



# WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

## Minutes of the Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom online

Minute No	
	<p><b>Present:</b> Mayor John Saunders (in the Chair), Cllrs Adrian Legge, Jenny Borer, Peter Cook, Leith Hallatsch, Christine Hallatsch, Ian Telford, Christine Cook, Marina Davis, Lisa Greasley, Kate Tripp, Peter Hamilton, Catherine Musetti, Tim Shearer, Fiona Wilkinson, Magda Khan &amp; Grania Nicholson Also: Julie Hartley (Town Clerk), Rebecca Pinder, Assistant Town Clerk &amp; Tim Keenan for first item. SLDC/CCC Councillors: Andrew Jarvis, Kevin Holmes, Jim Bland. There were no members of the public in attendance. The meeting opened at 7pm.</p>
259.	<p><b>Apologies and absence:</b> Cllrs Mike Stafford, Alan Hands, Sandra Lilley, SLDC Cllr Dyan Jones. Cllr Lilley's letter of resignation with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March was read by the Clerk. Town Council noted the resignation with regret. The Mayor drew attention to Sandra's fantastic record of service with the Council and wonderful work achieved over the years. All agreed that she will be greatly missed and send their best wishes.</p>
260.	<p><b>Plans for Food &amp; Drink Festival:</b> Tim Keenan addressed the Council about plans for this two day event which it is hoped to stage in September this year. A document setting out detailed arrangements for the event had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The event is aimed at benefitting the whole community and celebrating Cumbrian food and culture. Councillors asked a number of questions of clarification. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter expressing Town Council support for the event to SLDC. The Mayor thanked Tim for attending the meeting.</p>
261.	<p><b>Minutes:</b> The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate record.</p>
262.	<p><b>Planning sub-committee Minutes:</b> The minutes of the sub-committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were noted.</p>
263.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> Mayor Saunders declared an interest in item 15 (Public toilets re-opening plans) as he is chair of the Millerground Enhancement group.</p>
264.	<p><b>Requests for Dispensations:</b> NONE</p>
265.	<p><b>Item to be held in private session:</b> Members approved the proposal to discuss the item on Public Toilets re-opening plans in private session due to some of the data and information being commercial in confidence.</p>
266.	<p><b>Public Input:</b> NONE</p>

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267.

### **Mayor & Member Updates:**

Cllr Pete Cook, chair of the Local Government Reform Advisory Group had circulated notes of their meeting held last week and the plans for the consultation period in which government is consulting on all 4 bids. The closing date is 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The group will be preparing a draft response for Council which will be presented to the Policy & Finance Advisory Group on 1<sup>st</sup> April and Full Council on 14<sup>th</sup> April for approval. They will also be attending the online event organized by CALC on 18<sup>th</sup> March, at which each bid will present their case and take questions. It was agreed that, given the potential large attendance at this session, there would not be that much opportunity to ask all questions needed and it was agreed to put together a list of questions for the Clerk to submit to CALC prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that there had been really good engagement with the community on this issue via the facebook site and overall support for a Unitary council. Cllr Kate Tripp will collate the public responses received, to form part of the Council's feedback. The group had submitted some questions to the 4 bid groups and had received responses from 3, which will be collated and circulated to all councillors.

Cllr Adrian Legge: attended the Ferry Advisory Group. Timetable is currently running as normal and discussions have started as to a replacement ferry (Cllr Bland, as Chair of the group, confirmed that the timescale for this would be the next 2-3 years).

Cllr Kate Tripp: Has offered and been confirmed as the point of contact for "meeters and greeters" organized by the LDNPA for this coming season. All councillors wishing to volunteer should contact Kate.

