



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 13th November 2024 at 7pm, Langstone House, Windermere

Minute No	
	<p>Present: Mayor Christine Hallatsch (Chair), Cllrs Jenny Borer, Christine Cook, Jackie Cooper, Beverley Cullen, Kendra Kennedy, Kay Kennedy Hardy, Kevin Heffernan, Peter Hamilton, Adrian Legge, Sandra Lilley, Fiona Poole, John Saunders Also: Sally Parkyn (Town Clerk), Westmorland & Furness (W&F) Councillors Andrew Jarvis and Steve Bavin and six members of the public. The meeting opened at 7pm</p>
112.	<p>Apologies and absence: Cllrs Lisa Greasley (prior commitment) and Jackie Cooper (emergency) W&FCllrs Dyan Jones (prior commitment), Steve Bavin and Will Clarke (illness)</p>
113.	<p>Full Council Minutes: The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9th October 2024 were approved with the amendments suggested by Cllr Cullen to Item 106 Winter Lights will take place changed to took place and 110 Christmas lights to add the sentence “It was agreed not to put the festoon lights in Crescent Road but to work to illuminate the two trees.” Additionally, to state the amendments to the revised Complaints Policy section 1 to state “informally. Directly with you” and section 9 to read “publicly announced”.</p>
114.	<p>Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the Planning Subcommittee held on 23rd October 2024 were noted.</p>
115.	<p>Declarations of Interest: Cllr Saunders noted his membership of the Bowness Bowling Club</p>
116.	<p>Requests for Dispensations: It was unanimously resolved that Cllr Saunders be allowed to answer questions on items regarding the Bowness Bowling Club but not to vote.</p>
117.	<p>Items to be taken in private session: It was agreed to discuss the agenda items on Staffing and Longlands, after the close of the meeting, due to the confidential content</p>
118.	<p>Public Input: Members of the public have the opportunity to make statements and ask questions of the Council (3mins is the maximum allowance). A local resident and business owner spoke on behalf of the community expressing concern that the Festoon lights would not be put up this year. They felt that the communication from the Town Council had been unclear with the initial letter stating the anchor point testing would go ahead, then that only Crescent Road could be lit and finally that it wasn’t going to be possible at all. The clerk explained the situation and apologised. They were invited to leave their contact details to enable them to be contacted in January when planning for Winter 2025 will begin.</p>
119.	<p>Mayor and Member Announcements including Advisory Group reports <u>Mayor Christine Hallatsch</u> had attended Cumbria Association of Local Councils AGM on 12.10.24, Cumbria in Bloom Awards 15.10.24, The Judge’s service at Carlisle Cathedral 17.10.24, the opening of the new Citizens’ Advice Offices in Kendal on 18.10.24, Remembrance on 10.11.24 and the Armistice ceremony at 11am on 11.11.24 at the war memorial. <u>Cllr Kennedy Hardy</u> presented a report from Parks and Open Spaces noting five playground companies had been approached to provide a quote but they would prefer to tender by</p>

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	<p>invitation. They intended to apply for grants. They realise that this needs to be discussed at the Policy and Finance meeting.</p> <p><u>Cllr Peter Cook</u> reported the results of the first six months water testing were now complete. These would be shared at a meeting open to the public and councillors at 5:30 at Langstone House on 11.12.24.</p> <p><u>Cllr Hamilton</u> reported back from the recent Lake Administration Committee meeting. The Fees Subgroup was meeting to discuss the fees for 2025.</p> <p><u>Cllr Davis</u> noted the intention of the Communications Advisory Group to use the Facebook page to promote the work of the different advisory groups and would be contacting the leads for each group to discuss what they would like shared.</p> <p><u>Cllr Saunders</u> meeting about Speed Indicator Devices had been postponed. However, the discussion after the W&FC cabinet meeting in Windermere had been very useful.</p> <p><u>Cllr Borer</u> had also found the W&FC cabinet meeting and discussion helpful. She reported the Lakes Line Rail User Groups AGM on 2.11.24 had included representatives from Network Rail, Northern and TransPennine. There had been issues with the last trains being cancelled recently and problems with replacement taxis. There was also discussion of the links between the Gateway Project and rail network.</p> <p><u>Cllr Heffernan</u> had attended the Lakes Housing Trust meeting in Ambleside with Cllr Cooper. He reported they were asking homeowners to attach a section 106 local occupancy condition to their property to ensure that it remained available as a home for the local community in future. There was help available from the Trust for the legal costs of anyone wishing to do so.</p> <p><u>Cllr Greasley</u> had submitted a report via the clerk noting that the Queen's Park bulb planting with Windermere School had been completed.</p> <p>Wicksteed and Sutcliffe carried out site visits to Longlands and Parks & Open Spaces Advisory group had met earlier in the day to view the plans the different companies had submitted. She had attended meetings with the staffing group and had also attended the Lakes Housing meeting noting they now have 55 properties to rent to locals.</p>
120.	<p>Westmorland & Furness Councillors' Reports:</p> <p><u>W&F Cllr Jarvis</u> explained that he had not been at the Remembrance service as he was travelling to Marlow for a meeting of rural county councils.</p> <p>He was glad that W&BTC councillors had found the cabinet meeting useful. Travelling to different towns to hold the meetings was a good way of learning more about the different areas and their concerns and priorities.</p> <p>W&FC has agreed their preferred ward boundaries which had been submitted to the Boundary Commission and were awaiting their response.</p> <p>The Royalty Cinema building work was ongoing to prepare for a new tenant.</p> <p>The W&FC Consultation into Waste Service had begun and he would encourage people to participate.</p> <p>A new Community Development Officer for Coniston and Hawkshead, Windermere and Ambleside had been appointed.</p>

