

**Minutes of the meeting of the Tourism & Leisure Committee:**  
**At 7pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at The Ashcroft, Market Street, Whitworth**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Kim Blezard (KB), Chair

Cllr David Chorlton (DC)

Mark Ambrose (MA)

Michelle Butterworth (MB)

Gill Chorlton (GC)

Minutes taken by Rachel Hodson (RH) and Abbie Luxton (AL)

Kirstie Healey (KH)

Stefan Kowal (SK)

Linda Parker (LP)

Glen Royds (GR)

Angela Wardle (AW)

**AGENDA:**

**1. To receive apologies.**

Apologies were received before the meeting from Aimee Walker (ALW), Christopher Rothwell (CR) and Les Hirst (LH).

**2. To receive declarations of interest.**

None.

**3. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025, and to approve the minutes by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.**

Done.

**4. To update on plans for the Rushcart – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

MA reported Clive Morton has been practicing for the past 4 weeks, and it is going well. There will be seven dance groups attending this year's Rushcart, including a new group called the Mossley Morris Men. MA had concerns about the space inside the Ashcroft in case of the weather not being suitable for the dancers, however RH reported that a plan has been put in place for this. RH reported that Wood Fired has now been confirmed as one of the food stalls. DC reported that there are eleven marshals for the Rushcart and 10 for Remembrance Sunday and that they will meet up in a few weeks to discuss the plan for the events.

\*\*\*MA left the meeting\*\*\*

**5. To update on plans for a Christmas Light Switch On/Santa's Grotto – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.**

MB reported on the measurements for Santa's Grotto, it being 9x9x7.5ft. KB reported on feedback from the working group the members had at the Red Lion. KB expressed that they had a good discussion, and members were able to come to decisions such as ticket prices being £3 per child and having half an hour time slots that people can book on to. KB and MB agreed to look together to find Santa sacks for the presents. RH reported that she will speak to the Mayor regarding the competition for the Christmas cards. KB reported that she has emailed some supermarkets enquiring about donations for the event and will possibly start to ask local businesses to ask if they would like to help. The committee also discussed needing more volunteers. RH and AL agreed to send the amended posters out to the TLC members for approval. The committee discussed the craft making activities and agreed that the reindeer food should be made from porridge oats – LP will purchase this. RH reported that ALW has received an enquiry from a food vendor for the event.

**6. To update on plans for a Christmas Craft even – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**

The committee discussed needing more volunteers for this event. RH suggested making takeaway bags for the volunteers to craft something at home, as a thanks for their time. LP confirmed that the Ukrainian eggs are booked. Members discussed needing to collect kitchen rolls for the craft event.

**7. To update on plan for the Christmas Trees on Brackets – Winter 2025.**

RH reported on behalf of LH from an update he had sent in. He gave an overview of the number of trees that have already been ordered, as well as the number of brackets. He also reported that him and CR have agreed on a price per tree. He also gave dates of when the trees will be delivered which will be the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> November, the date the trees will be fitted which will be the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> November, and the trees will then be removed a week after New Year. He also reported that the lights for the trees will be fitted at the Ashcroft and volunteers are welcome. MA and SK have agreed to help to prepare the trees.

**8. To update on plans for Santa Express – 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**

SK reported that he will volunteer to help with the light setup on the truck. KB suggested having a Mrs Santa, however LP discussed the small space so it may not be possible. DC suggested having Mrs Santa as a car passenger instead. KH agreed that she will be driving the lead car. LP asked members to consider doing a recce run to help plan the route and times. RH reported that an application for a street collecting license has now been done. GR agreed to buy the sweets to give out.

**9. To update on plans for New Years Day Duck Race – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.**

Members discussed the idea of having food and drinks at the event. KB agreed to ask Nick McGary about this. KB will contact the catchers to ask if they require additional equipment.

**10. To discuss the Christmas tree at Moss Side Street.**

RH reported that the Christmas tree at Moss Side Street has died. The committee agreed to pass this on to Whitworth Town Council as the tree was not the TLC's responsibility.

**11. Any other business.**

The committee discussed the admins for the TLC Facebook and WhatsApp. They decided on GC, KB, MB, DC and ALW being admins for Facebook and GC, KB, DC and MB being admins for the WhatsApp group.

KB reported that she has been in contact with Jemma re the Poppy project and all certificates have now been issued.

**12. To set a date for the next TLC meeting.**

The next meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 20:35pm