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

# On Monday 15th January 2024 at The Ashcroft, Market Street, Whitworth

**Members present:**

Councillor David Chorlton (Chair) (DC)

Mike Royds (MR)

Les Hirst (LH)

Angela Wardle (AW)

Linda Parker (LP)

Steve Parker (SP)

Michelle Butterworth (MB)

Joanne Savage (JS)

John Savage (JoS)

Aimee Walker (AiW)

Stefan Kowal (SK)

Sarah Rhodes (SR)

Minutes taken by Rachel Hodson (RH)

**AGENDA:**

1. **To receive apologies.**

Anne Tattersall, Mark Ambrose, Marilyn Jones, Carol Thomson, Clint Davies, Jemma Harden and Mike Burgess

1. **To receive declarations of interest.**

None.

1. **To consider the minutes from the last meeting on 22nd November 2023, and to approve the minutes by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.**

Done.

1. **To debrief the Xmas tress.**

LH updated members that the project is nearly completed for the year with 3 trees remaining in situ and 6 customers still to pay (mainly businesses). He found the admin system worked better this year by communicating with customers by email and the facility for them to pay by BACS. He felt that the teamwork by the TLC, Gleam team and Nobletts is good. LH considered that 4 volunteers to help prepare the trees is the ideal number and that pricing needs to be considered for the 2024 project.

1. **To debrief the Santa Express.**

SP thought the event generally went well, although comments from one resident were disappointing. He considered that extending the route to Bacup was a good idea as it was very well attended. DC stated that most of the shout outs came from Bacup. SP said that the weather was good for both nights and suggested that Santa’s repertoire should possibly be shortened for the unscheduled stops to prevent time delays. DC suggested marking a map for the signs so that the member putting up the signs is better guided. LP considered that adding a code word for Santa worked well so all volunteers and drivers knew to prepare to leave the stop. JoS thought that a chaperone was needed for the lead car/truck to ensure residents’ safety. AW suggested the piece in the Valley News can include the safety element for residents. DC suggested asking residents for suggestions for stops which the committee could review and consider. MR stated that he had contacted Haribo and although they are not able to sponsor the event, the committee may be able to purchase the sweets at wholesale cost. He will update the committee with progress.

1. **To debrief the Wreath Making and discuss holding one this year.**

JoS & JS enjoyed assisting on the day and thought that there could be something else held alongside this event in the hall. LP suggested table decorations or candle holders and the committee commented that the cost is high for the attendees. LP will liaise with LF and feedback. A subcommittee of LP, LF, MB and JJ was formed for this event.

1. **To debrief the Duck Race.**

DC stated that the day was a bit chaotic and commented on the number of ducks sold online and the number of people attending on the day. DC said that using the ton bags to drop the ducks went well, with the football bags being at the end to collect the ducks. JoS suggested using buckets with holes in to assist with catching the ducks and DC will liaise with the duck catchers regarding this. DC said that the barriers used are 17 years old and need to be replaced. DC stated that the number of ducks needs to be increased. LP stated that she was happy to spend a few hours selling ducks between Christmas and New Year at various locations in Whitworth. RH commented that she was unable to manage increasing the number of duck sheets and asked that the committee manage the duck sheets going forward. A subcommittee was formed consisting of LP, JJ, MB, SR, AW, LF and DC. SR said that she could store the ducks in her barn.

1. **To discuss plans for the 80th anniversary of the DD landing.**

DC stated that he had started organising this before Christmas and has provisionally booked the choir and the WVHB and has acquired prices for fish and chips, with a suggested date of Sunday 9th June as midafternoon events tend to be better attended. The TLC already have union jack bunting. AiW enquired as to whether this would be an inside or outside event, DC suggested it would be similar to an indoor street party priced at £10 a head. SP stated that he had passed on details for a 1940s singer and a military vehicle. DC will contact the singer tomorrow for his availability and ask if he will MC the event. DC suggested using long tables. DC said that the band would do two 45 minute sets. DC suggested having tickets based on ration books and using WWII posters. The committee discussed pricing options and food options. AiW will get costs for afternoon teas. DC said that the committee will apply for a grant towards the event. DC will get final costings. The committee discussed putting on crafts for children. SR will cost a goody bag for attendees. RH asked if there would be a different booking for child and adult tickets so that the committee would know how many children to plan for. MB will do some research on Twinkle. DC suggested holding an informal meeting to plan the event. SP has written to the landowner and gained permission for the beacon lighting. RH to check with WTC’s insurers regarding this. DC suggested members email in any other thoughts for the event.

1. To discuss GABGAL for displaying TLC event photos.

DC suggested that Mike Burgess may be able to assist with this. He will contact him and liaise with Jo Furtado.

1. To review the TLC’s income and expenditure so far for 2023-2024.

Members discussed this and more information was given as required.

1. To discuss buying 2 safety barriers, 500 extra ducks and 3 more football bags for the 2025 duck race.

The committee were in agreement for these purchases. DC will liaise with JoS and send links to RH to arrange their purchase.

1. To discuss a donation to the CIC from the profits from the Duck Race.

Members discussed this. DC will look into the costs for the additional duck race purchases and feedback to the committee.

1. Any other business.

MB suggested that the next First Aid course could be aimed at children and suggested the 17th March and 24th March – both Sundays. SR suggested using Holt Mill. MB and SR will liaise regarding this.

1. To set a date for the next meeting.

Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm at The Ashcroft.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9:45pm.