

# Leek Town Council

Leek Town Mayor  
Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst



Leek Town Council  
15 Stockwell Street  
Leek, ST13 6DH  
Tel: 01538 381271

## **MINUTES - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

7.00pm at Staffs Moorlands Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Leek, ST13 6DH

Present:

|                              |                                   |                         |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mayor Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst | Deputy Mayor Cllr. Keith Hoptroff | Cllr. Sue Webster       |
| Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst      | Cllr. Derek Hilyer                | Cllr. Dee Young         |
| Cllr. Kate Nicholls          | Cllr. Mike Worthington            | Cllr. Steve Ford        |
| Cllr. Bill Cawley            | Cllr. Paul Powner                 |                         |
| Members of the Public        |                                   | Town Clerk Denise Wheat |

- Welcome** by the Mayor Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst
- Apologies:** Cllr. Stephen Wales, Cllr. Charlotte Kelly (County), Cllr. Sonny Edwards (County)
- Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** and other Interests and consideration for the granting of dispensations:  
Cllr. Keith Hoptroff – trustee of Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Mayors Announcements**  
A letter has been received asking for a work experience placement for a student from Westwood College (Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July).  
**The Council approved the work experience placement. All in Favour**
- Minutes were approved as a correct record as follows:**
  - Annual Town meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026:  
**Proposed Cllr. Hoptroff, Seconded Cllr. Webster – All in favour**
  - Leek Town Council Annual Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
**Proposed Cllr. Nicholls, Seconded Cllr. Hoptroff - All in favour**
  - Town Council meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
**Proposed Cllr. Hilyer, Seconded Cllr. Powner – All in favour**
  - Planning Committee 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 Planning Committee: The meeting was not quorate, so did not commence, therefore no minutes were presented to approve.
- Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda:**  
Mayor, Cllr. L. Swindlehurst is contributing to a Community Working Programme, to devise solutions regarding dog fouling issues in the town.

7. **Insurance:** Council reviewed the schedule of cover for the continuation of Insurance with Clear Councils Insurance (Ecclesiastical) for a further year as part of a three-year agreement which started in 2025. The premium has increased following a re-valuation of the Nicholson War Memorial, Ball Haye Green War Memorial and Bank House: Renewal date is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026. It was approved to insure with Clear Councils at a premium for 2026-2027 of £8,264.25

**Proposed Cllr. Hilyer, Seconded Cllr. Powner – All in favour**

8. **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return:**

TC8

- i. The Annual Internal Audit Report was received  
Issues raised from the Internal Audit report were considered and a detailed response to each item will be published with the report.  
**Proposed Cllr. Hilyer – Seconded Cllr. Nicholls – All in favour**
- ii. The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) was approved. **All in favour**
- iii. The Accounting Statements (Section 2) were approved. **All in favour**
- iv. The Annual Governance Statement was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk
- v. The Accounting Statement was signed by the Chairman
- vi. Period of Public Rights was set by the Responsible Financial Officer to begin on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026:

9. **Applications for Grants to Community Groups and Charities 2026-2027**

A recommendation for approval from the Tourism, Events and Community Committee was approved as follows:

- a. **Citizens Advice Bureau:** Cllr. Ford asked for a report of the benefits of CAB to the community. It was noted that the Town Council have supported the Citizens Advice Bureau since its inception at Bank House in the 1980's. The Clerk explained that a presentation had been received by CAB in 2025 before the Budget was approved. The Council approved the Grant of £11,000.00 to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

**Propose Cllr. Hilyer – Seconded Cllr. Cawley – 10 in favour – 1 abstain**

- b. **Community Grants:** Cllr. Worthington suggested that all Community Grants should be an equal amount. This was discussed but it was agreed to follow the new grant policy that Charities and groups must specify the amount they need for a specific project. It was noted by Cllr. Cawley in reference to the Grace Project, that the District Council have data to suggest that Leek has an increase in people who are homeless. It was agreed to vote for all the grants in block as the amount applied for matched the budget set exactly of £3,500.00. As all of the grant budget is now used the grant window in Autumn will not open. In 2027 the application process will be brought forward so that grants can be awarded at the Annual Meeting.

**Proposed Cllr M. Swindlehurst – Seconded Cllr. Cawley – 10 in favour, 1 abstain**

| Grants                                      | 2026-2027                      | Budget            | Decision |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Citizens Advice Bureau                      | Reserved in the budget 2026-27 | <b>£11,000.00</b> | approved |
| <b>Community Applications Received</b>      | <b>June 2026</b>               | <b>£3500.00</b>   |          |
| Leek ASC                                    | Swimming Club                  | £500.00           | approved |
| Royal Air Force Air Cadets 60 Leek Squadron | Air Cadets                     | £200.00           | approved |
| Trinity Church Grace Centre                 | Ending Homeless Project        | £500.00           | approved |

|                                         |                            |                   |          |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Reaching CIC                            | Adult loneliness/hardship  | £400.00           | approved |
| The Navel of the Moon                   | Cultural Arts Projects     | £500.00           | approved |
| Leek Neighbourhood Matters              | Community Action           | £500.00           | approved |
| Barnswood Scout Camp, Rushton Spencer   | Scouting/ Guiding/Youth    | £500.00           | approved |
| Dougie Mac at Haregate Community Centre | Leek Activity Group        | £200.00           | approved |
| Leek & District Agricultural Show       | Horticulture/Rural Matters | £200.00           | approved |
|                                         | <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>£14,500.00</b> |          |