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	<p>He also reported that to continue monitoring antisocial behaviour in Bowness, Cllr Bavin would be carrying out a walk around Bowness with local police on 13.12.24.</p>
121.	<p>Clerk's Report: <u>Clerk Training:</u> Clerk attended CALC organised online larger councils event compliance legal training. <u>Honour Board:</u> No updates <u>Street Lighting:</u> Notice received from Westmorland and Furness stating while they aren't charging us for our footway lighting in Bowness this year, they may next year as the policy is under review. I am one of many clerks who have written to request a possible figure so we can budget for next year. There has been no response. <u>War Memorial Culvert:</u> No updates <u>Remembrance Day:</u> Preparations complete. Cllr Legge and Sunbelt Rentals have been extremely helpful. <u>Updating Deeds and Langrigg Lease:</u> No updates <u>Longlands Land:</u> Letter were handed out to the bowling club members from the mayor as they arrived at their AGM. The final two initial designs from playground companies have been received. The group will shortlist companies to participate in the formal tender process as it is above the threshold. <u>Winter Lights:</u> After initial difficulties, permits for installing Festive lights from W&FC have been obtained. Christmas Plus has lit the library tree. There were concerns about the distribution of the lights and the clerk and representatives of the WL group met with Christmas Plus to view them when illuminated. Christmas Plus will return on 10-11.11.24 to redistribute the lights but they can't go any higher as they are at the limit of their lifting equipment. Ellerthwaite Square tree wrap needs a power source. Electricity North West quoted £4k for a feeder post as it would need a new cable under the highway. They recommended using the lamppost and removing stones from the wall to make it possible. W&FC Highways cannot have this done before Christmas. The WL Group asked that a smaller tree by the library archway be investigated as an alternative as it could get power from the neighbouring Broad Street toilet block. Though the size and location may make it vulnerable to vandalism. Blachere - will be putting in the promenade lights 27-8 November. This is the last year of the three year hire for the lamppost lights (which will go back to Blachere in January) but we own the tree wraps. The letters for business owners were printed for distribution by the WLGroup. Posters Advertising the Festive Window competition have been put up and will be publicised on Facebook and Website after Remembrance. The Communication group will organise a public choice window award via a Facebook poll closer to Christmas. <u>Langstone House/New council office:</u> No developments <u>Finance:</u> The clerk is waiting to set up the new bank account when the staffing situation is resolved.</p>

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Cllr Saunders has increased the functionality of the new accounts system which is ready for independent testing by the clerk with the November Accounts.

The employer National Insurance changes will have an impact on the Town Council budget for next year.

W&FC Liaison Group: Next Liaison group is 22.11.24. Send items for Agenda to Cllr Cullen.

Langrigge Play Area: All outstanding recommendation from the inspection are now complete

Roads: 20mph Zones: The paper questionnaires from Bowness were handed into the library by the deadline. No further updates.

Planning & Licensing: The LDNPA Enforcement and Tree Officers ran a very informative training session for the subcommittee prior to their last meeting.

The letter already sent to W&FC requesting Cumulative Impact Assessment be carried out taking into consideration the new information from the Street Support Officers Trial has also been sent to the new cabinet member for Licensing.

There will be a Gateway Vision group meeting on 15.11.24, Cllr C Cook will attend online.

CCTV: The clerk has put together a report based on the information from police and Bedroq which will be circulated prior to Policy & Finance to enable an informed decision to be made on whether to accept the quotation (no increase) for 2025. The decision will be finalised at December's Full Council but forms part of the budget discussions for Policy and Finance.

Public Conveniences:

Toilets income for October was £9927.50 (down from £10917 in October 2023).

No blockages this month.

The Broad Street water meter is currently unreadable due to the manhole being full of water. This could be groundwater leakage or a pipe leaking. Waterplus have been notified and the clerk will chase up urgently. The water bill is a little high but similar to last year.

There are some repairs outside the normal maintenance Healthmatic carry out which are needed. These will be detailed in a separate report.

Healthmatic has had a checking-in phone call with the clerk to ensure that the procedural changes they have made at their end have resulted in improvements on the ground.

The clerk carried out an inspection prior to the meeting on Wednesday. Some minor issues such as the rusting of the new Rayrigg Road ladies metal sink have been reported to Healthmatic.

