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

# On Monday 11th July 2022 at The Ashcroft, Market Street, Whitworth

**Members present:**

Les Hirst

Carol Thomson

Linda Parker

Mark Ambrose

Lisa McDowell

Michelle Butterworth

Vicki Henshaw

Marilyn Jones

**AGENDA:**

1. **To receive apologies.**

Marilyn Jones might be late as she is collecting a lighthouse donation, Aimee Walker has family commitments, Gill Hastewell and David Chorlton is on holiday.

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

None.

1. **To approve the minutes from the last meeting on 13th June 2022.**

Done.

1. To make plans for the Rushcart.

Mark has contacted all the dance teams, we could do with another team but have enough for a good show.

There are 2 stall spaces left inside – they are filling up nicely although we have space for more stalls outside. We could do with more sweets and cake stalls as these sell really well usually. We have been approached by an outside bar but turned them down to enable the Ashcroft to maximize the bar sales.

We have some new activities for the TLC stall – we have set up a lucky dip stall which our younger members can help to run. We will have ducks available to sponsor too. There are new jumpers and t-shirts for those who are needing them.

1. **To consider bringing back the Sarecrow festival as a trial, possibly with a road safety theme to try to discourage speeding in the town.**

Members discussed the option but decided that this wan not the direction they want to go in.

1. **To make plans for Santa Express 2022.**

Members said the route may need adjusting now Basils have closed down – hopefully a new business will be up and running by Christmas. If not could ask Duffys? Members were concerned about the crowd at Station Road Broadley last year and considered ways to reduce this – maybe by introducing a stop at the Birches (Lisa will ask the landlord) and the layby on the prom would resolve this. We need a big sign saying don’t park here in the noticeboard on the prom. Suggested it would be good to have a visual (pictorial) map of where Santa is going rather than street names.

Members said they keep getting offered money, maybe collect for a local charity of the committees choice this year? Lisa will contract licensing to see about a street collectors license. Mel to ask Mike if he is happy to do it.

1. To update on wreath making 2022.

Members decided the price was too low last year so to change it to £30 per head. It would be useful to have 2 builders sacks for the tree bits to go in (will keep them in a sack rather than on the tables this year – Marilyn has some we can borrow. We need to purchase over door hooks and lights and batteries to sell.

1. **Update from Les on his progress on the Christmas trees and brackets.**

We have advertised on the website and facebook about the Christmas tree brackets – so far there have been 4 requests. We have spoken to Steve and agreed to offer a maximum of 10 brackets this year, we will make some extra spares too. We haven’t got enough metal tube left to make the brackets. The price for the pipe and delivery is £95 plus vat- this has increased significantly since last year but a length will be enough for this year and next year. Members agreed to purchase the pipe. The plan is to make the brackets during July and fit them in August. Everyone is happy for the gleam team to fit the trees again this year. Lights we have 70 odd lights, don’t know how many working lights we will need. Now we need a price for the trees to be able to advertise the trees to the public. Really this needs to go in the Whitworth Valley News – deadline for print is Monday 18th July.

1. **To set a date for the next meeting.** Tue 27th Sept 7pm

Meeting finished 7.45pm