

Minutes of the meeting of the Tourism & Leisure Committee:

At 6.30pm on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at The Ashcroft, Market Street, Whitworth

Attendees:

Cllr Kim Blezard (KB) (Chair)
Mark Abrose (MA)
Michelle Butterworth (MB)
Karen Grayson (KG)
Kirstie Healey (KH)
Les Hirst (LH)

Marilyn Jones (MJ)
Stefan Kowal (SK)
Linda Parker (LP)
Glen Royds (GR)
Aimee Walker (AW)

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

1. To receive apologies.

Apologies were received before the meeting from Gill Chorlton, Clint Davies, Kath Proctor, Angela Forster, Carol Thomson, and Councillors Louise Burton, David Chorlton and Mackenzie Ritson.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

None.

3. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9th June 2026, and to approve the minutes by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

Done.

4. To update on plans for the Rushcart event.

MA updated the committee on the dance teams for this year's event including Thieving Magpies, Az Kabile, Samba, Britannia Coconutters, Mossley Morris Men, Galliard Folk Dancers as well as the Whitworth teams. He also updated the committee on the sad passing of Terry Mills, who has long been associated with The Rushcart. He will also provide some memory sticks with archive footage of the event.

RH updated members on Whitworth In Bloom's plans to decorate their areas across Whitworth with Rushcart themed accessories. KB & MB will liaise regarding additional games for the day. MB will contact an alternative ice cream provider. SC updated members regarding craft activities and badges/keyrings/etc.

*** Mark Ambrose left the room ***

5. To receive and note the 3-month outturn for TLC finances 2026-2027.

All members were provided with a report detailing the committees 3-month outturn for 2026-2027.

6. To update on plans for the August weekend events.

AW updated the committee that the ice cream provider had cancelled. MB will contact an alternative. SC will send out promotional posters to schools for all events. In summary:

Saturday 2-6pm –

KB will send out an email to prospective stallholders with booking form and event posters.

AW had booked one food vendor for the day as unsure of numbers attending. AW will ask them to supply child friendly food items.

KB & MB will liaise regarding games for outside.

Volunteers for the day KB and AW.

Inside disco 3-5pm – SC has bought items for the disco.

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

Sunday 2-6pm –

KB will send out an email to prospective stallholders with booking form and event posters.

AW had booked one food vendor for the day as unsure of numbers attending. AW will ask them to supply child friendly food items.

KB & MB will liaise regarding games for outside.

Volunteers for the day SK, GR, LP, AW, SC, MB, KG, MC

7. To update on festive events.

SC reported on a proposal from Clay and Glaze, the committee agreed to run this on the morning of the Christmas Craft event, together with cracker making and wreath making.

RH will contact the Mayor regarding Christmas Cards.

LH has started communications with the Christmas tree provider and suggested leaving the costs the same at £50 per tree and £25 per bracket. The committee agreed to this. The committee agreed to advertise for a contractor to fit the trees.

LP spoke to Gill Chorlton (GC) regarding the lights for Santa Express, GC will drop them off this week.

8. To discuss producing a tourist map of Whitworth.

RH and SC supplied the committee with information regarding both an app for mapping areas of Whitworth, and a physical map of the town. The committee agree to look into this and discuss it at a later meeting.

9. Any other business.

LP and KG reported that discussions had taken place regarding defibrillators and Hallfold Church and u3a had agreed to fund a new unit at Hallfold Church.

10. To set a date for the next TLC Meeting

The next meeting was arranged for Monday 10th August at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.45pm.