

Minutes of the meeting of the Tourism & Leisure Committee:

At 7pm on Wednesday 19th March 2025 at The Ashcroft, Market Street, Whitworth

Attendees:

Councillor Mike Royds, Chair (MR)
Councillor Mike Whitworth (MW)
Jemma Harden (JH)
Les Hirst (LH)
Marilyn Jones (MJ)
Stefan Kowal (SK)
Linda Parker (LP)

Chris Rothwell (CR)
Glen Royds (GR)
Carol Thomson (CT)
Angela Wardle (AW)
Minutes taken by Rachel Hodson (RH) and
Kodi Turner (KT)

AGENDA:

1. To receive apologies.

Apologies were received before the meeting from Michelle Butterworth, Gail Halligan, Cllr Louise Burton, Cllr David Chorlton, Clint Davies, Anne Tattersall and Mike Burgess.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

None.

3. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025, and to approve the minutes by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.
Done.

4. To consider the TLC taking on the organisation of Remembrance Sunday.

MR gave an overview of the organisation currently for Remembrance Sunday. MW reported that he had spoken to the Fusiliers Association about the suggestion of having ex armed forces personnel assisting with this. He reported that they would like more information on what would be expected of them. JH said that she would possibly be able to assist this too. RH will email over the procession details to MW and JH. Members of the TLC expressed some reservations about the committee taking over this responsibility but stated that they would be happy to continue to assist with the marshalling of it. RH will email current marshals for their availability this year.

5. To update on plans for the Easter Trail.

Rh updated members on the progress so far with this. AW suggested emailing the local schools with the poster. SK reported that he would be happy to distribute and keep an eye on the letters, LH will assist with this.

6. To update on plans for the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

LP reported that Knit and Natter are progressing well with the knitted heads. LP asked about promoting that the knitters are able to produce specific berets, and a discussion was had about how people would order them. RH reported that WVHB, u3a ukelele group, Whitworth Community Choir and Rossendale Drum Majorettes had all confirmed. RH asked about a running order for the day. LP asked about the time for the beacon, RH will check and pass on the details. MR reported that he had been in touch with Brian at the museum who is going to look for any VE Day memorabilia and may be able to provide a film, as was done for the D-Day event. Volunteers for the day were confirmed as CT, MR, GR, LP, SK and JH may be able to help. AW suggested advertising the event further afield. RH reported that she had applied for an RBC grant for the event. The committee confirmed that they were happy with the same set up as last year. RH informed members that they will have access to the room from 10am on the day for set up.

7. To update on plans for The Rushcart.

RH reported that quotes are in progress for traffic management and event first aid. Members were happy to delegate the approval of these quotes to the Chair of the committee. Food options were discussed – JH will contact The Circle to see if they provide a self-contained outdoor food outlet.

The committee agreed to ask Wood Fired Pizza to attend and also Ice Dream Experience. The committee also agreed to ask Rossendale Radio to attend, as they felt that that worked well last year. RH will ask Michelle or Aimee to re-advertise the stalls, although bookings are already going well. Volunteers able to help on the day are LH, AW, CT, MR and GR. CR can assist with gazebos and with the road closure. RH will send out an email to previous marshals asking for their availability. MR suggested Clint Davies (CD) assist with the marshalling of the rear of the parade.

8. To update on plans for the First Aid event.

RH reported that MB has organised this for Tuesday 13th May and will be publicising this shortly.

9. To update on plans for Christmas events.

RH confirmed that Santa can attend the Christmas Light Switch On. MR asked about the plunger – RH reported that it is in the cupboard but will need checking over. A booking system was discussed. A working group was created, and AW, LP, CT, GR and SK were happy to be involved in this. The committee were happy for a colouring/drawing competition to be held for this event, with the winners assisting with the light switch on. LH expressed his concern about using a raised a platform.

LP reported that replacement lights had been obtained for Santa Express and MR reported that he had a record of timings for the route. MR reported that CD is happy to be the back car again this year.

LH is happy to continue with the trees. There have been some issues with getting the lights returned from the Gleam Team this year and members agreed if they are not returned by next week, that a letter should be sent requesting their return. LH reported that an application had been put in to Crook Hill for funds for a coring machine to assist with the Christmas Trees on Brackets project.

LP reported that herself and Lindsay had done a stock take for the wreath making and that she will speak to the Ukraine ladies for their availability.

10.To update on the Poppy and Me Project.

JH apologised that she hadn't been able to attend many TLC meetings and reported that she will have a better update for the next meeting. MR reported that they are looking into having an ordering form for the poppies and JH suggested that she might have a stall at the VE day event and/or Remembrance Sunday.

11. Any other business.

LP reported that Metcon allows children to use their equipment after school and asked if the TLC could help to publicise this. AW suggested a piece in the Whitworth Valley News and CR will speak to Danny for more information.

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

The next meeting was arranged for Thursday 10th April at 7pm in the Council Chamber, The Ashcroft, Whitworth, OL12 8DP.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.30pm.