



WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting

23rd March 2016 at 7.00pm, The Council Chamber, Broad Street, Windermere

| Minute No | |
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| | <p>Present: Cllrs Mrs Lisa Greasley (in the chair), Mr J Saunders, Mr I Telford, Mr W F Smith, Dr P Jewell, Mrs S Lilley, Mrs J Borer, Ms S Bloy, Mr Mike Stafford. Also: Julie Wright (Town Clerk), Cllr Jim Bland (CCC), Debbie Binch, Environment Agency and 4 members of the public. The meeting opened at 7.00pm.</p> |
| 294. | <p>Apologies and absence: Apologies: Cllr Leith Hallatsch, Mrs C Hallatsch, Mr A Legge, Mr Allan Winrow, Ms K Atkinson, Ms G Nicholson.</p> |
| 295. | <p>Minutes: It was resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th March be signed as a true and accurate record, with one amendment - the deletion of the sentence beginning "The Town Council discussed the paper..." on item 290. This was a cut and paste mistake made by the Clerk.</p> |
| 296. | <p>Declarations of Interest: Cllr Sue Bloy in item 14(c). Cllr Bloy remained in the chamber during the discussion but took no part in the debate or vote on this item.</p> |
| 297. | <p>Requests for Dispensations: NONE</p> |
| 298. | <p>Public Input: Brenda Gates had requested to address the Town Council about planning item 7/2016/5075, 7 Biskey Howe Park. Mrs Gates was aware that the Town Council had recommended this application for approval at their previous meeting and that they would not be able to re-visit this item. Mrs Gates lives at no 6 Biskey Howe Park. The key point she wished to make is that the application recommended by the Town Council had been the subject of amended plans since then that, in Mrs Gates' opinion, have materially changed from the original plans submitted. It is only in the amended plans that the full impact of the development can be fully appreciated. The height of the new roof has been revised and is now 4m high (including a 1m glass lantern, making it 1.5m higher than the existing roof. In total, the height of the building will be 9m, the normal height of a 3 storey building. In Mrs Gates' opinion, the scale of the roof will be massive and will dominate the hillside and view-point from Biskey Howe. Because the shape is hexagonal, the development will sit out on a plateau, rather than blend discreetly into the hill. The impact on the landscape, it is believed, will be huge, as the very distinctive roof will draw the eyes away from the natural landscape rather than complement it. Mrs Gates also highlighted that the ground floor area has increased by 40% more than the existing ground floor area. Mrs Gates asked that the Town Council write to the LDNPA and retract its recommendation, so that the Council can revisit the application and base its recommendation or otherwise on the correct and revised plans.</p> |

