

LEEK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Tourism, Events & Community Committee (TEC)

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Present: Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst (Chair), Cllr. Keith Hoptroff (Vice Chair), Cllr. Derek Hilyer, Cllr Dee Young, Cllr. Kate Nicholls, Cllr. Sue Webster, Cllr. Steve Ford, Anthony Beetham, Brian Benjamin

Minutes recorded by Victoria Johnson (Admin Assistant)

1. **Welcome:** The Chair Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst opened the meeting and introduced the non-Councillor Committee members to the newly elected Town Councillor Steve Ford
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst, Denise Wheat (Clerk), Sue McKee
3. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**
 - 3.1 **Minutes:**
 - The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2026 were approved.
 - 3.2 **Matters Arising:**
 - Further to the proposal that a WhatsApp traders group be set up to inform about events it was decided that as a Council we will not be using WhatsApp as a means of communication, email will be the means of communication.
4. **TOURISM**
 - 4.1 **Town of Culture:**
 - More responses than anticipated have been received so the shortlisting date has been pushed back to the end of July.
 - 4.2 **Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP):** No update this month.
 - 4.3 **Levelling Up Fund Project Report:**
 - 4.3.1 **Nicholson Institute Renovation Report:** The renovations are due finished by late September.
 - 4.3.2 **Brough Park Leisure Centre:** Progress is continuing to the scheduled timetable of recommissioning. Consideration will be given to how long the public have to wait outside if a formal opening takes place first.
5. **Feedback on recent events:**
 - 5.1 **Leek Arts Festival** is now coming to a close. It has mostly been sold out and doesn't appear to have made any losses.

5.2 Scooterfest went well despite the weather. The pubs and markets benefited from increased trade with an approximate footfall of 4300 through the market.

6. EVENTS – Progress Report

6.1 Mayor’s Civic Parade

- The Road Closure Application has been submitted.
- The Mayor Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst is meeting with Revd. Nigel Irons to discuss the Service.
- The Maude has been booked.
- Radios must be booked for the event.

6.2 Country & Western

- The band, Del and Hazel have been booked.

6.3 Remembrance Sunday

- The Event Application and Road Closure Application are in the final stages and will be submitted later this week.
- The first parade start time is to be changed from 9.00am to 9.10am.
- The reception is to provide tea/coffee and cake for a maximum of 50 people to reduce cost.
- A meeting is to be arranged with the Parade Master and Mick Brough’s daughters to discuss the situation with the RBL.

6.4 Christmas Lights

- The Event Application and Road Closure Application are in the final stages and will be submitted later this week.
- California Car Park is potentially going to be the headline act.

7. To note other town events:

<i>26th – 28th June</i>	-	<i>Moorlands Pride (28th June in Leek)</i>
<i>Saturday 27th June</i>	-	<i>HuG Festival</i>
<i>Saturday 25th July</i>	-	<i>Leek & District Agricultural Show</i>
<i>Saturday 5th Sept.</i>	-	<i>Action West End Family Fun Day (next meeting 18th June)</i>
<i>Saturday 26th Sept.</i>	-	<i>Leek Open Studios</i>
<i>1st – 4th October</i>	-	<i>Leek Blues & Americana</i>
<i>Sunday 1st November-</i>		<i>Day of the Dead (promote on Town Council FB page)</i>
<i>Saturday 14th November-</i>		<i>Leek Morris Dance Festival</i>

COMMUNITY

8. Leek Town Council Community Grants:

- It was noted that this is the first time that the process has been applied in this way.
- The requests were approved en block for the following community organisations:
Proposed – Cllr Derek Hilyer Seconded – Cllr Sue Webster

Community Grants	2026-2027	Budget
Applications Received	June 2026	£3500.00
Leek ASC	Swimming Club	£500.00
Royal Air Force Air Cadets 60 Leek Squadron	Air Cadets	£200.00
Trinity Church Grace Centre	Ending Homeless Project	£500.00
Reaching CIC	Adult loneliness/hardship	£400.00
The Naval of the Moon		£500.00
Leek Neighbourhood Matters		£500.00
Barnswood Scout Camp, Rushton Spencer		£500.00
Dougie Mac at Haregate Community Centre		£200.00
Leek & District Agricultural Show		£200.00
	TOTAL	£3500.00

- This decision will be ratified at full Council prior to the grant awards being made to each organisation.

9. New items

John Hall Gardens

- There have been some expressions of interest from community organisations to take forward John Hall Wellness Gardens. As there will be a period of time whilst tendering and legal process takes place SMDC are exploring how it could be maintained in the meantime.
- It was noted that it is not the responsibility of SMDC to run mental health services.

Year of Reading

- Cllr Cawley has asked if the Town Council gazebos can be borrowed for the Winnie the Pooh Year of Reading event taking place on 22nd August. Cllr Matt Swindlehurst will write to Councillor Cawley explaining that as it is an SMDC event the event organisers must collect the gazebos, store them safely if being kept overnight and return them in the same state of repair and cleanliness as when collected prior to the event.

Community Grants (going forward)

- **It was reported that** the new Community Grant system involved a set date for applications and the requirement that applications be made on-line with a specified amount asked for, a description of the organization, and a clear account of the project. This enabled bids to be judged at the same time (rather than prioritizing bids made earliest in the year) within the total amount budgeted for. This first operation of the system resulted in a varied portfolio of bids which could be judged against Council priorities and the perceived needs of the town.

It was agreed that

- the process should be started in the spring to allow bids to be funded from the start of the summer. If the budget is not fully taken up a further exercise could be mounted in the autumn.
- Applications should be invited to submit bids by the Friday 11 days before the April meeting of the Tourism, Events and Community meeting so that recommendations from the committee can be confirmed by the April meeting of Leek Town Council with funds made available at the start of May:
- This would allow successful applicants to be recognized at the May Mayor-Making Council meeting, along with the outgoing Mayor's charitable causes, presenting an interesting snap-shot of voluntary and community activity in the town.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7pm in the Leek Town Council office.