Cllr Lisa Greasley: Highlighted the urgent issue of flooding at Millergound play area and the potential for this to be hazardous sewage. It was agreed that SLDC should be contacted as a matter of urgency and SLDC Cllr Andrew Jarvis undertook to alert officers at the earliest convenience and suggest closure until the matter is fully investigated. Also, has raised issues of concern with litter at School Knott Close with SLDC and SLH. Met SLDC Locality Manager at Queens Park and confirmed the timescale for the Pump Track (April/May this year) and Play Area (May/July this year). Will be attending an outdoor meeting with the National Trust to discuss the potential for a changing shelter at Millergound next week. Confirmed that the War Memorial hedging has been finished and finally asked for volunteers to assist with putting up Covid Signs before 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr Grania Nicholson: raised concerns about the problems with the steps at Queens Park and Cllr Greasley confirmed that this has been reported to SLDC who have highlighted it as a health and safety issue which will have priority to be put right.

Cllr Peter Hamilton: noted with regret the departure from BWF of two individuals who have given such energy and commitment (Helen and Sophia) and hopes to attend the BWF meeting tomorrow. Also attended the meeting with various interested parties aimed at managing Geese on the Glebe. A good meeting but no real progress at present.

Mayor Saunders: Attended the CALC meeting (with Cllr Leith Hallatsch). The agenda was much lighter than normal, key items being the Working Together Programme and Walking and Cycling in Cumbria initiative. Also attended the 2021 Visitor Group, at which all major

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	agencies are represented and aim to pre-plan infrastructure for a visitor upsurge this year. A report of the work being undertaken has been circulated and there was nothing to add.
268.	<p><b>District &amp; County Councillors' reports:</b></p> <p><u>Cllr Kevin Holmes:</u> Offered to meet Cllr Hamilton separately to look at a number of issues that he has raised with regard to Bowness South. Also highlighted the problems that are expected after the 29<sup>th</sup> March with Camper vans.</p> <p><u>Cllr Andrew Jarvis:</u> Explained that a new solution is being tested to enable parishes to access the Lakes Admin meetings. Also has worries about camping and caravanning from 29<sup>th</sup> March (as organized sites will not be open until later in the year under current road map plans). Drew attention to a number of projects that will benefit the local community that have been funded via the SLDC capital budget. This includes the Ellerthwaite Depot (new offices for Town Council), Queens Park, Braithwaite Fold Car Park investment providing additional parking for approx. 65 cars in the boat storage area and expected to be implemented for the May bank holiday.</p> <p><u>Cllr Jim Bland:</u> Has resolved the issues raised with street lighting on Droomer Drive and confirmed that the Quarry Rigg drainage works are now complete in Bowness. The work on the roundabout itself will not take place until next year. Cllr Hamilton raised potential problems with speeding down the hill and asked if a temporary solution could be put in place. Cllr Bland agreed to look into it.</p>
269.	<p><b>Clerk's Report:</b></p> <p>The Clerk had circulated a progress report on various projects that are currently progressing. She also highlighted that the Annual Parish Meeting is due to take place immediately prior to the next Town Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April. This is an opportunity for members of the community to bring issues of note locally to Town Council attention and is the one opportunity in the civic year to do so. This year will be more of a challenge as the meeting will need to be held on Zoom, but this could also encourage attendance. It is also an opportunity to advertise the meeting on the Council's facebook site. It was agreed that the Clerk will send a form of words to the facebook administrators to encourage local participation and ask for submission of questions for Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk will also contact Adrian Faulkner and ask for inclusion of the date in his Gazette column.</p>
270.	<p><b>Financial Issues:</b></p> <p>Councillors approved those items included on the Orders for Payment list which had been circulated with the agenda and in addition approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Town Steward: £1,200.</li></ul> <p>Councillors also approved the quotation received to provide a written woodland survey of Elleray Woods, recommended to meet legal requirements every 2<sup>nd</sup> year at a cost of £550 net of VAT.</p>