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| | <p>Town Councillors asked a number of questions of clarification about the changes to the development's dimensions in the amended plans.</p> <p>As it was impossible, in the timescales from the LDNPA, to fully review the amended plans as part of the Town Council agenda, the Clerk was instructed to write to the LDNPA and ask them to confirm whether these plans now constitute a re-submission and should the Town Council fully review them. If so, an amended timescale will be necessary.</p> |
| 299. | <p>Emergency Planning:</p> <p>Presentation from Debbie Binch, Environment Agency</p> <p>Debbie had been invited by Town Council to deliver the talk she had given to the South Lakes CALC meeting last year. She started by explaining her role, working with communities who are at risk of flash flooding, which includes Troutbeck Bridge. Her role included encouraging communities to put together their own local emergency plans, either specifically for flooding or alternatively plans that can be expanded to a number of other emergencies. Research shows that there are significant benefits of having a coordinated community response.</p> <p>Debbie explained the process of building a local emergency plan, which is usually led by the Parish Council. This starts with gathering a list of local people who will act as key coordinators or neighbourhood coordinators, locations where there are people who may need an extra hand in an emergency, what skills are available locally to assist and the location of any local control or reception centre. The plan can be put together using a template. Once it is complete, it then needs to be tested.</p> <p>Councillors asked a number of questions, focusing on how a local emergency plan integrates with existing upper level plans from district & county councils and the emergency services. Is there potential to duplicate activities and "get in the way" of those who understand exactly how to deploy in an emergency? Debbie explained how the local plan can complement the upper level plans and that those agencies should be a key part of consultation when putting together the local plan.</p> <p>In terms of flooding, it was confirmed that Windermere & Bowness are not a high risk, compared with other communities but there are many other risks to consider.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Debbie for attending and giving such an informative talk. There was no decision, at this stage, to start the process of a local emergency plan.</p> |
| 300. | <p>Mayor & Member Announcements:</p> <p><u>Cllrs Greasley & Leith Hallastch</u> had planted the apple tree at Lakes School, donated by the Town Council on 10 March. It was well attended and a convivial event.</p> <p><u>Cllr Greasley</u> had also attended the Blues Weekend, organised by Windermere Rotary, which had sold out every day. This is an excellent event to assist local businesses, at a quiet time for trade.</p> <p><u>Cllr Jewell</u> had brought along some press cuttings files from the Library archive (located in the corridor which leads to the disabled toilet). There is a very interesting archive of information about the Urban District Council and councillors should be aware that it exists.</p> <p><u>Cllr Smith:</u> had attended the Windermere Tourist Information Centre re-launch and the stocking of a selection of products from Made in Cumbria offers new dimensions to the business. A good thing. Cllr Smith also requested that the Clerk confirm the following:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exact reasons for work stopping on Glebe Road (from CCC); • What is the location in Bowness that is used for the Air Quality Survey? <p>Cllr Bloy raised the issue of the instability of litter bins locally, which have been removed from their base and put into the middle of the road, as dangerous obstructions (particularly observed in Park Road). Councillors were under the impression that the bases should be locked. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Police and SLDC to establish what can be done to prevent this type of vandalism. It was also requested that the vandalised bin in Library Gardens be brought to the attention of SLDC.</p> <p>Cllr Lilley reported back on the community charity day held at Ladyholme Centre, which had been very successful. There had also been a Windermere & Bowness “walk-about” with the new in bloom contractor and the Clerk. It was very worthwhile and there were some good ideas and suggestions.</p> <p>Cllr Borer: Re-iterated the comments on the success of the community charity day, which she had attended with the Twinning Group.</p> <p>On Twinning, 42 young people from Diessen had recently spent 4 - 5 days in our area and visited various places of interest, culminating in a social get-together at Lakes School. It was good to have the Mayor attend this event.</p> <p>Also attended the Task and Finish Group which is over-seeing the process of recovering significant monies owed for lake moorings, due to the dispute on boundaries. SLDC have decided to appoint a solicitor to specifically work on this and bring the matter to a conclusion.</p> |
| 301. | <p>District & County Councillors’ reports:</p> <p>Cllr Bland offered further explanation of the postponement of work at Glebe Road to the Autumn. It is due to a sewage main pipe, which has burst in 2-3 places and is a risk to the Lake. It is very important that United Utilities resolve this prior to any further work taking place.</p> |
| 302. | <p>Clerk’s Report:</p> <p>The Clerk’s report, as written was noted. Several items were added - Cumbria Flood Factsheet from 17th March, the temporary road closure at Robinson Place, 4 April for 4 days, letter from Compliance Officer LDNPA about the Pig on Crescent Road, postponement of the Glebe Road highway improvements until Autumn 2016 due to the sewage leak. The Clerk also explained that the Allotments AGM took place on 16th March and was very positive. A report will be presented at a future Town Council meeting.</p> |
| 303. | <p>Lake District National Park Community Involvement:</p> <p>The National Park have issued a consultation paper (copies previously circulated) setting out their intent for consulting the general public and partners on all their various activities. The Town Council discussed the paper and asked the Clerk to reflect the following issues in response to the consultation.</p> <p>The process of this consultation does not feel interactive. Once comments have been received, the document is sent directly to the Secretary of State and there is no opportunity</p> |

