



WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council. On 12th February 2025 at 7pm, Langstone House, Windermere

Minute No	
	<p>Present: Mayor Christine Hallatsch (Chair), Cllrs Jenny Borer, Christine Cook, Beverley Cullen, Lisa Greasley, Caroline Kearney, Peter Hamilton, John Saunders Also: Sally Parkyn (Town Clerk), Westmorland & Furness (W&F) Councillors Andrew Jarvis and Steve Bavin and one member of the public. The meeting opened at 7pm</p>
162.	<p>Apologies and absence: Cllr Kearney (work), Cllr Peter Cook (Prior Commitment), Cllrs Kennedy and Legge (holiday), Cllrs Kevin Heffernan, Jackie Cooper, Marina Davis, Cllr Kennedy Hardy (ill health) The clerk announced the resignation of Sandra Lilley. W&F Cllrs Dyan Jones</p>
163.	<p>Full Council Minutes: The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th January 2025 were approved with the amendments: that 155. Should read Langrigge not Longlands, and 156. The sentence “He has been is making plans for repairs to the leaky Bowness Bay flat roof, Braithwaite Fold missing roof tile and woodwork and the Quarry Rigg woodwork.” Should be moved to the section titled Town Steward not Elleray Woods.</p>
164.	<p>Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the Planning Subcommittee held on 22nd January 2025 were noted.</p>
165.	<p>Declarations of Interest: Cllr Saunders noted his membership of the Bowness Bowling Club.</p>
166.	<p>Requests for Dispensations: It was resolved that Cllr Saunders be allowed to answer questions on items regarding the Bowness Bowling Club but not to vote</p>
167.	<p>Items to be taken in private session: It was agreed to discuss the agenda items on Longlands and staffing matters after the close of the meeting, due to the confidential content.</p>
168.	<p>Public Input: None</p>
169.	<p>Mayor and Member Announcements including Advisory Group reports: <u>Cllr Peter Cook:</u> had submitted a written report outlining the plans for testing Mill Beck in 2025 and his wish to pass the leadership over to Cllr Kearney. <u>Cllr Christine Cook:</u> had submitted a report from the Gateway Vision Group meeting noting that the key funding decision from Homes England was still pending. <u>Cllr Hamilton:</u> reported back from the Lake Admin Fees working group where a positive dialogue between all parties had produced good results. <u>Cllr Greasley:</u> had participated in the RFO interviews over 2 days. She noted that a Speed Indicator Device (SID) had appeared outside the police station. That the storm damage was being dealt with. She had also attended a Cumbria in Bloom management meeting in Penrith. The Mayor: reported that she had attended the Air Cadet’s presentation nights. She had also been asked to participate in a further interview about bank closures by BBC Cumbria which ended up being cancelled.</p>
170.	<p>Westmorland & Furness Councillors’ Reports:</p>

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	<p><u>W&F Cllr Jarvis:</u> The A591 work had to be done now due to safety issues with the surface adhesion. There will be a similar closure between Ambleside and Grasmere. The W&F Budget will include a 5% increase in Council tax. In good news the second homes additional Council tax will help fund affordable housing and tourism infrastructure. They are formally removing the legal road closure charges for community events. They are reviewing commercial land user charges. The 20mph Zones funding means that some schemes will now progress to the next phase and others may be looked at in future. Cllr Hamilton noted his concerns about speeding in Bowness. It was explained in response to Cllr Greasley's question about the lack of road work occurring on Monday night that it is because they were ahead of schedule. Cllr Saunders noted that he had attended the feedback meeting from the Bowness 20mph consultation and was still hoping to move forward with SIDs. The poor state of the Crescent and Main Road surfaces was noted and Cllr Jarvis offered to follow up with Highways.</p> <p><u>W&F Cllr Bavin:</u> Noted the Glebe Road repairs would now be carried out in March. The new tenant for the Royalty Cinema had now started work and hoped to be open as a cinema by Easter. The ferry repairs were a day behind schedule but due to open on Friday afternoon. The Glebe would be hosting a trial of compacting smart bins. The tree and hedge planting grants close on 10.3.25. Cllr Saunders noted plans had been raised previously to plant along the southern border of the field to the south of Rayrigg Meadow and wondered if it could be reinvestigated. Work was beginning to harmonise waste collections across the three former districts. Cllr Hamilton asked about funding for painting the church railings.</p>
171.	<p>Clerk's Report: <u>Clerk Training:</u> Year end review course 4.2.25 <u>Honour Board:</u> Quotes obtained, will bring to P&F for discussion <u>War Memorial Culvert:</u> No updates <u>Updating Deeds and Langrigg Lease:</u> No updates <u>Longlands Land:</u> The public consultation has had a good response 829 people saw the post, 144 votes and 40 comments (not all relevant). It was set so people only got one vote. Paper information was posted on notice boards and at the library but did not result in a direct response though they may have gone onto Facebook to vote. The most popular choices were children's play equipment 64% and adult gym equipment 13%, enthusiasm for the yellow train and a sheltered picnic area also came through but in poll options with several elements. The lease to be discussed in private session. Cllr Cullen notes concerns with the validity of the data gathered. <u>CCTV:</u> Cumbria Constabulary have written to advise of a proposal that we pay for our CCTV contract through them resulting in a substantial saving.</p>

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Winter Lights: Highways have been in touch about removal of lights so contractor can carry out roofing work on Crescent Road. The emails have been passed on to the volunteer group.

Langstone House/New council office: Spoke to assets officer regarding other matters and he confirmed it is not currently being worked on. The electrical wiring has been tested and the council chamber rewired.

Finance: RFO interviews carried out. References of preferred candidates being obtained. List of contract and leases and renewal dates created.

Safeguarding review with HSBC carried out by clerk and Cllr Borer as a signatory. The process of opening Unity Bank account has begun. ID checks for clerk and two signatories needed.

W&FC Liaison Group: Cllr Cullen to set date for next meeting. There has been no response to the submission of our report requesting support for projects.

Langrigge Play Area: The repair to the climbing frame has been completed. The sofa was removed thanks to Cllr Bavin and W&FC.

Roads: 20mph Zones: Speed data gathered as part of the consultation has been circulated to councillors.

Planning & Licensing: The W&FC Licensing Officer dealing with the Cumulative Impact Assessment update prior the Planning Subcommittee meeting 22.1.25. He they are gathering further data prior to submitting to their licensing committee. confirmed that The Gateway Vision group meeting was on 28.1.25. Until a decision from Homes England has been received briefings are paused as there are no substantive developments.

Public Conveniences:
Toilets income for January 2025 was £4207.50 (slightly up from £4111.50 in January 2024). The search for a plumber to fix the Broad Street leak is ongoing.
The Town Steward has repaired the broken wall tiles at Bowness Bay which looks much better. While on site he noted that the roof is still leaking and has a proposal for repair which the clerk will bring to Policy and Finance.
Intec has been out to repair the Broad Street Paddlegate 10.2.25. It was in a worse state than anticipated. He has got the mechanism functioning but has taken the two best spare paddlegates away to fit new bolts. He will fit them on his next trip north within the cost of the original quote.

Town Steward (TS): The Town Steward has repaired and strengthened the roof that blew off the allotment shed. He notes the help from the plot holders in lifting the panel.

Elleray Woods: The Town Steward has carried out a full inspection on Elleray Woods and Orrest Head following storm Eowyn and has carried out most of the urgent tree work. One fall will need a tree surgeon due to the size. There is also a substantial wall collapse which will need repair. We have been alerted that the sculptures outside the Blacksmiths cottage may breach copyright. This information has been passed on to the owners.

Emails and phone calls: Notable correspondence

- There has been a request by a Carver United Reform Church to circulate a request for a community group to take on their church building on Lake Road later this year.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Windermere Library will be CLOSED for one week, between Monday, 17 February, and Monday, 24 February for essential repair work. The works involve repairs to the interior of the building, including the removal of some asbestos, so it is not possible to keep the building open while the work is being carried out.• We have been officially notified that Windermere was selected as one of the identified 20mph schemes to be progressed in 2026/27. There is the capacity to make amendments to the area selected in the original applications in consultation with the W&FC Ward Councillors.
172.	<p>Finance/Procedural:</p> <p>a) It was resolved to pay the invoices detailed on the Orders for Payment listing with the addition of Feb 04P?</p> <p>b) The Town Council resolved to accept the budget monitoring statement and bank reconciliation.</p> <p>c) The Town Council resolved to accept the offer from Cumbria Constabulary from 1.4.25 to pay for the CCTV maintenance and service through them at a yearly cost of £850 per camera rather than direct to Bedroq subject to the Memorandum of Understanding being acceptable.</p>
173.	<p>Consultation on Windermere Lake Bylaws Exception</p> <p>It was resolved to approve the request by Lakes Flying Company for an exemption to the Windermere Lake Bylaws.</p>
174.	<p>Neighbourhood Policing Representatives:</p> <p>Cllrs Cullen & Saunders were elected to represent the council at the virtual meetings. This role will be added to the list for Council appointments in May.</p>
175.	<p>Policy & Finance Advisory Group:</p> <p>It was resolved to accept the Policy and Finance meeting notes:</p> <p><u>Finance:</u> That the amended risk assessment be adopted with the wording in Council Reputation section to read: <i>To ensure the equitable and timely running of meetings the effective chairing of meetings is essential. Every councillor should be prepared to attend a suitable training course to enhance their suitability for election as Mayor or Deputy.</i></p> <p><u>Policy & Finance Meeting Arrangements:</u></p> <p>a. That Policy & Finance trial monthly meetings and hold additional meeting on 20th February and 24th April 2025.</p> <p>b. That Councillors who are unable to attend Policy and Finance meetings but wish to comment do so in writing prior to the meetings so their views can be included.</p> <p><u>War Memorial:</u> That Berry's Garden Service be appointed to carry out the War Memorial grounds maintenance for 2025 at a cost of £2,401 (net).</p> <p><u>Staffing Committee:</u> That a permanent Staffing Committee not be established at this time.</p> <p><u>Policies:</u> That the amended Community Engagement Policy be adopted.</p>

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	<p>Christmas Lights:</p> <p>a) That the St Martin's Tree lights be kept on all year to brighten Bowness at night at an annual cost of around £400 using a timer backed up with a daylight sensor.</p> <p>b) That the clerk obtain quotes for raising the lights on the Library Tree, repairing the Bowness Promenade tree wraps, wrapping the tree in Ellerthwaite and rebuilding the wall to facilitate power supply.</p>
	<p>The Chair concluded the business in public and moved into private session for discussion of the following items:</p>
176.	<p>Staffing Matters:</p> <p>It was resolved to appoint Emma Chadwick as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). It was resolved that the revised contracts will be presented to full council for Clerk & RFO to Clerk & Facilities Officer.</p>
177.	<p>Longlands:</p> <p>Councillors resolved to accept the lease and send to the Bowness Bowling Club for signing.</p>
	<p>Dates of Next Meetings:</p> <p>To note dates of forthcoming meetings as follows, starting at 7pm unless noted otherwise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 20th February 2025: Policy & Finance Advisory Group Meeting (Langstone House)• Wednesday 26th February 2025: Planning Subcommittee Meeting (Langstone House)• Wednesday 12th March 2025: Full Council (Langstone House)
	<p>The Mayor concluded the business of Full Council at 8:45pm</p>

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