The next Healthmatic Quarterly Meeting is set for 6.12.24. A full report will be brought to the December full council.

Town Steward (TS): Having found a sale on plants, the TS continued to fill the new planters and refresh the established planters with some winter colour. There was vandal damage to one of the box balls in the Broad Street planter but it is hoped in time it will recover. These were relocated from the Natwest Island so there was no cost to the Council.

There was a request by Cllr Kennedy Hardy to use slates on the Quarry Rigg toilets wall also to put in visual signage indicating the contactless flush mechanism. This will be investigated.

TS will carry out the repairs to the allotment shed when time and weather allow.

Elleray Woods: The National Trust has notified us of wall repairs needed where our trees have caused damage to the neighbouring farm boundary. The Town Steward will do an extra day this

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	<p>week while the weather is suitable to carry out this urgent work but do a day less in December so there will be no budget impact. The material for the section of boardwalk in the new compartment is ready and the work should be started this week.</p> <p>There has been a further concern about the trees bordering Orrest Howe and the work needs to be carried out urgently.</p> <p><u>Emails and phone calls:</u> Notable correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new public spaces protection orders have been approved by Westmorland and Furness Council. This will help control antisocial behaviour in places such as the Glebe.• The clerk used the LDNPA emergency email system to report a tent at Cockshott Point and was impressed with the speedy response.• The CALC AGM and W&FC Cabinet meetings were both very useful and interesting opportunities.• Please could any Councillors wishing to attend the LDNPA meeting with the CEO and Officers at Coniston Institute on 3rd December 2024 4-7pm remember to RSVP by 25.11.24• Concerns regarding a homeless person living in the woods near the Town have been reported. They will be passed on to the W&FC Team.
122.	<p>Finance/Procedural:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. It was resolved to authorise payment of the invoices detailed on the Orders for Payment listing with the addition of a payment of £85.98 to Cllr Greasley as reimbursement to plant expenses and £2500 to Will Hicks for tree work when completed.b. The Town Council reviewed and authorised the budget monitoring statement and bank reconciliation.c. The agenda item to authorise toilet repair work was postponed so further information could be obtained.
123.	<p>Council Diary 2025</p> <p>The approval of the Town Council diary of meeting dates for 2025 was postponed to allow the date and location of the Annual Parish Meeting in April to be finalised.</p>
124.	<p>Staffing Advisory Group:</p> <p>I was resolved to authorise the permanent Staffing Advisory Group in consultation with the clerk to draft terms of reference for discussion at the Policy and Finance Advisory Group Meeting before any changes to the standing orders can be made.</p>
125.	<p>Policy updates: It was unanimously resolved to approve the reviewed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Travel & Expenses Policy.b. Gifts & Hospitality Policy.
126.	<p>Connecting Cumbria 5G Ferry:</p> <p>It was resolved to appoint Cllr Hamilton to act as stakeholder representative for local residents and point of contact for the 5G Ferry project.</p>
127.	<p>Westmorland & Furness Cabinet Meeting response:</p>

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	<p>It was resolved that the Liaison Group members would meet with the clerk to compile a costed plan of 6-8 local priorities from those discussed at the cabinet meeting on which to work with the Westmorland & Furness Councillors. To be drafted for discussion at Liaison group 22.11.24 and approval at Full Council 11.12.24.</p>
128.	<p>Love Windermere Board Representation:</p> <p>a. It was noted that at the Love Windermere board meeting on Thursday 14th November Cllr Peter Cook intended to resign as Town and Parish Council representative on the board of Love Windermere as he is unable to support the direction of policy developments believing that the partnership is not delivering with the necessary urgency and ambition required to bring lasting improvements to the water quality of Windermere. The Town Council supported his right to make that decision.</p> <p>b. It was resolved that the Town Council would not appoint an alternative representative.</p> <p>c. It was resolved that the Town Council would not issue a public statement formally withdrawing from the Love Windermere Partnership.</p>
	<p>The Chair concluded the business in public and moved into private session for discussion of the following items:</p>
129.	<p>Staffing: It was resolved</p> <p>a) To note the Clerk and Facilities Officer's annual backpay following the agreement reached between unions and government for the 24/25 financial year as per the information shared from SLCC/NALC by e-mail to all W&BTC Members.</p> <p>b) Councillors to adopt the job descriptions and appointment process recommended by the Staffing Advisory Group.</p>
130.	<p>Longlands:</p> <p>a. It was resolved to postpone a decision about the Longlands Recreation area redevelopment until after discussion at Policy and Finance.</p> <p>b. It was resolved that a small group of councillors would meet with representatives from the Bowness Bowling Club at 10:30 am on 21.11.24.</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">• Wednesday 27th November: Planning Subcommittee Meeting (Langstone House)• Thursday 28th November: Policy & Finance Advisory Group Meeting (Langstone House)• Wednesday 11th December 2024: Full Council (Langstone House)
	<p>The Mayor concluded the business of Full Council at 21:28pm</p>

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