

Leek Town Council

Leek Town Mayor
Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst



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

MINUTES - Tuesday 21st July 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. Paul Powner	Cllr. Mike Worthington	Cllr. Steve Ford
Cllr. Charlotte Kelly (County)		
1 Members of the Public	Staff: Victoria Johnson	Town Clerk Denise Wheat

47. **Welcome** by the Mayor Cllr. Lyn Swindlehurst
48. **Apologies:** Cllr. Stephen Wales, Cllr. Kate Nicholls, Cllr Cawley and Cllr. Sonny Edwards (County)
49. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** and other Interests and consideration for the granting of dispensations: None declared.
50. **Mayors correspondence:**
- a. **Cash Machines:** Complaints have been received from market traders about the lack of facilities for customers to obtain cash, as this affects their trade. It was suggested to explore if local businesses would offer cash back. Shops willing to offer cashback could then be publicised. Concerns were raised on the security of the current bank cash machines.
Cllr. Charlotte Kelly asked the Chair for permission to speak.
If a town centre premises could be identified, a banking hub could be applied for. Currently in the town centre there are cash machines at Leek Post Office on High Street, Co-operative Bank on Derby Street and Co-op Shop on West Street.
- b. **Highways issues:** A letter from the Mayor was sent to Cabinet Support Member for Highways at Staffordshire County Council, Patrick Allen and Leader of Staffordshire County Council Martin Murrey about pedestrians falling as a result of poor road surface issues in Leek.
A response was received urging that any incidents or faults need to be registered on the County Report app before repairs can be actioned. Other communication received will not be classed as a report unless entered into the log via the app. It was discussed that the 'Report It' app is complicated to use, making it a barrier to people reporting issues to solve problems. Each complaint received has a code assigned to it to register the date reported, the problem and the action taken by County Highways.

51. Minutes were approved as a correct record as follows:

- a. Town Council meeting held on 16th June 2026:
Proposed Cllr. Mike Worthington, Seconded Cllr. Paul Powner – All in favour
- b. Extraordinary Town Council Meeting 30th June 2026:
Proposed Cllr. M Swindlehurst, Seconded Cllr. Webster– All in favour
- c. Planning Committee 23rd June 2026 Planning Committee:
Proposed Cllr. Webster, Seconded Cllr. Hilyer – All in favour

52. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda:

The vacant position of Lengthsman has provided the opportunity to review any tasks previously carried out that were not on town council property (e.g. maintenance of the Selbourne Road roundabout), to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

The Clerk was asked to check all the areas and to write to SMDC and SCC to notify them that the Town Council are no longer going to maintain certain areas.

53. Mayor's Report for June/July:

Attended by the Mayor Cllr Lyn Swindlehurst

- **17th June** - Opening of Derby Street Pharmacy
- **21st June** - Mayor of Biddulph's Civic Service
- **27th June** - Opening of Moorlands Climate Action HuG Festival
- **28th June** - Pride in the Moorlands
- **29th June** - Mentoring a work experience student from Westwood College
- **12th July** - The Mayor thanked everyone for a magnificent Civic Service
- **15th July** - Presenting 'What's on in Leek' on Moorlands Radio

Attended by the Deputy Mayor Cllr Keith Hoptroff

- **17th June** - 35th Birthday of North Staffs Pensioners Convention
- **22nd June** - Fly the Flag for our Armed Forces at SMDC
- Moorlands District Scouts AGM
- **12th July** - Mayor of Leek's Civic Service

54. Items for information:

a. Bank House basement flooding:

On 21st July a flood appeared in the basement of Bank House caused by roadworks for the installation of a new crossing on St Edward Street. Contractors reported an explosion of a water pipe or drain.

Clerk to report to County Highways and to monitor the situation.

b. County Highways Meeting

On 21st July at the Nicholson War Memorial pedestrian crossing point on Ball Haye Street, Cllrs. Hoptroff, Hilyer and Mayor Cllr. L. Swindlehurst met with the County Highways officer and staff, plus the SMDC Conservation Officer. The Highways team explained that cobbles on the crossing are damaged due to weight and volume of traffic. A decision has been made by Highways to tarmac the road surface and to remove the blocks. The pedestrian refuge and accessible crossing points will not be changed.

55. The meeting was adjourned for Public Participation.

a. Cllr Sonny Edwards: A written report of all Highways works completed had been circulated to the Council.

b. Cllr. Charlotte Kelly gave a report on County Council matters for Leek Rural:

- The cast iron signpost has been repaired and is back in place at the Thorncliffe junction.
- The Pavements have been resurfaced in Haregate
- 150 trees all around the avenues of Haregate have been pruned by tree surgeons.
- All the verges have been cut.
- St Edwards Street crossing, a brief overview was given of road closure and the works in progress.
- Works proposed for Buxton Road will be done in three stages. 'Business open as usual' signage will be put in place to help traders that will be affected.

The Chair opened the floor for questions to Cllr. Kelly:

- Cllr. Ford asked about the road in front of the shops on Queen's Drive, Haregate. The road is the responsibility of both Your Housing and SMDC. The road surface and potholes need to be addressed urgently. Cllr Kelly responded that she would see what she can do to help solve this matter.
- Ball Haye Green Road – the drain outside the shop is blocked.
Cllr Kelly asked if the report has been reported on the app. Cllr. Kelly will follow this report up.

Meeting ended 7.20pm

56. Dates of forthcoming Meetings and Events:

Tue 28th July **Planning Committee:** 10:00am, Town Council Office
 Allotments Committee: 10:30am

Wed 29th July **Twinning Committee:** 7pm, (as above)

Fri 31st July **Passchendaele Memorial,** 10.50am at The Nicholson War Memorial

AUGUST – TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL SEPTEMBER EXCEPT:

Sat 15th Aug **VJ Day Memorial:** 10:50am at The Nicholson War Memorial

Tue 25th Aug **Planning Committee** 10:00am
 Environment & Green Spaces Committee: 5:30pm, Town Council Office
 (Please note change of date, as July meeting is now cancelled)

Tue 1st Sept **War Memorial Committee:** 6pm, Town Council Office
 Tourism, Events and Community: 7pm, as above

Tue 8th Sept **Finance Committee:** 5pm, Town Council Office

Sat 3rd Sept **Merchant Navy Day:** time & venue to be confirmed

Tue 15th Sept **Battle of Britain Memorial:** 10:50am at The Nicholson War Memorial
 Leek Town Council: 7pm, SMDC Council Chamber
 General Purposes Committee: as above