



WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 6th April 2022 at 6.00pm at the Marchesi Centre, Windermere

Minute No	
	<p>Present: Mayor Adrian Legge (in the Chair), Cllrs John Saunders, Jenny Borer, Peter Cook, Leith Hallatsch, Christine Hallatsch, Christine Cook, Lisa Greasley, Kate Tripp,. Also: Julie Hartley (Town Clerk) and 7 members of the public. SLDC/CCC Councillors: Andrew Jarvis, Dyan Jones. The meeting opened at 6pm.</p>
	<p>Apologies & Absence: Apologies from Cllrs Grania Nicholson, Cath Musetti, Marina Davis, Magda Khan, Fiona Wilkinson, Joanne Daley, Peter Hamilton, Alan Hands. SLDC/CCC Cllrs Kevin Holmes & Jim Bland. Adrian Faulkner, Chamber of Trade.</p>
1.	<p>Welcome from the Mayor Mayor Adrian Legge started by welcoming everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th April 2021 These were adopted as a true and accurate record.</p>
3.	<p>Annual Report: 2021-22: Mayor Adrian Legge gave a resume of his Mayoral year, with reference to the Annual report. He referred to the effects of the huge influx of Staycation visitors, which had a significant effect on car parking capacity, the use of the public toilets, littering and, sadly, in anti-social behaviour. He had received some distressing letters of complaint from visitors which prompted his letters to all those in powerful and responsible positions in the district and county. He outlined the problem caused by the influx of visitors and asked each to increase the effort of their authorities - to go the extra mile. This plea appears to have been heard, as, by the middle of the summer last year, there were additional temporary car parks, improved arrangements for litter collection, increased patrols by a private security firm and even a little more police presence, though there are never enough police patrols.</p> <p>There have been a number of <u>highlights</u> during the past year. One was the Orrest Head Access project. Elleray Wood and Orrest Head are owned and managed by Windermere and Bowness Town Council and we have worked closely with Lake District National Park to restore the original Victorian carriage drive through Elleray Wood to the summit of Orrest Head. Completion of this project in September last year now allows people in powered wheelchairs and parents and grandparents with children in pushchairs to reach that fabulous view from the top. The final phase was the installation of the unique seating, designed and manufactured by Windermere craftsman Chris Bramall. The summit seating is, in fact, a huge compass-ring.</p> <p>Another success-story is the transformation of Queen's Park, which now has a state-of-the-art pump-track- very popular with local young people. This was assisted with a significant grant of nearly £22k from Town Council. The Town Council began its contribution to the Queen's Canopy in May last year, with trees planted at Birthwaite Gardens and the War</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record:



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Memorial. Unfortunately, other trees in the Parish haven't fared so well. Storm Arwen at the end of October destroyed or damaged around 100 trees in Elleray Wood and numerous trees had to be removed from the pathways to make the woodland safe. Thanks to the Town Steward, Gary Hancox, the footpaths were closed only for a short period and all key health and safety work was completed very quickly.

After taking responsibility for six public toilets facilities in 2020, this year has been crucial in making much needed improvements and securing a stable financial future for these vital facilities. Thanks go to Assistant Clerk Beccy Pinder for all her hard work in this area. New contracts have been awarded for cleaning and maintenance and a funded programme of improvements works has been agreed, which will continue into 2022/23.

Another area in which we can feel justifiably proud is Planning. Under the chairmanship of Councillor Jenny Borer, the Planning Sub-Committee scrutinises and makes recommendations on every Planning application in Windermere and Bowness, that's around 200 every year. It has also taken on the need for improved community engagement with premises licensing and is reviewing the need for a full reappraisal of the number and type of premises licenses in Bowness in particular.

Turning now to the future and some exciting times ahead. Firstly, the Council Chamber. SLDC has confirmed that they will fund a capital project to convert the old depot building at the side of Windermere Library into a purpose-built modern meeting room for the Town Council. This will free up Langstone House for conversion into housing for locals.

There will be further improvements to toilet facilities, with refurbishment at Rayrigg Meadow car park. It is hoped that the land at Longlands will finally be transferred into the trusteeship of the Town Council and that work can start to improve this area.

The last two items will each bring about significant changes in the near or foreseeable future. The first is the change from the current two tiers of local government, Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council, merging to become a Unitary Authority - Westmorland and Furness Council, which comes into being in April 2023. A Shadow Unitary council will take office after next month's elections. The Town Council will continue to lobby for effective local engagement and for control of key assets. In particular, we have twice written to the Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Michael Gove, to record with him our bid to reclaim ownership of the bed of the lake with the specific purpose of ring-fencing the surplus income from the lake for the benefit of the people of Windermere. Local Government Reform presents us with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to achieve this and, whether or not we are successful in reclaiming the lake bed, we should never forgive ourselves if we didn't try.

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	<p>The Town Council will have an increasingly large part to play in what could become the most significant change to Windermere for decades - the Windermere Gateway project, with proposed improvements to traffic flow in and around Windermere and the building of up to 160 new houses, a significant proportion of which are to be low-cost or affordable. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will continue to represent Town Council on this project, taking a particular interest in the classification of those houses.</p> <p>The Mayor ended by recording his thanks to fellow Town Councillors for their dedication and support over the past year and his sincere thanks to the “super-efficient” and multi-talented Clerk, Julie Hartley, who he then handed over to for the presentation of the financial aspects of the Annual Report.</p> <p>Copies of the Annual Report are available on the Town Council’s website or direct from the Clerk.</p> <p>Cllr Lisa Greasley added her thanks to Will Hicks, who carried out the specialized tree work so quickly and effectively in Elleray Woods and to the Clerk, Asst Clerk and Town Steward in what has been a very difficult and challenged couple of year.</p>
4.	<p>Representations from the Public:</p> <p>Two questions had been pre-submitted:</p> <p><u>a)Ownership and Plans for Library Gardens, Windermere Library and Langstone House (Kendra Kennedy):</u></p> <p>SLDC Cllr Andrew Jarvis gave a brief summary of ownership of the facilities. He was able to confirm that Langstone House (owned by SLDC) will hopefully be converted into affordable local housing, once the Town Council has vacated to the new facility that is being built next to the Library. He also recognized the concerns of local people with regards to the quality and standard of the Library Gardens, also owned by SLDC and the potential to bring these gardens into local management will be explored as part of the local government reform process. Finally, it was confirmed that the Library is owned by the County Council and, in the absence of a representative, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the ward councillor to obtain an up to date position statement with regard to the Paradise Project.</p> <p><u>b)A Citizen’s Jury (Penny Henderson)</u></p> <p>Penny explained how this had been used in Kendal and appears to have prompted some good work with regards to climate change, engaging and involving local people in decision making. It was agreed that this may be a useful vehicle for future consideration, but, at present, with changes in structures imminent, there was no obvious set of issues that could be identified. Cllr Saunders pointed out that the Town Council itself is a representative body of local people and that this type of activity could be duplicating and cost more public funds than is necessary.</p> <p>There were no further questions.</p>
5.	<p>Close of Meeting</p> <p>Mayor Legge closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 6.45pm</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record: