



Leek Town Council War Memorials Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2026

ROUTINE MATTERS

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Hilyer (Chair), Hoptroff, Nicholls, L Swindlehurst, M Swindlehurst, Webster, Young

Apologies: Cllr Powner and Richard Benefer and Colin Agar

In attendance: Denise Wheat (Town Clerk), Victoria Johnson (Administrative Assistant)

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2026 were approved.

3 MICHAEL BROUGH

The death of Michale Brough, Chairman of the Leek Branch of the Royal British Legion, was reported with regret and the committee recorded its appreciation for Mr Brough's work over the years. Cllrs Hilyer, L Swindlehurst and M Swindlehurst, with Victoria Johnson, attended the funeral. The chair approved the request that a wreath be placed on the Nicholson War Memorial. It was noted that a new chair for the Leek RBL was required in order that the Legion could play a full part in remembrance events.

4 FINANCE

It was reported that

- The funds inherited from the Friends of the Nicholson War Memorial had now been fully used, as planned, in refurbishing the Monument and in the Centenary celebrations
- The only significant expenditure in the current financial year was on routine lightning tests

MEMORIALS

5 MEMORIAL WORKS

It was reported that

- NWM: a quotation was pending for repairs to the stone steps
- BHG: repairs to the playground equipment were pending
- Leekbrook: the remarkable photographs of the memorial cherry blossom were noted, in contrast to the state of the memorial in 2023.

6 EXHIBITION IN NWM

It was reported that the Town Clerk was liaising with the newly appointed SMDC Arts Officer about utilising, inside the Monument, the large photographs which had been so important in the Centenary exhibition.

7 LAND AT THE NICHOLSON WAR MEMORIAL

It was reported that discussions were continuing with regard to the NWM and of the land around it.

8 BANNERS AND NEM ILLUMINATION

It was reported that appropriate approvals had been received for re-erecting the six banners around the Monument (and that these would be complemented by a Welcome to Leek banner across Derby Street). *It should be noted that the ability of the Council to programme the flood lighting needs to be secured.*

EVENTS

9 REMEMBRANCE DAY AND OTHER MEMORIAL EVENTS

It was reported that

- the next event at the NWM was V E Day on 8 May
- the large poppy panels would be erected on the NWM during Armed Forces Week.

It was agreed that,

- as there are eleven memorial events each year council representation could be limited (preferably to include one of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chair of WMC) except for special days such as Remembrance and Armistice: in particular it was not necessary for both the Town Clerk and her deputy to attend all events
- should the SMDC hold a church service and/ or other event for Armed Service Week the Council would be happy to help with publicity and would, if possible, be represented but could not take an organisational role.

PUBLICITY

10 CELEBRATING THE CELEBRATION

It was reported that the June meeting would consider progress in making a permanent record of the events of the Centenary Year, including the parade, ceremony and exhibition, the echoes of that day at the Civic Service, and the Remembrance Day ceremony.

11 TOURS OF THE NWM

It was reported that tours of the Monument had been temporarily suspended

12 FRIENDS OF NWM WEB-SITE

It was reported that a kindly offer had been received from the author of the Friends of Nicholson War Memorial to work with the Council on its updating and that the site would be linked to the Council's own website.

AOB/DNM

13 It was agreed that next meeting would be held on 2 June 2026.