

LEEK TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council held Tuesday 18th July 2023

Mayor: Cllr. M. Swindlehurst

Present: Cllrs: P. Powner, K. Hoptroff, K. Nicholls, D. Young, S Webster, M Worthington, L. Swindlehurst, D. Hilyer, W. Cawley, Cllr. Wales and B. Birch

6 members of the public were in attendance.

Minutes - D. Wheat, Town Clerk

17. Welcome: The Mayor, Cllr. M. Swindlehurst opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

18. Apologies: All present

19. Minutes of the Town Council held on 20th June 2023 were received, approved, and signed as an accurate record by the Mayor, Cllr. M. Swindlehurst

Proposed – Cllr. Hoptroff - Seconded- Cllr. L Swindlehurst

20. Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 20th June 2023 were noted.

Proposed Cllr. Birch – Seconded Cllr. Hoptroff

Matters Arising:

- a) Item 19b. Regarding Proposed Representatives for the Parish Assembly. Cllr. Birch was elected to be on the Moorlands Partnership Board as the Parish Assembly representative. Nominations are now required for the Leek Town Representative of the Moorlands Partnership Board.
Cllr. Hilyer Proposed Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst – Seconded Cllr. Hoptroff
10 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstained

21. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th June were approved.

Proposed- Cllr Webster – Seconded Cllr. Birch

22. Leek Mayor Report June 2023

The Mayor has attended several events in the town and is getting out in the Community and across the Moorlands including attending the Biddulph Mayors Civic Service.

23. Announcements:

The three Town Clerks and Mayors of Cheadle, Biddulph and Leek are to meet in August to work on ideas to bring the three towns together and to include the Parishes.

24. The meeting was adjourned for the Public Participation session:

a) Mrs. Ann Sharratt addressed the Council.

She expressed gratitude to the members of the Leek Council Cllr. Dee Young and Cllr. Kate Nicholls for their work initiating Leek as a Dementia Friendly Town, and the Chatty Bench initiative. Nobody needs to feel lonely in Leek. It will encourage more spontaneous meetings which could combat loneliness and depression. Mrs Sharratt recommended notices to be on the benches with help phone numbers and advice. A huge thank you to the Council for efforts and endeavors to improve our town. Cllr. Nicholls offered to meet Mrs Sharratt on a chatty bench to hear more about her ideas for the town.

b) Mr. Roger Warrilow addressed the Council:

Regarding 20 MPH speed limits in Leek. He spoke about Pedestrians deserving the council's concern and attention.

Three major routes through the Town Centre: A520 To Cheadle & Uttoxeter, A53 Buxton to Stoke-on-Trent and A523 Ashbourne to Manchester. Ten years ago the efficient and safe roundabout was taken away.

The Sainsbury's S106 agreement was overruled, and no junction controls were installed at the Top of St Edwards Street. A 20 MPH speed limit would help solve some of these issues as people would have time to turn at junctions. Is speeding traffic more important than people's safety? shoppers, families, visitors to the town and people with disabilities are being put at risk. 20 MPH will result in 20% fewer casualties. It would become best practice where humans mix with traffic. 20 MPH will also create less pollution from fumes, Mr. Warrilow asked Leek Town Council to lead the campaign for 20 is Plenty in the Town.

The Chairman Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst and Clerk have been in correspondence with Mr. Barr of the 20 is Plenty campaign. The Council will arrange an extraordinary meeting and announce the time and venue to invite members of the public, Town, District and County Councillors to attend.

Cllr. Wales thanked Mr. Warrilow and congratulated him on his persistence on the matter. Cllr. Wales has asked the County Council to do a full traffic survey of Leek Town. He invited the Councillors to take a visit to Cellarhead where a full crossing system has been recently put into place. It is time Leek had an upgrade to many road safety features.

Cllr. Worthington agreed that road safety is important. Leek is often gridlocked. 20 MPH is not enforceable by the law. The T junction at the top of St. Edward's Street does need attention. Pedestrians are not using the crossing points either, which puts them personally in danger and puts drivers at risk.

It was suggested to invite Cllr. Atkins and Cllr Heath to come along to the next meeting to take these comments to County Highways. All three County Councillors need to work together.

Meeting ended at 19.23

Mayor signature.....

Date.....