



WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Representing the interests of the communities of Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge

Minutes of the Meeting

13th January 2016 at 7.00pm, The Council Chamber, Broad Street, Windermere

Minute No	
	<p>Present: Cllrs Mr L Hallatsch (in the Chair), Mrs J Borer, Ms S Bloy, Mr J Saunders, Mr I Telford, Ms G Nicholson, Mr A Legge, Mr W F Smith, Mr P Jewell, Mrs S Lilley, Mr Allan Winrow, Mrs Lisa Greasley. Also: Julie Wright (Town Clerk), PCSO Sarah Blacow, SLDC Cllr Giles Archibald & Gareth Candlin (SLDC officer). The meeting opened at 7.00pm.</p>
233.	<p>Apologies and absence: Apologies: Cllrs Miss K Atkinson, Mrs C Hallatsch, Mr Mike Stafford.</p>
234.	<p>Minutes: It was resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th December 2015 be signed as a true and accurate record, with one minor amendment made to the text of the minutes re planning application for Crafty Baa, as recommended by Cllr Jewell.</p>
235.	<p>Declarations of Interest: Cllr Bill Smith in item 15 (e), as the company is a client. Cllr Sue Bloy in item 15 (d), as her partner prepared the plans. Councillors remained in the Chamber during discussion of the items, but did not take part in the discussion or vote on the relevant items.</p>
236.	<p>Requests for Dispensations: NONE</p>
237.	<p>Public Input: NONE</p>
238.	<p>Economic Future: Windermere & Bowness: District Councillor Giles Archibald introduced the findings of the initial report from Douglas Wheeler Associates, which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. He explained the background to the report being commissioned by the partners, which also include the LDNPA and the Federation of Small Businesses. The report provides the factual background and research to date, to enable practical discussion as to whether a local development board, similar to Kendal Futures, would be suitable for Windermere & Bowness. Cllr Archibald was particularly interested to find out the views of the Town Council on how to take the issues forward, especially the proposal for a co-ordinating body and how that should be led and funded. Councillors took the opportunity to ask questions and issues were raised as follows: Cllr Jewell highlighted the real lack of support and opportunity for setting up a small business from scratch in the area. The possibility of a market should be considered. Cllr Smith agreed with the report's findings that the area is lacking in co-ordinated activity and what is needed is an action-based body to work on the list of suggested activities in the report. He raised doubts that the Town Council is in a position to lead such a body. He welcomed the focus in the report on 3rd sector activities and the importance of regulatory bodies locally to encourage this activity not to put hurdles in the way. This is particularly in</p>

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	<p>reference to the work done by Windermere Town Council to establish a community hub at Langstone House, which has not been a positive experience.</p> <p>Cllr Saunders also welcomed the report but is worried about some of the drivers of LDNPA policy which can positively discourage economic activity.</p> <p>Cllr Legge also underlined the importance of LDNPA positive engagement with any group which is established.</p> <p>Cllr Borer emphasized that timing is very important and that links need to be established with up and coming major developments, especially Optimising Connectivity, led by Cumbria County Council, who are not currently a partner in this project. Strong support for a co-ordinating body to be set up that is led by SLDC. The Town Council is too limited in budget and scope to be the lead partner. Cllr Borer also expressed concerns about getting local businesses on board and emphasized that activities should be linked to any bids for funding, for which there needs to be plenty of lead in time. A Tourism BID should be considered.</p> <p>Cllr Bloy endorsed the views of Cllr Borer as to leadership from SLDC and also wished to underline the great differences between Windermere/Bowness and Kendal, especially in the dispersal and constraints for small businesses.</p> <p>Cllr Greasley asked for confirmation that Cumbria County Council will be involved in the project going forward and this was confirmed by Cllr Archibald.</p> <p>Cllr Borer (seconded by Cllr Bloy) proposed that Windermere Town Council give its support to an economic future co-ordinating body for Windermere & Bowness and that this be led by SLDC. This proposal was unanimously approved.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked Cllr Archibald and Gareth Candlin for attending the meeting. Their attendance had helped greatly to explain the many issues which the report highlights.</p>
239.	<p>Local Police Issues:</p> <p>PCSO Sarah Blacow updated Councillors on recent policing issues in the community. Although, organizational issues are still “in flux” following the local policing reorganisation of responsibilities, there has been plenty taking place. Assistance to flood recovery has been the principal activity but in addition, there have been the following projects:</p> <p>Operation snowberry - a highly visible anti-shoplifting project. Shop-lifting statistics have decreased and have recently been very localized.</p> <p>A new Bar Watch scheme</p> <p>Drop in sessions at Booths when possible (on Tuesday mornings) and a new mobile police station at Hayes Garden Centre on occasion.</p> <p>Support for the Pride in Fallbarrow Court project.</p> <p>Road safety in schools</p> <p>Drug Awareness DvD, done in partnership with a local theatre group and young people themselves, for which funding has been secured.</p> <p>Councillors raised the following issues:</p> <p>A request for a purge on those driving whilst using a mobile phone. Lots of instances recently in our area.</p> <p>Parking on pavements continues to be a concern and it was agreed that he Clerk would write</p>