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| | <p>for consultees to see the final draft before it is submitted.</p> <p>As for the content of the plan, there is no mention of direct interaction with the public and some issues will require public face to face meetings. The focus is, instead, on website publishing and electronic communication, which works fine for some issues but not for all and assumes that the communities of the Lake District regularly look at the LDNPA website. This type of consultation is not always effective.</p> |
| 304. | <p>Windermere & Bowness Forward:</p> <p>This is the temporary delivery group set up in the wake of consultation on Windermere & Bowness Futures. It will be comprised of WTC councillors (2 or 3), SLDC councillors and officers, members of the business community. The clerk read out the letter from SLDC and explained that Windermere Town Council have been asked to nominate councillors. It was agreed that Cllrs John Saunders and Dr Peter Jewell will attend and report back to Town Council.</p> |
| 305. | <p>Policy & Finance Minutes from the meeting on 10th March:</p> <p>The minutes were noted and the following recommendations were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A budget of up to £1,000 for the Winderclean Project in 2016/17 b) Investigation of alternative equipment for the replacement of the Climbing Frame at Langrigge Play area, more suitable to younger children, with a budget of up to £5,000, net of any grants that can be claimed. c) The proposed changes to the future format of the Annual Parish meeting, but with the proviso that the meeting continues to be held at a different venue to Langstone House. d) The proposals for the War Memorial Fence set out in the minutes. e) Grant Payments to South Lakes CAB (£3,000), Marchesi Centre for Queen's Birthday celebration (£500), The Parents Friends Association of St Cuthberts School, for purchase of percussion instruments (£125), Lakes Line User Group to assist with software purchase for the Annual Passenger Survey (£150). f) Upgrade of the Council chamber technology during 2016, with a budget of £1,500. |
| 306. | <p>Minutes of the BWCCT toilets sub-committee from the meeting held on 7 March 2016:</p> <p>The minutes were noted. Cllr Smith notified that there has been a delay with the Quarry Rigg project and that this will not now take place until after the summer season.</p> |
| 307. | <p>Planning Applications:</p> <p>The following recommendations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 7/2016/5128: 50 Windermere Park, Windermere: Extension & Alterations. RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL. b) 7/2016/5137: 3 Hilltop, Old Hall Road, Troutbeck Bridge: Proposed ancillary accommodation. RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL. c) 7/2016/5138: 2, Phoenix Way, Windermere: 2 extra bedrooms and new bathroom to 1st floor with new roof pitch. RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL. d) 7/2016/5139: 3, Keldwyth Park, Troutbeck: Alterations & Extension RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL. e) 7/2016/5146: The Coach House, Blackwell, Bowness: Alterations, minor extensions and change of use of a holiday let and garage to a local needs dwelling house. Re-submission. RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL. f) 7/2016/5157: 7, Beechwood Close, Bowness: Extension to enable installation of lift from ground |

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| | level to 1 st floor entrance and replacement of existing balustrade. RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL. |
| 308. | Tree Works: The following applications were noted: a)T/2016/0025: 1, Belle Isle View, Bowness: Crown thin and reduce by 30% 2 sycamores (trees are in the conservation area) b)T/2016/0026: Carver Memorial United Church, Windermere: Fell 1 sycamore, 1 ash and 1 oak (trees are in conservation area and consideration is whether they should be subject to a TPO). c)T/2016/0030: 14, Old College Park, Phoenix Way, Windermere: Fell 1 Holly (tree is subject to a TPO) |
| 309 | Planning Decisions: The planning decisions made by the LDNPA as set out on the agenda were noted. |
| 310. | Dates of Next Meetings: TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 6PM MARCHESI CENTRE Wednesday 27 th April 2016: Full Council Wednesday 25 th May 2016: Council Annual Meeting (AGM) |
| | The meeting closed at 8.30pm. |

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