

Leek Town Council Environment Committee

Tuesday 26th May 2026

5.30pm, Leek Town Council Office, 15 Stockwell Street, Leek, ST13 6DH

MINUTES

1. Welcome:

Chair: Deputy Mayor Cllr Keith Hoptroff	Cllr. Derek Hilyer	Cllr. Sue Webster
Cllr. Mark Johnson (District/MCA)		
	Minutes	Clerk Denise Wheat

2. Apologies:

Mayor Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst, Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst, Cllr. Dee Young, Cllr. Paul Powner, Cllr. Bill Cawley, Mike Jones MCA and Alana Wheat (Nature in Your Neighbourhood)

3. Declarations of interest: Cllr. Hoptroff (Item 6) worked for Cauldon Cement works.

4. Terms of reference for new committee structure

The Town Council resolved to move Green Spaces from the Allotments Committee into the Environment Committee. **It was agreed to revise and circulate the Environment Committee terms of reference to include green spaces and built environment.**

5. Minutes of 27th January meeting were amended and approved V2

Minutes of 28th April meeting were amended and approved V2

Matters arising: Staffordshire Moorlands Green Network meetings are clashing with the Environment Committee.

6. Nature in Your Neighbourhood Report:

Alana Wheat (Keele University partner) sent a report on progress in the Leek area so far plus a reminder to register for Staffs Wildlife Trust iNaturalist app to record species spotted.

- a. Carlton Terrace verges, Haregate
- b. Westwood recreation ground
- c. Barnfields, Ladderedge Country Park
- d. Ball Haye Green Memorial recreation ground
- e. Woodcroft recreation ground

7. Moorlands Climate Action (MCA) report:

- a. A reminder to register for the 'People's Emergency Briefing' The film features footage from last November's National Emergency Briefing, which brought together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature. It presents a clear, measured overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain - and what the evidence says about risks and responses.

The purpose of the Briefing is to support informed democratic discussion and ensure that national and local decision-makers, alongside other organisations and the public, share a common understanding of the scale and urgency of the challenge.

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>

- b. **The Sunflower Corridor** idea has been discussed at MCA meetings, but it has been decided to postpone the project until 2027.

8. Peak Cluster: No update.

9. Green Spaces proposals from Cllr. Steve Ford (Councillor not present):

- a. Removal of turf verges Haregate Road/ Windsor Drive: The committee discussed that verges are the responsibility of the County Council.
- b. Dedicated dog parks and outdoor exercise facilities: This is a matter for the District Council who are responsible for parks except Ball Haye Green, which is not suitable as the whole park is a War Memorial site, a football field and part of the Nature in Your Neighbourhood project.

10. Green Space Reports and updates:

- a. **Ball Haye Green Rec:** Playground repairs are in progress by Alliance Environmental
- b. **Prince Street:** The two bins are the responsibility of the Town Council.
- c. **Sparrow Park:** Summer flower displays and lamppost banners on the monument are arriving on Monday 1st June. Press release to be prepared.
- d. **St Stephens Square:** Ownership responsibility still unresolved.
- e. **Russell Street:** no report

11. Severn Trent Drought Plan:

A notice of consultation was received. Clerk to circulate further information as it arrives.

12. Any Other Business:

Woodland Trust tree pack offers are still available. It was discussed to have a Memorial tree planting in memory of Cllr. Birch on Ball Haye Green. It was decided to consult Staffs Wildlife officer on suitability of the soil. It was also suggested to have bench in memory of Barry. It was agreed that some form of recognition of Barry's legacy would be appropriate - perhaps refreshing the existing seating pergola and installing a plaque - but that the precise form would best be taken to the War Memorials Committee.

13. Future topics: Locality report from Cllr Hilyer: To consider the following in relation to the Environment Committee.:

- a. Which **organisations and initiatives** do you/we liaise with? Whether public, or private, or charity. In recognition of two cherished charities recently ending operation, which of these are at risk if not properly cared for?
- b. Which **publicly-owned functions, assets or facilitates** might the Town Council contemplate assuming responsibility for? If we secure the appropriate finance, staffing etc.
- c. Which **assets (buildings/structures)** are key to the town's wellbeing or identity? Whether publicly or privately owned. In recognition of the loss of Big Mill, which of these are at risk if not properly cared for (heritage at risk)?
- d. Are there any **areas of activity** that LTC committees should be prioritising or adding to their responsibilities? This applies particularly to things that the district council currently covers but that might not be so actively pursued by the new single-tier council.

14. Dates of next meetings and events:

Saturday 27th June 10am – HUG Festival at The Foxlowe Arts Centre

Tuesday 28th July Environment Committee, 5:30 pm at the Town Council Office

Actions	Description	Person Responsible
Amend	Environment terms of reference	Clerk/ Cllrs Hoptroff/ Cllr Hilyer
Book on	Emergency briefing event	all committee members
Apply	Tree offers from The Woodland Trust	Clerk
Press Release	Summer Flowers and Lamppost Banners	Clerk/Councillors
Make list	Assets for LGR – green spaces and built environment	all committee members
War Memorial Agenda	Memorial bench or trees	Cllr. Hilyer
Actions	outstanding from previous meetings	
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
Research	The process to apply for S106 for Pickwood Rec and Brough Park from Well St. Mill development	Clerk and Councillors