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	<p>to Cumbria County Council parking enforcement to request some action in Windermere & Bowness.</p> <p>PCSO Blacow informed Councillors about the advice received from the local Crime Prevention Officer to deal with instances of anti-social behavior at the Longlands Rd Bowling Green and The Mission. It has been suggested that the use of an anti-loitering device, called a “Mosquito” could be effective in tackling the problems. Town Council were asked if they would consider assistance with funding (c£595). Councillors resolved to discuss the issue in more detail at the next meeting, which will afford time for the Clerk to collect more detail.</p>
240.	<p>Mayor & Member Announcements:</p> <p><u>Cllr Borer</u>: Reported on the latest Lakes Line Bulletin. The new franchises are now in place and the Lakes Line electrification now has dedicated funding, which means that this is still on course but later than expected. Also attended Optimising Connectivity meeting, which gave out information on progress and the timing of the three project phases. The Clerk will circulate the slides to all councillors, so that they have the information.</p> <p><u>Cllr Smith</u>: Updated that planning permission has been received for the modernisation project at Quarry Rigg toilets, managed by the BWCCT. There has been a proposal from a local designer, to decorate the 5 doors with Lake District themed images. The designs were distributed amongst councillors and there was a great deal of support. The designs will need to be submitted for planning permission. Also attended the volunteers’ lunch, organised by BWCCT and provided by Windermere School. The event was great fun and the standard of catering excellent.</p> <p><u>Cllr Greasley</u> wished to pass on thanks to the Town Steward for the work done in Elleray Woods to restore paths etc after recent floods. The woods are already looking much better and it is thanks to Gary’s individual efforts. Attended the Elderly Persons tea at the Low Wood (organised by Lions) which was very good and also a Cumbria in Bloom meeting.</p>
241.	<p>District & County Councillors’ reports:</p> <p>NONE IN ATTENDANCE</p>
242.	<p>Clerk’s Report:</p> <p>The Clerk’s report, as written was noted. Several items were added - the Lakes Parish Council minutes and agenda, an email from the British Legion setting the date of February 6th at 11am for unveiling the bench plaque to commemorate the soldiers who lost their lives in training on Windermere in the second world war. Also an amendment to the planning application no 5464 (Beemire Lane) recommended for approval by the Council in September 2015. It was decided to make no comment. Councillors noted the flood damage to rights of way in our area, as provided by the LDNPA and the latest flood update, setting out plans for the A591. The renewal of the application for flights of Waterbird which could not go ahead last year was welcomed and it was decided to support the dates in May which have been provisionally set for flights. The clerk will inform the LDNPA. The Clerk also handed out hard copies of the Windermere Code of Conduct, as a reminder to Councillors.</p>
243.	<p>Finance:</p> <p>The invoices as listed in the agenda were approved for payment, with the addition of 3 invoices - Will Hicks for emergency removal of trees in Elleray Woods, as a result of recent</p>

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	storm damage (£360), to SLDC for annual rent of the allotment site at Orrest Drive (£126.40) and to Treble 3 for renewal of the domain name. The amount for the Town Steward was also agreed (£525).
244.	<p>Cumbria County Council Budget Consultation:</p> <p><u>a) The Council Plan and Budget 2016-20:</u></p> <p>These proposals were reviewed by Cllr Saunders, who had circulated his written comments prior to the meeting. Following a discussion of the issues, it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk submit the following points in response to the consultation:</p> <p>Overall, the Town Council are supportive of the priorities in the Council plan and understand the difficult financial environment in which the County Council operates.</p> <p>We do feel that there are other areas missing from the priorities as stated, namely that CCC should be aiming to increase the number of well-paid jobs available in the private sector, by encouraging firms to invest in Cumbria.</p> <p>CCC needs to look closely at its remuneration policy for middle and senior managers and their pension and other packages, with the aim of reducing costs substantially to be more in line with private sector wages - nb Westmorland Gazette report of 12 November 2015, reporting the final salary of the Chief Executive as £411k, in a County where the average earnings are one of the lowest in the country, at £25,200.</p> <p>Agreed the plans set out to achieve a balanced budget in 2016/17, but would add that wages and packages for managers should be under review.</p> <p>The option for taking a grant to freeze council tax should be definitely taken, rather than increase Council Tax by 2%. Statistics (2015-16) show that Cumbria County Council has the 6th highest Band D council tax out of 27 County Councils, whilst having the lowest mean income per taxpayer of the 27 Counties. So, any option to freeze or reduce Council Tax should be taken, so that the County Council is not contributing to furthering income deprivation.</p> <p>Agree any plans to pass on cuts in service specific grants direct to the service.</p> <p><u>b) Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Management Plan 2015-20:</u></p> <p>Cllr Ian Telford had read the plan and introduced his views on the document. After discussion, it was agreed unanimously to make the following suggestions and feedback to Cumbria County Council:</p> <p>The Town Council accepts that there has to be cuts to service and expenditure, but believe strongly that this should only be considered in the light of recent events and the prediction of further flooding catastrophe in future years.</p> <p>It would appear that the population figures used in the risk assessment take no account of visitor numbers, which, in our area, treble the population on numerous occasions and therefore increase the risk for short but regular periods of time.</p> <p>The statistics provided in the report on call-outs to fire alarm activation (98% being false alarms) are astounding and we call on the service to review policy with regard to these call-outs, possibly considering fines where appropriate.</p> <p>Whilst the case for reducing fire stations, based on the reduction in the number of fires around the county, is compelling, the service is about more than fires and is also a "rescue"</p>

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service. It would appear that the need for the rescue side of the service has actually increased in recent years, especially with large-scale flooding events and major car/train crash disasters.

Given the above, we would call for the proposal to close Staveley fire station to be re-considered.

c) Draft Commissioning Strategy for Care & Support:

These proposals had been reviewed by Cllr Peter Jewell, who suggested the following feed back to Cumbria County Council. This was agreed unanimously:

The description in the report of the “super-aging” population in Cumbria, which is caused by growth in the elderly population taking place at the same time as a significant decrease in the younger ages, is alarming.

We note and accept the financial projections in the report, which point to the growing service need, in the light of pressure on financial resources and the need to take bold and often unpopular action in order to continue meeting statutory minimum service provision.

We are supportive of the move, where possible, away from long-term residential care, into forms of community support through partner organisations, but would ask for further information as to who the partners are. It is difficult to understand exactly what is planned without this information.

The report has very little focus on younger adults who require social care, other than to state the intention of supporting them to be economically viable and consequently, needing less care intervention. This objective is supported, as long as, for those younger adults who genuinely need it, care is provided and they are not forgotten.

d) Extra Care Housing & Supported Living:

Cllr Grania Nicholson had reviewed these proposals and the following feedback was agreed unanimously:

The overall strategy of supporting older people to live in their own homes, rather than enter residential care, is supported. Further detail on what types of remote monitoring will be provided and how reliable and user friendly would have been helpful.

Sheltered and extra care housing is also supported and Councillors had only good things to say about Birthwaite supported housing in Windermere. However, given the super-aging population, especially in South Lakes, there are genuine concerns as to how the increase in facilities, which will be needed, will be happen. Will there be new or renovated buildings? Any further information or plans would be most welcome.

The point was also made that the strategy needs to be clear as to how options and facilities will be communicated to and discussed with clients and their families. From Councillors’ personal experience, this area is often the weakest and yet so integral to the strategy working in practice.

On supported living, the only example given is for those with Learning Disabilities, which makes feedback rather difficult. However, in general, Town Council ask for some reassurance that the changes in housing benefits legislation is being taken into account

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	alongside these plans, which could render some parts of the plans unfeasible.
245.	<p>New Arrangements for External Audit: The Clerk explained the new arrangements which will be introduced in replacement of the Audit Commission. A new Sector Led body will appoint auditors for all smaller authorities unless they wish to opt out and appoint their own. Councillors decided to stay with current arrangements as proposed and not to opt out.</p>
246.	<p>Shop Front Improvement Scheme: A grant application received from Picnic Cabin (£475.00) was discussed and agreed. Once this has been paid, there will be only £120 left in the fund (ie £4,880 spent out of £5,000). The Clerk will be asking SLDC if there is scope for a further grant. There are currently no further applications in the pipeline.</p>
247.	<p>Planning Applications: The following recommendations were made: a)7/2015/5733: Grounds of Hazel Bank, Hazel St, Windermere: Demolish existing garage, new dwelling house for local occupancy. No comments. b)7/2015/5736: Windermere Jetty, Rayrigg Rd, Windermere: Installation of a new septic tank (to replace existing septic tank but in a new location). Recommend for approval. c)7/2015/5731: Grey Gables, Storrs Park, Bowness: Retrospective application for changes to the approved boathouse design and dredging of the lake bed. No comments (due to being retrospective) d)7/2015/5738: 5 Alexandra Rd, Windermere: new roof over rear extensions, new window and new fold aside doors into existing courtyard garden. Recommend for approval. e)7/2015/5742: Postillion Restaurant, Ash St, Bowness: Demolition, reconstruction & extension. Recommend for approval. f)7/2015/5746: Follys End, Oldfield Rd, Windermere: Alterations and extension to Follys End and two local needs dwellinghouses (re-submission of 5292). Recommend refusal as being over-development of the site and area. g)7/2015/5758: Dove Wood, Storrs Park, Bowness: Vary condition 2 on approval (ref 5070) - amended drawings for replacement dwelling. No comment, as could not determine, from the paperwork received, what the actual amendment is. h)7/2015/5764: 31 Victoria Rd North, Windermere: Extension to front. Recommend for Approval.</p>
248.	<p>Planning Decisions The decisions made by LDNPA and set out on the agenda were duly noted. In future the Clerk will include on this list, the recommendation made by Windermere Town Council.</p>
249.	<p>Dates of Next Meetings: Wednesday 27th January 2016: Full Council (lighter agenda) Wednesday 10th February 2016: Full Council Wednesday 24th February 2016: Full Council (lighter agenda)</p>
	The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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