

**LEEK TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Mayor:** Cllr. M. Swindlehurst

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

12 members of the public were in attendance.

Minutes - D. Wheat, Town Clerk

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

**26. Apologies:** Cllr. Worthington

**27. Minutes of the Town Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> July & 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023** were received. There was a discussion about names of members of the public being published. The Clerk had advice from the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association which advised not to minute names.

The minutes were then approved, and signed as an accurate record by the Mayor, Cllr. M. Swindlehurst

***Proposed – Cllr. Hoptroff - Seconded- Cllr. L Swindlehurst – 10 in favour, 1 against***

**28. Minutes of the General Purposes Committee** held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were noted.

Cllr. Wales raised a point of clarification that there was an omission under item 31, and asked if an apology had been given to the Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst asked for it to be minuted that there was a vexatious comment by Cllr. Wales.

The Chairman M. Swindlehurst closed the discussion.

Cllr. Hoptroff asked for an amendment to the abbreviation LUF (Levelling Up Fund) to replace 'Lough'.

***The Amendments were Proposed Cllr. Birch – Seconded Cllr. Hoptroff – 10 in favour, 1 against.***

**29. Minutes of the Planning Committee** meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July and were approved after the Mayors report.

***Proposed- Cllr. Webster – Seconded Cllr. Birch***

**30. Leek Mayor Report July/Aug 2023**

The Mayor reported his attendance at the Civic Service for the Mayor of Biddulph and also a Service in Cannock. He attended a Fair Trade event at Trinity Church. Councillors from Stafford are coming to visit Leek this week.

**31. Proposal to update the working titles of Town Council Committees**

The Mayor asked for support from the Council to form new working titles for Committees and Sub-Committees because of the extended activity and projects that the Council are getting involved in. For example applying for Grants and managing the planting of Sparrow Park. Terms of Reference will need to be agreed, and progress of the changes can be reviewed after three months.

The proposed titles are as follows:

- **Finance and Assets Committee:**  
To monitor finance and to manage Town Council assets and street furniture.  
The Chairman of this Committee was suggested to be the Mayor.
- **Green Spaces and Allotments Committee:**  
Management of the Town Councils green spaces and floral displays.

- **Tourism, Events and Community Committee:**  
A wider coverage of the effects of Town Council Events for the local community and for visitors. To develop Leek as a Tourist Destination by generating opportunities for more visitors to attend Town Centre events and to leave them with a memorable experience which they would like to revisit.
- **War Memorial Committee:**  
Management of the War Memorials and events connected to these.
- **Human Resources Committee:**  
Staffing and Office management processes and procedures. The Chairman of this Committee should be the Chair of General Purposes.
- **Climate Change working group:**  
To work with members of the community on issues affecting climate which are achievable in the District.
- **Bank House working group:** A specific group to manage this main Town asset.

External Committees with Town Council Representatives:

- **Neighbourhood Plan Committee:**  
The Mayor acknowledged this is a separate group, but recognised its connection to the Council.
- **Twinning Committee:**  
To maintain relationships with Leek's twin Town of Este, Italy.

**A resolution was passed to support the renaming and new Terms of Reference of the Committees**  
*Proposed Cllr. Hoptroff – Seconded Cllr. Cawley – 10 in favour – 1 abstention.*

### **32. Announcements:**

The Mayor has received a thank you letter to the Town Council from the Leek and District Allotment Association for the Grant Received for their Allotment show.

### **33. The meeting was adjourned for the Public Participation session:**

- A member of the public objected in response to the proposal for potential 20 MPH speed limits in Leek. Arguments against included: no impact as drivers do not reduce speed, increased journey times, more congestion and contributing to air pollution.  
A document was referenced, produced by the Department of Transport in 2018. This will be sent to the Clerk for circulation to the Council for information.

Cllr. L. Swindlehurst responded that residents of Leek have asked the Town Council for support. The motion proposed is about supporting residents of Leek who petitioned to have the case heard by the County Council.

The member of the public criticised the Council's method of publicising the agenda containing the 20MPH proposal. All members of the public would like to be consulted on this matter.

**Meeting ended at 19.35**

Mayor signature.....

Date.....