

**Minutes of the meeting of the Tourism & Leisure Committee:**  
**On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at The Ashcroft, Market Street, Whitworth**

**Members present:**

Councillor David Chorlton (Chair, agenda items 1-11) (DC)  
Councillor Mike Royds (Chair, agenda items 12-15) (MR)  
Les Hirst (LH)  
Linda Parker (LP)  
Michelle Butterworth (MB)

Mark Ambrose (MA)  
Aimee Walker (AW)  
Chris Rothwell (CR)  
Stefan Kowal (SK)  
Glen Royds (GR)  
Anne Tattersall (AT)  
Minutes taken by Rachel Hodson (RH)

**AGENDA:**

**1. To receive apologies.**

Clint Davies, Angela Wardle, Sarah Rhodes, Marilyn Jones, Gayle Hannigan, Jemma Harden, Carol Thomson and Mike Burgess.

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

None.

**3. To consider the minutes from the last meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, and to approve the minutes by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.**

Done.

**4. Update on the CIC fundraising event for 21<sup>st</sup> July and confirm helpers for the event.**

DC updated members on plans for the event. MR confirmed that 11 stallholder had booked on the event. AT stated that volunteers from St Barts will be able to assist once they have finished setting up. MR confirmed the event start time is 12pm and DC requested that volunteers attend from 10am. AT requested that St Barts would need access from 9am. MR confirmed that judges have been organised and the awards have sponsors. MR will continue to co-ordinate with the CIC and update members as necessary.

**5. To debrief on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary DD commemorations.**

MR reported that it was a busy, long day but overall, 95% of attendees were keen to tell volunteers how much they enjoyed the day. He considered that the format worked and thanked the museum for supplying the video footage and thought both the projector and tv worked well. AW reported that it was hard work supplying 200 afternoon teas and RH thanked the volunteers who helped set up the room on the Friday.

**6. To discuss plans for the Rushcart and confirm helpers for the event.**

DC suggested the same format for the event. MA confirmed that there are 8 teams of dancers participating this year. MR confirmed that Kirstie Healey could help with marshalling. LP suggested having Punch and Judy type entertainment for children at future events. Members discussed food options. LH spoke about having a road marshal at the top of Lloyd St redirecting traffic to Cowm Park Way whilst the road closure is in operation. DC stated that volunteers will receive food vouchers for the event. MR volunteered to assist at the back of the procession. RH reported that she had contacted Mike Burgess who is happy to photograph the event, for both social media and the community galleries and will help with the set up on the day. RH suggested asking if anyone had a drone to photograph the procession from the air. CR will contact Craig Dixon. DC suggested volunteers email in any other suggestions. Volunteers on the day so far are – David Chorlton, Michelle Butterworth, Les Hirst, Rachel Hodson and Mike Burgess.

**7. Brief update on the next proposed First Aid Course**

MB and LP discussed what type of attendees the course should be aimed at. MB will liaise with RH regarding proposed dates in September/October. £5 per person attendance fee was suggested (to cover the costs of the first aid books).

**8. To discuss plans for this year Christmas Trees on Brackets.**

LH gave an overview of the event and confirmed that the Gleam Team and current supplier are happy to participate again this year. He reported that 4 brackets were sold last year and suggested that once supplies for brackets are exhausted (approx. 10-12 remaining) that customers are advised to purchase their own. CR reported that there are 7 brackets in his unit. LH expected to see a similar number of trees sold this year, 72 trees were ordered last year. LH suggested that the discount for multiple trees is not included this year and also confirmed that Steve Parker is happy to assist again this year. LH stated that he is now unable to go up ladders and so would need assistance if any problems with lights were raised by customers after the Gleam Team put them up. DC asked MR to confirm with Mike Forrest that RBC are still agreeable for the used trees to be left at Whitworth Cemetery. LH also reported that the Gleam Team report on the condition of the brackets annually. RH asked LH to look over a proposed article for the Whitworth Valley News for Christmas Trees on Brackets.

**9. To discuss plans for this year's Santa Express.**

LP suggested removing the Red Lion as a stop as it was considered too dangerous and instead suggested using the Golf Club as there is more room to turn around etc. MR asked if Cowm Reservoir also needed to be a stop as there wasn't a lot of people at that stop last year. A subcommittee was set up comprising of MB, LP, Steve Parker, DC and MR and MB will ask on the TLC WhatsApp group for those not able to attend tonight. The subcommittee will discuss stops, etc and feedback to the committee at a later date. AW suggested using walkie talkies on the night. MR will contact the Mayor of Rossendale to see if she is able to attend at the Bacup stop. LP confirmed that the truck lighting is sufficient. RH asked LP to look over a proposed article for the Whitworth Valley News for Santa Express.

**10. To discuss plans for this year's Wreath Making Workshop.**

RH asked members whether they would like an article on the wreath making workshop included in the WVN. It was agreed to omit this from the next WVN until a decision on the workshop has been made.

**11. To discuss electing a new chairperson for the Tourism and Leisure Committee.**

DC reported that he had been chairperson for a long time and considered that it was time for a new person to take over as Chair. RH updated members that the chair should be elected annually as it is a town council committee. DC reported that he had asked MR and MR reported that he was happy to take on the role of chair. It was proposed that Councillor Mike Royds be elected Chair of the Tourism and Leisure Committee. This was moved by Mark Ambrose and seconded by Stefan Kowal.

**12. Update from Sarah Rhodes re the Whitworth Visitors Guide.**

This item was postponed to a later agenda as Sarah Rhodes was unable to attend.

**13. To discuss plans for an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day commemoration event (May 2025).**

RH provided members with details of a national proposed 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day Commemoration. Members discussed this. MR suggested purchasing a commemorative flag for the event and featuring the recent D Day flag at the event too. DC suggested approaching the Town Council for funding and involving schools too in the commemoration, to make it more of a community event. AW provisionally booked Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May in The Ashcroft diary.

**14. Any other business.**

LH requested that a treasurer's report be included in the future so that TLC members are aware of its financial situation. MA asked about poppy sales and DC suggested signage at the side of the poppies.

MR reported that RBC are keen to publicise events that are happening in the area and will pass on contact details to RH.

**15.To set a date for the next meeting.**

The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August @7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 7:40pm.