

**Minutes of the meeting of the Tourism & Leisure Committee:**  
**At 7pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at The Ashcroft, Market Street, Whitworth**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Kim Blezard (KB), Chair  
Michelle Butterworth (MB)  
Gill Chorlton (GC)  
Jenni Hatherley (JH)  
Kirstie Healey (KH)  
Les Hirst (LH)

Stefan Kowal (SK)  
Linda Parker (LP)  
Glen Royds (GR)  
Angela Wardle (AW)  
Aimee Louise Walker (ALW)

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

**AGENDA:**

**1. To receive apologies.**

Apologies were received before the meeting from Cllr Louise Burton, Cllr David Chorlton, Cllr Michael Whitworth, Clint Davies, Jemma Harden, Marilyn Jones and Carol Thomson.

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

None.

**3. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, and to approve the minutes by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.**

Done.

**4. To receive the 6-month outturn to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

The Committee were happy to accept the 6-month outturn.

**5. To update on the Christmas trees on brackets.**

LH reported that he has fitted 14 brackets and 80 trees will be being delivered next week. He reported that once the trees arrive, he will arrange a date to prepare them which will be done by LH and his team of volunteers. LH reported that the trees have been provisionally scheduled to be fitted a week after next. KB thanked LH for all his work, as well as the volunteers helping him.

**6. To discuss plans for the Christmas Light Switch On/Santa's Grotto.**

KB thanked LP for wrapping the presents. RH reported that there are currently 42 bookings for Santa's Grotto. ALW reported that she has the details of the man switching the lights on. ALW reported that Martin Duffy will be helping to decorate the chamber on Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. RH reported that 90 presents have been bought, however the alternative selection boxes still need to be purchased. MB reported she brought elf costumes for the volunteers on the day. KB reported that she will promote the event in assemblies this week. RH reported that the Mayor has chosen the winners and runners up for the Christmas cards and suggested selling the 9 cards in packs on the TLC stall. The committee agreed to sell the packs of 9 cards for £4. MB reported that the inflatable snow globe will take half an hour to unload and inflate, however she is still waiting for confirmation for a drop off time. ALW reported that children will queue down the corridor for the snow globe and exit down the steps from the stage. ALW suggested rotating volunteers between the Grotto and the snow globe. The committee agreed to ask the Christmas card winners to arrive at 3:30pm on the day and direct them to the TLC stall. Volunteers are KB, LP, SK, AW, MB, GC, LH and JH. ALW reported that she will ask members not in attendance tonight about volunteering via the WhatsApp. ALW updated on the food vendors for the event.

**7. To discuss plans for the Christmas craft event**

ALW suggested to show examples of the Ukrainian eggs and crackers at the TLC stall at the Christmas Light Switch On, to help promote them. KB reported that she will email schools to push

the crackers. RH reported that Janice has done a stock take of the supplies and more gifts have been ordered to be put inside the crackers. LP agreed to bring the off cuts to the Ashcroft. LP and AW agreed to forage for Holly. RH reported that she will buy the drinks and mince pies. KB reported that the volunteers who help on the day can have a bag of wreath making supplies to take home for free, after all paying customers have finished making their wreaths. The volunteers who agreed to help on the day were KB, MB, LP and ALW.

**8. To update on plans for Santa Express.**

KB reported that she has left a voicemail regarding the sign on the lamp post at The Oxford, and she will inform CD when she receives a response. The committee suggested purchasing 6 walkie talkies to allow for easier communication. RH reported that she will chase the street collecting license as she is still awaiting a response. LP reported that she will collect 6 Hi Vis vests to drop off at the Red Lion. CD has previously agreed that he will put the signage up the week before. ALW reported that she will give flyers to Tonnacliffe for their Christmas fair to hand out. The volunteers who agreed to help on either day were KB, MB, CD, KH, SK, LP, GR, AW and ALW.

**9. To update on plans for the Duck Race.**

RH reported that the duck sheets have been dropped off and all the ducks have been checked thanks to CD who took them home and finished the checking. RH asked KB about the catchers. KB reported that she will chase Michelle Ashcroft regarding the catchers. ALW reported that she will take the winnings, Hi vis, the box and the sheets up on the day. MB reported that she has the duck placards and will take them up on the day. RH reported that she will email Dan Crook regarding access on the day. KB, MB, GC, LH, LP and ALW agreed to volunteer on the day. GC reported she will enquire about the release of the ducks. The committee agreed to arrive there at 12pm on the day. The committee agreed that the pub crawl is still going ahead on the 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**10. To discuss TLC branded pens.**

The committee agreed to buy 100 of the Electra ballpens from The Branded Company.

**11. Any other business.**

LH asked if Christmas lights could be purchase for trees if any are found to be on sale in the new year.

GC reported that over 100 Poppys have now been sold.

GC reported feedback from the marshall volunteers from remembrance Sunday. They reported standing in the cold for a long period of time and asked if hot drinks could be provided for next year. The committee discussed whether the new walkie talkies could be used by the marshals next year.

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

The next meeting has been arranged for late January.

There being no further business the meeting finished 9:10pm