:** Cllrs: Benefer, Cawley, Coleman, Johnson, Molson, Ottewell, M.Swindlehurst, Wales, Wood and Worthington

**Apologies:** Cllr. Emery

Two members of the public were present.

47. **Minutes of the Meeting** held 15<sup>th</sup> October were received for Chairman's signature.

48. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests and consideration for the granting of Dispensations** Cllr. Wood declared an interest in 49 (v) and Cllr. Johnson in 50 (a). Cllr. L. Swindlehurst and Cllr. Coleman declared an interest in 50 (b).

49. **Monthly reports/updates:**

i) Allotments – The rent for 2020 will be £35.00 for a full plot and £17.50 for a half plot and payment may be made by bank transfer or standing order. Payment by cash will no longer be accepted.

ii) Events – Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst's report was received.

A few councillors (M Swindlehurst, R. Molson, S. Coleman, M Ottewell) and the town clerk met the district council's Safety Advisory Group (SAG) on 16<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the Christmas lights event. SAG recommended the introduction of a child safety policy and to employ professional security guards. Therefore, due to the lack of response for volunteer marshals, security guards were employed for the Christmas Lights and Remembrance Sunday events.

Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst will be meeting with Leek Royal British Legion's to discuss their events in 2020.

It was stated that the Royal British Legion (RBL) website indicates that: RBL is the guardian of Remembrance and it is the responsibility of the local branch to organise Remembrance Sunday.

Trestle Market – A meeting was held with officers from the district council and it is hoped that the Trestle Market will be made available for a variety of events in 2020.

Leek Show – A group of people would like to help with the continuity of Leek Show and Cllr. Molson and Cllr. Ottewell have offered their support.

It was resolved that: 'This Town Council supports the endeavours of the people who would like Leek Show to continue. The Council will offer encouragement and lobby to support the work of the show's supporters.'

New website – The winners of the photo competition have been published and good progress is being made.

iii) Friends of the Nicholson War Memorial – Cllr. Benefer's report was received, which clarified an article recently published in the Leek Post and Times, regarding the maintenance of the Nicholson War Memorial and the commemoration of its centenary in 2025. It was stated that a condition survey would be needed before the cost of restoration work can be established.

Councillors' comments included:

Moorlands Partnership Board should be contacted once the cost of repairs is established.

There was disagreement about the phrase: "the Town Council has been cash strapped by years of cuts to its funding by government austerity measures".

iv) Neighbourhood Plan – The report from Lesley Roberts was received. The local schools are enthusiastic and 57 people attended a public meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the AECOM design brief for the Mount.

v) Leek Moorlands Hospital – The decision regarding the hospital will not be made public until after the General Election. It was stated that some of the staff from Leek Moorlands Hospital have had to move to Bradwell Hospital in order to keep their jobs and some staff have not been treated well. Lesley Roberts is a governor for Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust and will report these issues.

- vi) Twinning – The Pumpkin Festival was a success and may become an annual event and the visitors from Este had really enjoyed their visit to Leek.
- vii) Russell Street – Staffordshire County Council had not yet responded to a request for information regarding services beneath the Russell Street land. A design specification will be drawn up in the new year.
- viii) Climate Change – The reports from the October and November meetings were received. The key issues raised had been that the discussion between the Bee Friendly Trust and DEFRA were on hold until after the General Election and the old railway track from Leek To Rudyard was suggested for a friendly habitat for pollinators.

50. **Finance/Audit**

- a) **Payment of Accounts** In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 section 5 (150), the following were accepted for payment. Expenses will be shown separately.
- b) **Grant Applications** It was resolved that Family Action and Friends of Brough Park will receive £150.00 each, which will mean the budget of £1,500 for 2019/20 has been allocated.

51. **Terms of Reference for town council committees** – The terms of reference for the Events, Nicholson War Memorial and Allotment committees would be updated.

52. **To receive items for information** To report matters for information not on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas

- i) The Chairman of SMDC, Cllr. Flunder will be donating some of his charity funds to the district councillors’ Community Initiative Scheme.
- ii) Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst will be attending a Dementia Champion course on 9<sup>th</sup> December.
- iii) The 2 large Christmas trees for the town centre had been obtained from ARB in Cheadle for £820.00. Other quotes were in excess of £1,500.00. Leek Link Taxis have sponsored the large tree in Market Place and Protech Electrical have sponsored the tree in Sparrow Park.

Chairman..... Date.....