

LEEK TOWN COUNCIL

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

Tuesday 7th July 2026

Present: Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst (Chair), Cllr. Keith Hoptroff (Vice Chair), Cllr. Derek Hilyer, Cllr. Dee Young, Cllr. Sue Webster, Cllr. Steve Ford, Cllr. Bill Cawley, Mark Goulding, Sue McKee, Denise Wheat (Clerk)

Minutes recorded by Victoria Johnson (Admin Assistant)

1. **Welcome:** The Chair Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst opened the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst, Cllr. Kate Nicholls, Amanda Rowley, Anthony Beetham.
3. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**
 - 3.1 **Minutes:**
 - The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2026 were approved.
Proposed – Cllr. Hoptroff Seconded – Cllr. Webster
 - 3.2 **Matters Arising:**
 - No response to the Town of Culture application has been received to date.
4. **TOURISM**
 - 4.1 **HuG:**
 - The event was well attended and has expanded in size since it first began.
 - 4.2 **Pride in the Moorlands:**
 - The event went well and showed good use of the Trestle Market.
It was agreed that thank you letters should be written to the organisers of all successful events.
It was further agreed that it should be put on the agenda for full Council that ‘thank you letters should be written at the discretion of the Chair of TEC’
 - 4.3 **Updates from Nicholson Institute, Brough Park Leisure Centre and Town of Culture projects:**
 - 4.3.1 **Nicholson Institute Renovation Report:** The large windows have been installed.
 - 4.3.2 **Brough Park Leisure Centre:** The Leisure Centre should be open mid August.
 - 4.3.3 **Town of Culture:** A decision on whether Leek is put through to the next stage is expected by the end of July.

5. **EVENTS – Progress Report**

5.1 Mayor's Civic Parade

- All arrangements are in place for the event.

5.2 Country & Western

- Cllr. Hoptroff and Cllr. Webster have volunteered to steward at the event.
- Moorlands Radio will be in attendance.

5.3 Remembrance Sunday

- The Event Application and Road Closure Application have been submitted.
- A decision needs to be made on which Security firm, and which First Aid provider are to be employed.
- The complex Road Closure system requires a significant number of stewards.
It was agreed that a campaign to recruit volunteers should be prioritised after the August Bank Holiday.
- Going forward only one poppy panel will be put up on the Nicholson War Memorial.
It was agreed that the quote from Dollybirds for the reception following the service in the town centre is accepted.

5.4 Christmas Lights

- The Event Application and Road Closure Application have been submitted to SMDC.
It was agreed that the pricing policy for the catering pitches and stalls at the event are as follows:

Catering pitches	-	£75.00
Trade stalls	-	£40.00
Charity stalls	-	£15.00

It was noted that all pitches and stalls should be reminded that no generators are allowed.
- John Collins funfair has been booked for the event.
The Committee confirmed that John Collins has accepted the invitation to provide the funfair for the Christmas Lights event and that he will give a donation to the Council appropriate to the size of the event.
The Clerk is to research prices for gazebo tables as there is a shortfall of 3.

6. **Other town events:**

6.1 Leek & District Agricultural Show – Sat.25 Jul

The Mayor has received an invitation and will be attending.

6.2 Year of Reading-Winnie the Pooh – Sat. 22 Aug

A visit to the RSPB Reserve has taken place. SMDC are responsible for gazebos and advertising.

6.3 Action West End Family Fun Day – Sat. 5 Sept

A final meeting will take place at the end of August.

The gazebos being borrowed must be returned clean and stored properly in readiness for the Sunday Supplement market the next day.

6.4 Leek Open Studios – Sat. 26 Sept

6.5 Leek Blues & Americana- 1st – 4th Oct

The event is scaled down this year and no large events are taking place.

6.6 Day of the Dead – Sun. 1st Nov

Permission was granted to place the Town Council Crest on any advertising as long as it was only to indicate that the Council had sponsored the event.

6.7 Leek Morris Dance Festival – Sat. 14 Nov

3 sides have confirmed with another 7 wishing to attend.

The Road Closure applications need to be submitted (it was noted that the fee has increased to £150)

Trinity Church (lower level) is booked and 2 sittings for lunch may be required.

6.8 Events in the Butter and Trestle Markets

Evening Market towards the end of August.

Halloween themed event.

Day of the Dead – Sun. 1st Nov

6.9 Report on Leek Club Day

The event is not taking place this year due to lack of volunteers.

Next year there is the possibility of a stationary event being held with school choirs invited, venue to be confirmed.

6.10 NWM Tours

The July tour has been cancelled but tours will commence in August on the first Sunday of the month through to and including November.

7. COMMUNITY

7.1 John Hall Gardens

- Rethink will remain tenants until September, so the District Council are unable to tender for repairs until then.
- The Clerk will write to the SMDC Head of Resources asking for the return of the 4 gazebos which were allocated to Johns Hall Gardens emphasising that they are not the property of Rethink.

7.2 Leek North Naturally

- There are 6 potential projects in Leek North with a connection to the Allotment, Environmental and War Memorial Committees. These can all be packaged together so that any bids for grants/funding connects them and enables them to support each other.

- These projects will be co-ordinated by the Admin Assistant.

8. Any Other Business

- The Green Dragon Society in the 1990s was very popular and there is a suggestion that it will be resurrected with a Pagan theme and linking it in with Leek Arts Festival.
- A Town Councillor recently attended a Veterans event and saw a Military Wives Choir and suggested that they would be a good addition to the Christmas Lights Switch On.
- Moorlands Radio are running a 12-month advert for the indoor market, 6 months funded by SMDC and 6 months funded by the stall holders.
- It was noted that criticism had been received for blocking the entrance to the Butter Market for the Pride event. This will be considered for future events.
- Brindley Water Mill recently won a Silver Award from the Society for Protection of Historical Buildings.
- Winter Soundscape (a winter music festival) will take place from mid January to mid February across North Staffordshire.
- The Polish Connection want to increase their profile, so it has been suggested that they sponsor a cockerel bench in the town centre.

Permission was given for more A4 posters to be printed advertising the Country & Western event on Saturday 25th July.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 7pm in the Leek Town Council office.