# Minutes of the meeting of the Tourism & Leisure Working Group:

# On Tuesday 24th January 2023 at The Ashcroft, Market Street, Whitworth

**Members present:**

Councillor David Chorlton (Chair) (DC)

Lisa McDowell (LMcD)

Aimee Walker (AW)

Taylor Proctor (TP)

Marilyn Jones (MJ)

Linda Parker (LP)

Lindsay Fairhurst (via zoom) (LF)

Les Hirst (LH)

Mike Burgess (MB)

Jemma Harden (JH)

Mark Ambrose (MA)

Vicki Henshaw (VH)

Minutes taken by Rachel Hodson (RH)

**AGENDA:**

1. **To receive apologies.**

Michelle Butterworth, William Calderbank, Alie Salford, Carol Thomson and Mike Royds.

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

None.

1. **To approve the minutes from the last meeting on 8th November 2022.**

Done.

1. **To debrief the Xmas Wreath Making event**

LP felt the event went well but would have run out of tree cuttings if both sessions had been full. LMcD suggested just putting on one session in the afternoon next time. LP suggested adding another option of a willow making event. VH suggested doing this in the morning of the wreath making event. This year’s date was set for Saturday 2nd December. RH will check the availability of the willow making company.

1. **To debrief the Santa Express and agree Linda and Steve Parker lead on this event**

DC felt that the Wednesday night was a great success and that Saturday had a poorer turnout due to the weather. MB suggested that residents could email in requests for Santa to give “shout outs” and he will set up the email address and monitor it. LMcD will look at tweaking the route again. MB feels that the music needs changing, VH will ask Ian how the music was saved previously. LP feel that the truck needs more lights. All members were in agreement that Linda and Steve Parker should take the lead on this event.

1. **To debrief the 2023 Duck Race**

DC suggested buying some waders to help the catchers. LMcD will find out what size they need. LF felt that more advertising was needed at Cowm Reservoir before the event. RH will check if permission is needed from the Waterski Centre or United Utilities for a banner. LMcD suggested putting up the prize money. All members agreed that 1st prize would increase to £150, 2nd prize to £125, 3rd prize to £100 and the prize for the last duck would increase to £25. LMcD also suggested that we need to buy another 6 sacks for collecting the ducks. DC suggested using a large net and that we need to purchase 5 pairs of waterproof gloves for the catchers too. LMcD suggested that the event needs signs and 2 padlocks for the gates, MA suggested that the padlocks be combination locks so it would be easier for the volunteers. RH suggested using the bumbags purchased last year for the volunteers selling the ducks for safer storage of notes, rather than in buckets.

1. **To update on plans for the May 7th Coronation Event held in conjunction with The Ashcroft**

LMcD has contacted Meekie and the truck would cost £250. DC will enquire with a company on New Line about their charges. DC reported that Martin Duffy is away for that date but will contact Nigel Pickering re the PA system. VH felt that the PA system, food and the music acts need booking as soon as possible. AW and LMcD will contact local acts. AW to book food vendors. LMcD suggested ice cream should be sold – RH to look into who has been used before. AW has contacted and booked the funbus. Michelle manned this last time – to check if she would be happy to do the same again. DC suggested increasing the stall prices. All members agreed to increase the costs to £25 net (£30 including vat). DC suggested charging a pitch fee to PA leisure instead of receiving a donation.

1. **To discuss purchasing their own barriers instead of hiring them for every event. And if agreed making an application to the Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund to purchase them.**

Members discussed this. RH will put in an application to Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund. Members thought that 30 barriers would be enough for events.

1. **To discuss the possibility of another community event**

Members felt that this could be discussed for 2024.

1. To discuss and update on an idea for a poppy memorial in Whitworth.

JH proposed a permanent memorial on the railing around the memorial gardens. These would be metal poppies, saucer sized and each of the 457 poppies would represent members of the armed services who died in Afghanistan. Each poppy would be sponsored by residents. DC has suggested that this could be put to Whitworth Town Council on February’s agenda, and if approved by them, then RBC could be contacted to see if planning permission would be required. VH suggested if different coloured poppies could be incorporated at some point as children are interested in finding out more about these. JH suggested possibly a plaque to explain the memorial. DC will ask for a permanent poppy memorial to go onto February’s WTC agenda.

1. To see if anyone would be interested in a subcommittee to discuss tourism within Whitworth

Members felt that volunteers unfortunately haven’t got enough time at present to form a subcommittee for tourism. RH suggested the TLC possibly linking up with Spodden Valley Revealed for this.

1. **To consider changes to the way that the Christmas trees are run and managed.**

Members agreed to limit the number of trees to 70. LH reported that the Gleam team only have 2 days to put up the trees and all went smoothly this year. Members agreed that all communication between the TLC and customers should be by email or text and that an online link should be used for payments. Members agreed to set a deadline for fitting new brackets. Members agreed that a deadline should be set for orders and payments at 1st September 2023. DC suggested sharing out the task of checking the lights – RH and LH will liaise regarding this. DC suggested buying lights in the sale in future years. LH reported a bottleneck between the trees being delivered and the Gleam team collecting them. It took 4 men 5 hours and worked well. VH suggested that if 4 people were not available this year, then could someone be paid to do this? LP reported that Steve and Stuart are happy to carry on preparing the trees. MA offered to help with this.

1. To set a date for the next meeting

Tuesday 28th February 2023 at 7pm at the Ashcroft to discuss plans for the Coronation event.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8:40pm.