

Leek Town Council Environment Committee

Tuesday 28th April 2026, 5:30 pm

Leek Town Council Office, 15 Stockwell Street, Leek, ST13 6DH

Minutes

1. **Welcome:** Chair Cllr. Keith Hoptroff, Vice-Chair Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst, Mayor Cllr Derek Hilyer, Cllr Dee Young, Cllr. Sue Webster, Angie Balwako and Dave Swarbrook, Cllr Mark Johnson (District and MCA)

2. **Apologies:** Cllr Lyn Swindlehurst and Mike Jones (MCA)

3. **Declarations of interest:** None were declared

4. **Minutes** from the meeting held on Tuesday 27th Jan were approved

Matters arising: Identify sites to plant trees if the Woodland Trust free trees. Clerk to check if the opportunity is still available.

5. **Dog fouling:** Leek Neighbourhood Matters. Angie and Dave spoke about their new project in Leek raising awareness of all kinds of anti-social behaviour. They set up a community facebook group in February and already have 700 members. Issues they are targeting in the town are:

- a. Street Preaching
- b. Dog Fouling
- c. Parking issues
- d. Litter
- e. Intimidating anti-social behaviour of some young people and scooters

The group are asking the public to report any incidents they observe of the above with locations and times. They are scrutinizing the reporting channels to the authorities – both Police and District Council and they are finding out the barriers that the public face when reporting issues.

The Councillors suggested that when a report is submitted a copy should be sent to the Ward Councillor so that they can follow the report through the process. At District it is the Communities Committee led by Community portfolio member Cllr.

Cawley who could address these matters. Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst has been working with District officers to get posters and banners displayed about dog fouling in particular in Leek North and on Ball Haye Green where parents are having to pick up dog fouling before children play football.

A map was displayed of hot spots for dog fouling created by Dave who is updating the map weekly with new reports. Prosecutions for offenses are very low, because of the level of evidence required to enforce the charges. Publicity of offenders was discussed. People need to see prosecutions published so that they know there are consequences to their actions. Education is needed about diseases like toxicosis. Pavement stencils and chalk-based paint sprayed in hot spot areas could be used.

Neighbourhood Watch is a national charity organisation. Leek Neighbourhood Matters members have joined and are looking to expand the programme over the whole of Leek, getting more people involved.

The Committee resolved to support the project and to invite a Police Officer to the next Environment meeting to ask how they could help with enforcement of fines.

Angie and Dave left the meeting 18.23

6. Moorlands Climate Action:

Mark Johnson promoted an event organised by Adrian Paddock - *People's Emergency Briefing* film on the threats to British life from ongoing damage to nature and to our climate at three venues across the Moorlands:

Location: **Cheadle Methodist Church**, Chapel Street, Cheadle, ST10 1DU

Date: **Friday, 5th June 2026** Time: 7.00pm - 9.30pm

Book your place here: <https://app.tickettailor.com/events/moorlandsclimateaction/2168195>

Location: **Foxlowe Arts Centre**, Stockwell Street, Leek, ST13 6AD

Date: **Friday, 12th June 2026** Time: 7.00pm - 9.30pm

Book your place here: <https://app.tickettailor.com/events/moorlandsclimateaction/2168243>

Location: **Endon Village Hall**, Station Road, Endon, ST9 9DR

Date: **Friday, 26th June 2026** Time: 7.00pm - 9.30pm

Book your place here: <https://app.tickettailor.com/events/moorlandsclimateaction/2168244>

7. **Sunflower Corridor:** Cllr. Dee Young has emailed Sarah Wilde but has not had a response. Clerk to check the contact details are correct.

8. **Peak Cluster:** Cllr Keith Hoproff gave an update that the first round of public consultation is complete. There has been some misleading information circulating on social media about the project.

9. **Nature In Your Neighbourhood: There are several projects in Leek;**

- a. **Carlton Terrace, Haregate** – three weeks of planting wildflowers and putting up signage. The grass areas have not been cut by the County Council.
- b. **Ball Haye Green** – A successful Survey was completed in April with lots of new volunteers getting involved.
- c. **Woodcroft** – a recent survey also went well and was completed within the timeframe for the surveys.
- d. **Westwood Rec** – the local school completed the survey. Action West End need more engagement from adult volunteers to finish the project.
- e. **Belle Vue** – this group have dropped out.
- f. **Barnfields** – The Friends of Ladderedge are leading this project.

10. **Any Other Business:**

- a. Cllr. Hilyer suggested changing Terms of Reference and Title for the Green Spaces and Allotments Committee to move Green Spaces into the Environment Committee. Motion to be on the General Purposes agenda for 19th May.
- b. Cllr. Young mentioned the photographic cataloguing of the Allotments and suggested this could also be done on the green spaces, plus mapping with Google Maps.
- c. Cllr. Swindlehurst recommended a new grant which is available from SMDC of up to £500 from the Green Space Development Fund. A new financial years' funding has been released so that the Town Council can apply again. A Rural Development Fund has been opened for rural parishes to develop a sense of place. A Move More fund is available to encourage communities to exercise. Clerk to check the criteria of all three grants and liaise with Councillors to develop a project to apply for.

- d. Cllr. M. Swindlehurst reported that the Pickwood Rec site management plan has now been published. It was mentioned that the Well Street Mill development will have S106 funding attached, which would be eligible for Pickwood and Brough Park recreation facilities. Clerk to find out how to apply for S106.
- e. Knivden Hall site trees are now protected. The new Arboricultural Officer has put in a successful case for their protection before proposed developments come through.
- f. The service level agreement for Ball Haye Green Rec maintenance with Alliance Environmental Services was approved.

Proposed Cllr. Hilyer – Seconded Cllr. M. Swindlehurst – All in favour

11.Future topics

Cllr. Hilyer suggested an agenda item “The Built Environment” to include a list of Heritage Buildings under threat.

Actions	Description	Person Responsible
Approval document	Alliance Environmental Service Level Agreement – Ball Haye Green Play Equipment	Clerk
Research	The process to apply for S106 for Pickwood Rec and Brough Park from Well St. Mill development	Clerk and Councillors
Research	Tree offers from The Woodland Trust	Clerk
Check contact	Sunflower Corridor Project	Clerk
GP Agenda	Item: Changes to Terms of Reference for GSA	Clerk/Chair of GP
Mapping	Google to map the towns green spaces	Clerk/ MJ
Photograph	town green spaces for asset record	Clerk/Councillors
Check criteria	SMDC Grants: Green Space/Rural/Move More – liaise with relevant committee to apply	Clerk/ Admin