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<b>271.</b>	<p><b>Terms of Reference Planning sub-committee:</b> Councillors agreed a change to the terms of reference to include comments on licensing applications to SLDC.</p>												
<b>272.</b>	<p><b>Expression of support for bid to the Department of Transport to improve Lakes Line Railway:</b> Council approved sending a letter of support to the bid which is being prepared by Cumbria County Council and the Clerk was asked to organise this and include two further issues raised by Cllr Lisa Greasley - stopping at every journey at Burneside &amp; Staveley and mobility access at Staveley.</p>												
<b>THE MAYOR CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS IN PUBLIC</b>													
<b>273.</b>	<p><b>Public Toilets: Proposals for re-opening:</b> Cllr Lisa Greasley, as chair of the Advisory Group presented the report. There was a full discussion of the issues raised in the report which had been circulated. An amendment to the recommendations was proposed by Cllr Greasley and seconded by Cllr Kate Tripp. The following recommendations were approved:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) The re-opening timetable set out in the table below;</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">Road Map Target Date</th> <th style="width: 40%; padding: 5px;">Potential local impact</th> <th style="width: 35%; padding: 5px;">Action re toilet facilities</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>ASAP</b></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Due to potential cost of re-opening, provide notice to SLDC to hand over the facilities at Baddeley Clock.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>12 April 2021</b></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Overnight stays in self catering accommodation resume (visitor numbers will increase). Non-essential shopping and appointments (town centres get busier). Groups of up to 6 meeting outdoors (play and picnic areas usage)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Maintain current facilities that are open - Bowness Bay, Rayrigg Road, Broad Street) Look to open Millerground asap, to meet potential play area and picnic demand. Keep charge at 20p to recognize that facilities are basic. Increase to 50p after refurbishment.  Maintain Covid measures in place. No stewarding.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>17 May 2021</b></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">B&amp;B and hotels re-open (another spike in visitor</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Re-open Braithwaite Fold &amp; Quarry Rigg to meet increased demand. Increase charge to 50p.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Road Map Target Date	Potential local impact	Action re toilet facilities	<b>ASAP</b>		Due to potential cost of re-opening, provide notice to SLDC to hand over the facilities at Baddeley Clock.	<b>12 April 2021</b>	Overnight stays in self catering accommodation resume (visitor numbers will increase). Non-essential shopping and appointments (town centres get busier). Groups of up to 6 meeting outdoors (play and picnic areas usage)	Maintain current facilities that are open - Bowness Bay, Rayrigg Road, Broad Street) Look to open Millerground asap, to meet potential play area and picnic demand. Keep charge at 20p to recognize that facilities are basic. Increase to 50p after refurbishment.  Maintain Covid measures in place. No stewarding.	<b>17 May 2021</b>	B&B and hotels re-open (another spike in visitor	Re-open Braithwaite Fold & Quarry Rigg to meet increased demand. Increase charge to 50p.
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			numbers. Peak season conditions expected ++)	Put Covid measures in place. No stewarding.
		21 June 2021	Social distancing and controls to end.	Remove covid measures and make all urinals and cubicles open. Keep signage in place asking public to protect themselves and hygiene warnings.
	<p>b) If there is a real necessity to re-open the toilets at Millerground prior to contactless being installed, due to the demand for the play and picnic area, the Public Facilities Advisory Group will be given delegated power to do this. It will be for very short periods only and entry will have to be free of charge. The toilets should only be re-opened after a deep clean, legionnaire’s precautions and removal of boarding.</p> <p>c) The ongoing revenue financial implications contained in the Annex were noted.</p> <p>d) The Assistant Clerk was authorized to order the contactless software and signage as detailed in paragraph 8 incurring expenditure of £10,000 to be met from the toilets ear-marked reserve.</p> <p>e) The financial position will be closely monitored by Policy &amp; Finance and the Public Facilities Advisory Group;</p> <p>f) Work will be ongoing to further analyse the data and to present longer-term proposals to Town Council later this year (Autumn 2021).</p>			
274.	<p><b>Dates of Next Meetings:</b> The following dates were noted. All meetings commence at 7pm via Zoom unless otherwise stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning sub-committee: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021</li> <li>• Policy &amp; Finance Advisory Group: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.</li> <li>• Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm</li> <li>• Full Council: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 commencing after the Annual Parish Meeting.</li> </ul>			
	The meeting closed at 9.15pm			

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