

LEEK TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 19th Sept 2023

Chairman: Cllr. L Swindlehurst

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

12 members of the public were in attendance,

Minutes - D. Wheat, Town Clerk

34. Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the agenda ahead.

35. Apologies: Cllr. M. Worthington

36. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests and consideration for the granting of Dispensations:
None were disclosed.

37. Minutes of the General Purposes Meeting held on 18th July 2023 were amended to correct spelling 'Lough' to LUF (Levelling Up Fund) and then were approved and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed - Cllr. L. Swindlehurst - Seconded - Cllr. M. Swindlehurst - Motion Carried.

38. Matters Arising: Matters arising were covered in the Town Council meeting when the minutes were noted.

39. Committee Reports:

At the June meeting it was resolved that Committee discussions would only take place if a written report was submitted for circulation. Points of Clarification were invited from the written reports:

- a) **Allotments** A report was circulated by Cllr. Birch
- b) **Events** A report was circulated from Cllr Hoptroff.
- c) **War Memorial:** A written report was circulated by Cllr. Hilyer.
 - The Clerk's progress within the Health and Safety report (Item 40a) was noted.
 - The Ball Haye Green Memorial has been now been registered as a Grade 2 listed Monument.

Working Group Reports:

d) Bank House:

- Progress is being made with an insurance claim for water damage to the kitchen ceiling.
- External paintwork has been completed from the Moorlands Partnership Board Grant.
- Scaffolding has now been removed.

e) Twinning: No report

40. Finance and Governance:

a) Health and Safety Report:

The Clerk has received Fire Risk Assessment training by the SMDC Heath & Safety Manager. The Council resolved to have the fire extinguishers serviced and replaced where necessary in the Office, the Nicholson Memorial and Bank House.

Proposed Cllr. M Swindlehurst – Seconded Cllr. Hoptroff – Motion Carried

b) Finance Report:

- Cllr. Powner asked for clarification on the term "General Duties". This was confirmed to be the Lengthsman general duties.
- The VAT return has been received for £24,742.72
- Bank House Repairs : Total Cost of Painting, pointing and scaffolding is £15,230.00 ex. VAT
The Moorlands Partnership Board grant will cover £8,000.00 of this work.
The cast iron downspout has cost £1, 325 +VAT.

Approved Signature of Chairman:.....

Date: 17th October 2023

- The election charge notification has been received to be £26,500.00. This includes all expenses incurred to hold a Town Council election. Some items have been split with the District Council where applicable.
The Council resolved to spread the payments over 4 years.

Proposed Cllr. Swindlehurst – Seconded Cllr. Powner – Motion Carried

Financial Report:

Bank Reconciliation at 31/08/2023

	Cash in Hand	01/04/2023	£	70,902.41
	ADD			
	Receipts	01/04/2023 - 31/08/2023	£	118,384.43
			£	189,286.84
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments	01/04/2023 - 31/08/2023	£	87,933.38
A	Cash in Hand	31/08/2023	£	101,353.46 (per Cash Book)
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/08/2023	£	5.66
	Events Account	31/08/2023	£	7,608.92
	Current Account 2 (Reserve)	31/08/2023	£	101,042.37
	Current Account	31/08/2023	£	0.00
	Actual Bank Balance		£	108,656.95
B	Less unrepresented payments		£	7,303.49
	Plus unrepresented receipts		£	0.00
	Adjusted Total Balance		£	101,353.46

c) Payments to be Approved for July & August 2023:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1972 section 5 (150), payments were approved for the following payments in July and August:

DATE	NET	VAT	TOTAL	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
03.07.2023	£80.00	£0.00	£80.00	Locum Clerk Fees	8215
03.07.2023	£256.00	£51.20	£307.20	Ball Haye Play Area Maintenance	8216
03.07.2023	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Cheque Cancelled	8217
03.07.2023	£8,036.21	£0.00	£8,036.21	Insurance	8218
03.07.2023	£43.71	£8.74	£52.45	Maintenance Supplies	8219
03.07.2023	£345.00	£0.00	£345.00	General Duties	8219
03.07.2023	£320.00	£0.00	£320.00	General Duties	8219
03.07.2023	£110.55	£0.00	£110.55	General Duties	8219
03.07.2023	£226.67	£11.33	£238.00	Nicholson Clock Electricity	DD
04.07.2023	£32.76	£1.64	£34.40	Bank House Gas Supply	DD
05.07.2023	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00	Hanging baskets	8220
05.07.2023	£135.33	£27.07	£162.40	Nicholson Water	8221
10.07.2023	£22.18	£4.44	£26.62	Maintenance Supplies	8222
10.07.2023	£46.39	£9.28	£55.67	Maintenance Supplies	8222
10.07.2023	£405.00	£0.00	£405.00	General Duties	8222

Approved Signature of Chairman:.....

Date: 17th October 2023

10.07.2023	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	Storage	8223
10.07.2023	£12.00	£0.00	£12.00	Window Cleaner	8224
10.07.2023	£32.68	£6.54	£39.22	Training	8225
10.07.2023	£22.57	£0.00	£22.57	Stockwell Street Water	8226
11.07.2023	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00	Photography Services	8227
11.07.2023	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Community Grant	8228
11.07.2023	£38.30	£1.92	£40.22	Bank House Gas Supply	DD
17.07.2023	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00	Maintenance Supplies	8229
17.07.2023	£270.00	£0.00	£270.00	General Duties	8229
18.07.2023	£21.95	£0.00	£21.95	Key Cutting	8230
19.07.2023	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Cheque Cancelled	8231
20.07.2023	£1,459.00	£0.00	£1,459.00	Mayors Charity Funds	8232
20.07.2023	£1,459.00	£0.00	£1,459.00	Mayors Charity Funds	8233
24.07.2023	£800.00	£160.00	£960.00	Stockwell St. Premises Lease	8234
24.07.2023	£116.56	£23.31	£139.87	Planters & Hanging Baskets	8235
24.07.2023	£405.00	£0.00	£405.00	General Duties	8235
24.07.2023	2599.60	£0.00	2599.60	Salaries July	8236&37
25.07.2023	£86.00	£0.00	£86.00	Printing	8239
25.07.2023	£249.00	£0.00	£249.00	Printing	8240
25.07.2023	£395.00	£0.00	£395.00	Storage	8241
26.07.2023	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Cheque Cancelled	8238
27.07.2023	£223.79	£0.00	£223.79	Pension Contribution (employer)	DD
28.07.2023	£98.18	£0.00	£98.18	Bank House Water	DD
31.07.2023	£360.00	£0.00	£360.00	General Duties	8242
31.07.2023	£6.25	£1.25	£7.50	Maintenance Supplies	8242
31.07.2023	£340.00	£0.00	£340.00	Allotment Strim	8242
31.07.2023	£1,550.00	£310.00	£1,860.00	Christmas Lights Storage	8243
31.07.2023	£64.16	£12.83	£76.99	Printer Fee	8244
31.07.2023	£101.00	£20.20	£121.20	Lightening Protection Inspection	8245
31.07.2023	£15.75	£0.00	£15.75	Bank Charges	DD
31.07.2023	£37.49	£7.50	£44.99	Maintenance Parts	8242
01.08.2023	£226.67	£11.33	£238.00	Nicholson Clock Electricity	DD
04.08.2023	£979.50	£0.00	£979.50	Venue Hire	8246
04.08.2023	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	Grant	8247
04.08.2023	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00	Allotments Hard Core	8248
04.08.2023	£160.00	£32.00	£192.00	Allotments Hard Core	8248
07.08.2023	£31.57	£1.58	£33.15	Bank House Gas Supply	DD
08.08.2023	£442.90	£0.00	£442.90	General Duties	8249
08.08.2023	£58.33	£11.67	£70.00	General Duties	8249
10.08.2023	£26.30	£5.26	£31.56	Allotment Fencing	8250
10.08.2023	£158.72	£31.74	£190.46	Allotment Fencing	8250
10.08.2023	£81.97	£16.39	£98.36	Allotment Fencing	8250
10.08.2023	£11.47	£0.00	£11.47	Stockwell Street Water	8251
10.08.2023	£16.67	£3.33	£20.00	Civic Regalia	8253
10.08.2023	£35.91	£1.80	£37.71	Bank House Gas Supply	DD
10.08.2023	£247.05	£49.41	£296.46	Printing	8238

15.08.2023	£12.00	£0.00	£12.00	Window Cleaner	8254
16.08.2023	£450.00	£0.00	£450.00	General Duties	8255
16.08.2023	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Community Grant	8256
16.08.2023	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Community Grant	8257
21.08.2023	£330.00	£0.00	£330.00	General Duties	8258
21.08.2023	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Cheque Cancelled	8259
21.08.2023	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	Grant	8260
21.08.2023	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Cheque Cancelled	8261
21.08.2023	£186.35	£37.27	£223.62	Domain name leektowncouncil.gov.uk	8262
21.08.2023	£94.00	£0.00	£94.00	Leaflet Printing	8263
21.08.2023	£115.14	£0.00	£115.14	Deputy Mayors Allowance	8264
21.08.2023	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Grant	8265
21.08.2023	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Grant	8266
21.08.2023	£201.00	£0.00	£201.00	Grant	8267
21.08.2023	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	Mayors Allowance	8268
22.08.2023	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	Bouquet	8269
22.08.2023	£190.00	£38.00	£228.00	Flag Pole Brackets	8270
26.08.2023	2599.60	£0.00	2599.60	Salaries August	8271&2
27.08.2023	£223.79	£0.00	£223.79	Pension Contribution (employer)	DD
29.08.2023	£315.00	£0.00	£315.00	General Duties	8273
29.08.2023	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00	General Duties	8273

Total £32,397.02 £ 981.03 £33,378.05

Proposed Cllr. M. Swindlehurst – Seconded Cllr. B Birch – Payments approved

41. Items on Notice: 20 is Plenty: A motion was proposed by Cllr. L Swindlehurst to reconsider 20's Plenty in Leek.

It is in Leek Town Councils remit to consider requests from residents and community groups, Cllr. Swindlehurst has circulated research on road safety, reduction of pollution and active travel benefits to the Council. Following the additional GP meeting held on 29th August with a presentation from 20's Plenty for Staffordshire, twenty members of the public asked that the Town Council re-consider a motion to support 20's Plenty for Leek.

Cllr. Wales raised questions regarding various zones of Leek that suffer from speeding versus the whole town as a 20MPH zone and about the Council supporting a pressure group and that a petition is still not representative of the whole population of Leek. Residents were encouraged to look at forming a Community Speedwatch group. In reality the town centre traffic is already gridlocked. If it costs £14,000.00 to put up signage for 20's Plenty would there be any beneficial outcomes? The County Council and the District need to work together to review the traffic infrastructure in the town. Pelican Crossings, dangerous crossing points, HGV's mounting curbs. The Council should ask for a proper review and the introductions of safety measures. Health impacts need monitoring with a proper air quality survey. The County Council Highways need to focus on filling the potholes, unblocking the gullies and the District Council need to unlock the car park behind Moorlands House to ease parking issues in the Town Centre.

The Chair opened up the discussion. Cllr L. Swindlehurst supports many of the things that Cllr Wales listed. The concept of "20's plenty in Staffordshire" is complicated and reducing speed by 1 mile per hour will reduce collisions by 6%. Types of evidence and analysis were discussed – Primary, secondary or grey research. Cllr.M Swindlehurst debated from a health point of view that it could reduce Asthma and the risk of pedestrians being knocked down.

A member of the public was given permission to speak by the Chair: They suggested that Strategic speed reduction could work but not a blanket whole town approach. Accidents are often caused by lack of visibility due to inconsiderate parking.

Approved Signature of Chairman:.....

Date: 17th October 2023

Cllr. Wales mentioned Cellarhead as a good example of good road infrastructure where a 4 way crossing has been installed.

Cllr. Cawley agreed with a review of the town centre road structure engineering and signage, but an issue which cuts across the political divide is the health and safety of pedestrians. Reducing the speed limit by 1% is small but it results in a reduction of 5% in casualties. All speed limits must have traffic regulation orders and appropriate signing. 20MPH is then enforceable.

The Chair allowed a member of the public to speak regarding the current problem with the Welsh 20MPH law, that is going to be hard to enforce and that public transport will produce more emissions due to the slower speeds. The concerns as a member of the public is the increase of congestion, potential future congestion charges and increased travel time.

Cllr. Hoptroff mentioned the work that Councillor Atkins has done for Leek on this subject, but that her efforts had been rejected by the County Council.

Cllr. Powner agreed with the case to improve the Town road infrastructure.

Cllr. M. Swindlehurst reminded the Council of the costs of road traffic infrastructure. Local government has been stripped of resources. It would be interesting to see how the County Council debate the matter. Research around the subject is complex. The Council need to make informed decisions based on analysis of genuine research.

Cllr. Wales suggested the council re-word the motion and bring to the next meeting. He would support 20's Plenty in the right places. He discussed that a 20's Plenty blanket over the whole town is the wrong strategy.

Cllr. Birch suggested there has been congestion in Leek ever since the supermarket on the Macclesfield Road was built and the removal of the Derby St/Ashbourne Road roundabout.

It was resolved to discuss the Council's action on the subject as an Agenda Item at the next October meeting
Proposed Cllr L. Swindlehurst – Seconded Cllr. M Swindlehurst – Motion Carried

42. Items for information:

- **Bus Passes:** The County Council have launched a new initiative to improve the uptake of people applying for bus passes to use public transport.
- **SCYVS (Staffordshire Council of Youth Voluntary Services)** have a team of young people who are looking for voluntary projects involved with Climate Change. Please notify the Clerk of any opportunities.
- **SPCA (Staffordshire Parish Councils Association)** Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst has been nominated as a member of the Executive Committee to represent the Staffordshire Moorlands area.
- **Leek & District Civic Society:** A letter has been received congratulating the Town Council on the beautiful floral displays throughout the summer months in the Town Center.

43. Exclusion of the Public: The Chairman moved: "That in accordance with section 19 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business next to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting".

20.35 Members of the public left the meeting.