## 10. Mayor's Report:

Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Report for May/June

### Attended by the Mayor Cllr Lyn Swindlehurst

- **21<sup>st</sup> May** - Trestle Market traders funeral
- Congleton Mayor Making Ceremony
- **22<sup>nd</sup> May** - Norton House AGM
- **5<sup>th</sup> June** - St Mary's Catholic Academy Showcase Exhibition
- **6<sup>th</sup> June** - Cheadle Spitfire Day
- **14<sup>th</sup> June** - SMDC Chair's Civic Service
- 

### Attended by the Deputy Mayor Cllr Keith Hoptroff

- **30<sup>TH</sup> May** - The Creation Concert
- **5<sup>th</sup> June** - St Mary's Catholic Academy Showcase Exhibition
- **14<sup>th</sup> June** - SMDC Chair's Civic Service
- **15<sup>th</sup> June** - @21 AGM

**The Council resolved that Cllr. Kate Nicholls would be the Council's representative at @21 meetings.**

### ***Meeting Adjourned for the Public Participation Session***

## 11. Public Participation:

Mr R. Warrillow representing Leek and District Civic Society:

**How do we maximise Leek's town centre, heritage, history, conservation areas and promote Leek's future?**

Positive points raised were as follows:

- Tourism is the future of Leek
- Leek's Market Charter has encouraged commerce in the town for over 800 years
- Leek does not have a railway station, so visitors who travel by car are important. More parking provision is needed in an alternative location to the Market Place to promote commercial success of the town.
- Leek is a gateway to the Peak District National Park, so Leek needs to attract tourists to stop and explore the town.
- Suggestion to bring back the farmers market for fresh produce.

Negative points raised were as follows:

- There is too much traffic
- Leeks Market Place is hidden by a pay and display car park and with free highway parking around the perimeter of the marketplace.

- Heritage buildings and the blue plaque for Janet Broome (who in the 1980's worked to highlight Leek's Market Place history and heritage) cannot be appreciated due to parked vehicles.
- Traffic is travelling at speed through the town. A reduced 20mph speed limit would improve safety of pedestrians and other road users.

Mr. Warrillow concluded that the life blood of Leek emanates from its heart, the Market Place, especially on market days on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. There is access to Foxlowe Arts Centre which is publicly owned as a charity, a listed building at the top of the Market Place. He asked Town Councillors to support improvement of the Market Place alongside the promotion of the Butter Market.

**The Chair stated that the District Councillors present are here as Town Councillors and not District Portfolio holders. The Council are to consider these points from a Town Council perspective:**

- The events that Leek Town Council host and contribute to (for example Scooterfest, Pride in the Moorlands, Day of the Dead, Morris Dance Festival) These initiatives by community groups bring tourists to the town and contribute to the retail sector. With reference to Pride for instance, the Pink Pound is worth 6 million pounds each year in the UK.
- Spreading the market down Derby St to Sparrow Park is benefitting traders throughout the town centre and not just in the Market Place.
- Road quality, crossings, loading bays and speed regulations are a County Council responsibility whereas Markets are Staffordshire Moorlands District Council responsibility.
- Car Parking is a District Council responsibility. The Council would support 'No Parking' in the Market Place if this was proposed by the District and County Councils.
- Access to shopping for people with accessibility issues would need to be considered. The Purple Pound economy is a growing sector of the economy and accessibility is paramount to the shopping experience.
- Visitors come to Leek from all over the world.
- It was noted that the signposting to heritage attractions like Brindley Mill could be improved.
- Heritage building restoration and ghost signs could be referred to the Moorlands Partnership Board for a 75% grant. (25% to be funded by the applicant).

## **12. Dates of forthcoming Meetings and Events:**

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> July | <b>Mayors Civic Service:</b> 1:40pm Parade, 2pm Service at St Edwards Church                                                                                           |
| Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> July | <b>Finance Committee:</b> 5:30pm, Town Council Office – 1 <sup>st</sup> ¼ Budget review                                                                                |
| Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July | <b>Neighbourhood Plan meeting:</b> 11am, Town Council Office                                                                                                           |
| Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> July | <b>Leek Town Council:</b> 7pm, SMDC Council Chamber<br><b>General Purposes Committee:</b> as above                                                                     |
| Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> July | <b>Country &amp; Western Event:</b> 11am – 3pm at Sparrow Park, Derby Street.                                                                                          |
| Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> July | <b>Planning Committee:</b> 10:00am, Town Council Office<br><b>Allotment Committee:</b> 1030am, (as above)<br><b>Environment Committee:</b> 5:30pm, Town Council Office |