

LEEK TOWN COUNCIL

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

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Present: Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst (Chair), Cllr. Derek Hilyer, Cllr. Dee Young, Cllr. Kate Nicholls, Mark Goulding, Brian Benjamin, 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. Sue Webster, Cllr. Bill Cawley

3. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 **Minutes:**

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2026 were approved.

3.2 **Matters Arising:**

- No matters arising.

4. **TOURISM**

4.1 **My Active Leek:**

- This has now been open for 3 weeks and all is going well.

4.2 **Nicholson Institute progress:**

- The project has been signed off and passed to Staffordshire County Council who will provide the final timescale.

4.3 **Country & Western event:**

- The event was a success enjoyed by a large audience. One complaint was received about someone tripping on a cable but no further action has been pursued.

The cost of the event is to be identified so as to be included in the precept for next year.

Letters are to be written to both Moorlands Radio and Anthony Beetham thanking them for their hard work which led to the success of the event.

4.4 **Year of Reading – Winnie the Pooh event at Coombes Valley RSPB:**

- This was a very enjoyable SMDC event.

5. **EVENTS – Progress Report**

5.1 Remembrance Day:

- Goddard Dunbar are sponsoring the hymn sheets, Sonny Edwards is donating £500 from his County Community Fund, Roy Tomkinson/The Valiant have offered to cover the cost of the reception catering.
- This Committee noted the War Memorial Committee decision to request well known hymns for the Service at the Nicholson War Memorial.
- The stewards briefing will take place in Silk Street car park rather than the Town Council office.
- The Clerk will manage all road closures on the day.

The Salvation Army are to be asked to play the hymns at the Nicholson War Memorial.

The bugler is to be sourced by the Town Council for this event.

The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with Peter Burton and Pete Smith (RBL).

Arrangements are to be made for letters to be delivered to all local residents and businesses.

5.2 Christmas Lights:

- Rotary Club have offered to locate Santa and his grotto in a central venue in the town centre
- It was agreed that Level Up Dance Studio are welcome to perform at the event.

The Town Crier is to be asked to attend the event dressed as the Town Crier and to press the button in the Market Square to turn the Christmas lights on in synchronisation with the Mayor turning on the Christmas lights on stage in Derby Street.

Level Up Dance Studio are to be asked if they are providing their music or if they require Moorlands Radio to provide it.

5.3 Carols around the Christmas Tree idea:

- The Committee agreed to this event being arranged for either 4th or 11th December.

The Admin Assistant will liaise with the Salvation Army to enquire about their availability on the above dates.

6. **Other town events:**

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

6.2 Leek Open Studios – Sat. 26 Sept

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

6.4 Day of the Dead - Sun. 1st Nov

6.5 Leek Morris Dance Festival - Sat. 14 Nov

6.6 Steam Punk Weekend – 27th – 29th Nov

6.7 Events in the Butter and Trestle Markets

7. **COMMUNITY**

Leek North Naturally

- The Woodlands Trust approved the application for 30 trees to be provided to be planted in spaces bordering Ball Haye Recreation Ground to create a copse in memory of past Mayor Cllr Barry Birch.
- Moorlands Radio suggested that someone involved with creating the copse goes onto the radio to discuss the project.

8. Any Other Business

- The Wassail event is being planned again for the New Year.
- The Mayor of Leek's Civic Ball is provisionally booked for Friday 9th April at Westwood Golf Club.
- Este Flower Festival and the 25th anniversary of being twinned with Leek is being celebrated 16th – 18th April 2027.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7pm in the Leek Town Council office.