Leek Town Council War Memorials Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 3 November 2026 at 6:00 pm
at the Leek Town Council Office, 15 Stockwell Street, Leek, ST13 6DH

AGENDA

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2026.

To consider any matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda.

4 FINANCE

To receive

- An update on the current financial situation,
- Indications on the likely outcome for 2026-27 noting that costs are likely to be incurred items mentioned below
- indications of the possible budget for 2027-28

MEMORIALS

5 MEMORIAL WORKS

To receive reports on

- Nicholson War Memorial including tree work
- Ball Haye Green Memorial including discussions with regard to the toilet block
- Leekbrook Memorial including grouting of the paving

6 EXHIBITION IN NWM

To receive a report on developments in changing the exhibition within the NWM: permission has been received from SMDC to use the photograph boards from the centenary. A method is needed to temporarily mount the boards without damaging them.

7 MONUMENT GARDENS – LEEK, COMMUNITY AND HERITAGE

To consider developments with regard to the project in the gardens thither to known as the Sensory Gardens (attached) noting:

- Change of name to Monument Gardens – the current name is obsolete and 'Monument Gardens' helps link initiatives (and bids) that relate to the Monument, its precinct and the gardens
- Adoption of title for the project, proposed 'Leek – Community and Heritage'
- This project is designed to
    - provide an attractive and interesting starting point to exploring Leek's remarkable heritage and streetscape and understanding its community;
    - revitalise the Monument Gardens, which will become an attractive green space of improved trees and shrubs with the addition of low-growing drought-resistant alpine bedding – this will reduce anti-social behaviour through defensive landscaping and clear sight-lines;
    - complement and celebrate the Nicholson War Memorial (known as the Monument) and its open and welcoming precinct.
- the community (civic and arts groups, schools and colleges, subscribers to social media etc) will be invited to explore content, with ideas about how the panels could be used, what message they wish to convey, what images and (brief) texts could be included; how an appeal for artists and designers might be framed; the panels will be prepared – artists and designers will be selected with a brief to produce top-quality work based on the ideas provided by to reflect our community and heritage.

To receive a report on potential costs and fund-raising.

8 TREES FOR BARRY BIRCH

To note that this project (reporting to the Environment Committee) has been moving forward:

- the 30 Woodland Trust trees will now be distributed around the site to maximise impact, avoid

- the football area and be a good neighbour to adjacent houses, as distinct from the original idea of one or more copses
- advice has been taken from Gregory Coppenhall, SMDC Arboricultural Officer to
  - zigzag the ornamental cherries along the road end and left hand side (from the road)
  - silver birches around the far end, avoiding Nature in Your Neighbourhood sites
  - rowan trees (being the least obtrusive) adjacent to housing
  - securing (separately) a mature feature tree between the playground and the football area.
- The practicalities of the project are being supported by Mr Coppenhall and by Cllr Johnson on behalf of MCA.

To consider the need to recruit assistance in planting and maintaining the trees and to consider bidding for the feature tree.

EVENTS

9 REMEMBRANCE DAY AND OTHER MEMORIAL EVENTS

To receive a report on Remembrance and Armistice Day

10 WAR MEMORIAL TOURS

To report on recent tours

PUBLICITY

11 CELEBRATING THE CELEBRATION

To report on progress with making a permanent record of the events of the Centenary Year including the parade, ceremony and exhibition, the echoes of that day at the Civic Service, and the Remembrance Day ceremony.

12 WEBSITE

To report on progress with working with Rob Povey to update the Friends of Nicholson War Memorial web site and on integrating it with the Council's site.

13 COMMUNICATION

To identify what, arising from the meeting, needs to be publicised, and how.

14 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 5 JANUARY 2027

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The meeting will receive reports on property issues concerning the Nicholson War Memorial and Ball Haye Green sites.