

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Tourism & Leisure Committee:**

**At 6.30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at The Ashcroft, Market Street, Whitworth**

### **Attendees:**

Cllr Kim Blezard (KB) (Chair)

Linda Parker (LP)

Cllr Mackenzie Ritson (MR)

Glen Royds (GR)

Gill Chorlton (GC)

Carol Thomson (CT)

Kirstie Healey (KH)

Aimee Walker (AW)

Stefan Kowal (SK)

Minutes taken by Rachel Hodson (RH) and Sarah Cutler (SC).

### **AGENDA:**

#### **1. To receive apologies.**

Apologies were received before the meeting from Clint Davies, Marilyn Jones, Les Hirst, Mark Ambrose, Kath Proctor, Angela Forster, Michelle Butterworth, Mike Burgess and Councillors Mike Whitworth, David Chorlton and Louise Burton.

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

None.

#### **3. To elect a chair of the Tourism and Leisure Committee for the municipal year 2026-2027.**

It was resolved that Councillor Kim Blezard be elected chair of the Tourism and Leisure Committee for the municipal year 2026-2027. This was moved by Gill Chorlton and seconded by Stefan Kowal.

#### **4. To elect a vice chair of the Tourism and Leisure Committee for the municipal year 2026-2027.**

It was resolved that Councillor Mackenzie Ritson be elected vice chair of the Tourism and Leisure Committee for the municipal year 2026-2027. This was moved by Councillor Kim Blezard and seconded by Linda Parker.

#### **5. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026, and to approve the minutes by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.**

Done.

#### **6. To report on the finances of the TLC for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.**

All members were provided with a report detailing the committees finances for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and accepted the reports received.

#### **7. To update on plans for a summer event.**

AW updated the committee on the subcommittee meeting. In summary:

**Saturday 2-6pm** – outside event with a stage and Whitworth young people performing. AW will contact 2 food vendors and ice cream seller. The TLC will provide a parental permission letter for all under 18s performing at the Saturday event. Martin Duffy (MD) providing sound. Can sell outside stallholders space – need to clarify space available.

**Inside disco 3-5pm** – professional DJs providing music. Need more details – what age ranges is this aimed at – may need supervision inside by TLC members

**Saturday evening event** – fundraising for WLC. Tickets £15. Over 18s only. Need to pay for security. Tickets sold via WTC website & office.

**Sunday 2-6pm** – mainly outside event. Professional artists will perform on the stage for free, MD providing sound. Ice cream seller and 2 food vendors to be booked. PA Leisure booked for ride/inflatables. Can have inside stalls in half the hall & possibly a few outside. TLC stall selling popcorn & ducks. Possible crafts.

KB to send RH WLC logo. RH to book First Aid for outdoor events, Sat & Sunday. AW suggested having First Aid visible in a gazebo/tent outside as well as able to use bridal room inside. AW suggested MD asking for local sponsorship for weekend event.

#### **8. To update on plans for the Rushcart event.**

AW confirmed Bacup Balti using kitchen and Wood Fired also booked in. Volunteers on the day – GC, KB, GR, AW, CT, RH and MR. MA has supplied list of dance troupes booked in so far. KB

contacted WVHB but was unsure if they could attend. Alternatives were discussed. KB to confirm with the band asap. AW to confirm with Rossendale Radio. Marshal poster out – contact info is Town Council office. David Chorlton has also offered to organise the marshals. Clint Davies has volunteered to marshal.

First Aid quote was accepted by the committee. AW suggested aiming the crafts at celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> year since the event was brought back. KB to send RH links for craft supplies. TLC stall to sell popcorn, ducks and badges/magnets. GR able to provide coloured pencils. MR to contact Fire Brigade about attending. To ask police if could attend and do a bike marking event.

#### **9. Any other business.**

LP asked if the TLC could fund a defibrillator from TLC funds. RH suggested contacting Dawn Taylor regarding this.

LP enquired after the new lights for Santa Express. GC will test them and report back.

LP asked about an alternative to Ukrainian Egg Decorating, alternatives were discussed. SC to send KB details of a local paint-a-pot retailer.

RH asked the committee if she could submit funding applications for the August event, the committee were in agreement for this.

RH updated the committee on communications from RBC regarding a street trading licence for the NYD Duck Race.

#### **10. To set a date for the next TLC Meeting**

The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 7.50pm.