



WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 14th April 2021 at 6.00pm, via Zoom

Minute No	
	<p>Present: Mayor John Saunders (in the Chair), Cllrs Adrian Legge, Jenny Borer, Peter Cook, Leith Hallatsch, Christine Hallatsch, Christine Cook, Marina Davis, Lisa Greasley, Kate Tripp, Fiona Wilkinson. Also: Julie Hartley (Town Clerk), Sarah Blacow, PCSO and 3 members of the public. SLDC/CCC Councillors: Andrew Jarvis, Kevin Holmes, The meeting opened at 6 pm</p>
	<p>Apologies & Absence: Apologies from Cllrs Ian Telford, Mike Stafford, Alan Hands, Tim Shearer, Grania Nicholson, Cath Musetti, SLDC Cllr Dyan Jones, Adrian Faulkner, Chamber of Trade. Absence: Cllr Magda Khan & Peter Hamilton.</p>
1.	<p>Welcome from the Mayor Mayor John Saunders started by welcoming everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. On behalf of the community of Windermere & Bowness, he offered his condolences to Her Majesty the Queen on the recent death of the Duke of Edinburgh. There followed the observation of a minute's silence to honour the memory of the Duke.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 April 2019 These were adopted as a true and accurate record. Cllr Greasley updated on a couple of actions that are still outstanding.</p>
3.	<p>Annual Report: 20120-21 Mayor John Saunders presented the Annual Report of the Town Council for the year 2020-which highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The transfer of the management of 7 public toilets facilities to the Town Council and specific thanks to the Town Clerk for the hard work last summer, which resulted in the safe opening of 3 of the conveniences during the pandemic;• The change of name to Windermere & Bowness to fully recognize both communities;• The formalization of a structure comprised of a number of key advisory groups, enabling councillors to work in depth on specific projects and issues;• The establishment of the facebook group, which now has nearly 1,200 members and has been a useful resource to the community during the pandemic. Special thanks was given to the councillors who set up the group and continue to work hard to keep it up to date and relevant. <p>Throughout the past year, the Council has had to rise to the challenge of remote working. It has been an extremely difficult time, but council meetings and business have continued unabated, with the successful use of new technology.</p> <p>There are many projects to look forward to in the coming year, including the transfer of trusteeship of land at Longlands and the surrender of Langstone House for a new meeting room attached to Windermere Library. There is also a need to start a new Community Plan. The Mayor ended by giving thanks not only to the Clerk and to the hard-working volunteer councillors, but also to Gary Hancox, the Town Steward, who does such excellent work in</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record:



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	<p>Elleray Woods and the town centre, to Nick Berry for work at the War Memorial and to the latest member of the team, Rebecca Pinder, Assistant Town Clerk, who started work in January and who will manage the public toilets facilities.</p> <p>Copies of the Annual Report are available on the Town Council's website or direct from the Clerk.</p>
4.	<p>Representations from the Public: Two questions had been pre-submitted and these were dealt with first, as follows: <u>The Challenge of Climate Change</u> and actions proposed by the Town Council (Debbie Binch from the Food Group: Mayor Saunders underlined how seriously the Town Council considers its duty in caring for the environment. This is especially the case in Elleray Woods, where, over 10-15 years, the work of the Council as steward, has resulted in bringing the woodland floor back to life and to the return of wildlife, including the red squirrel. Moving forward, there is always more that can be done and it is expected that climate change and working closely with SLDC on these projects, will feature highly in the new Community Plan. It is acknowledged that funds and resource are limited, but the will is there and the Town Council will do whatever it can to assist local groups working on these issues.</p> <p>The problem of <u>pigeons</u> as pests in the town centre and what can be done to deal with the problem. (Celia Buswell, local resident). Mayor Saunders was in complete sympathy with residents on this issue and it is appreciated how unattractive it can make the town look. He gave an undertaking that the Town Council will consider ways in which the problem can be dealt with. Cllr Tripp offered to take this subject forward and to report back.</p>
5.	<p>Close of Meeting The Mayor's concluding remarks related to the forthcoming reorganization of local government in Cumbria and its potential impact on the town. The Town Council has had an advisory group reviewing all the options and has concluded a response to the government which is on tonight's Full Council agenda. He reiterated his thanks to his fellow councillors, all of whom work on a voluntary basis and give up their own time to represent the community. He closed the meeting at 6.34pm and thanked everyone for their attendance. Cllr Borer gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Saunders, who is stepping down as Mayor in May this year. She particularly wished to thank him for his leadership during the difficult months of the pandemic and the way in which he has taken the Town Council forward during this time.</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record: