



WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 14th July 2021 at the Marchesi Centre, Windermere at 7pm

Minute No	
	<p>Present: Mayor Adrian Legge (in the Chair), Deputy Mayor Kate Tripp, Cllrs John Saunders, Jenny Borer, Peter Cook, Leith Hallatsch, Christine Hallatsch, Christine Cook, Marina Davis, Lisa Greasley, Fiona Wilkinson, Magda Khan, Peter Hamilton, Mike Stafford, Grania Nicholson, Alan Hands & Joanne Daley Also: Julie Hartley (Town Clerk), Mark Kidd (LDNPA) & 4 members of the public. SLDC/CCC Councillors: Andrew Jarvis, Kevin Holmes & Jim Bland. The meeting opened at 7pm</p>
20.	<p>Apologies and absence: Cllrs Tim Shearer, Ian Telford & Cath Musetti. CCC/SLDC Cllrs Ben Berry & Dyan Jones.</p>
21.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the Council meeting (AGM) held on 5th May 2021 were approved for signature.</p>
22.	<p>Planning Minutes: The minutes of the two planning meetings held on 19th May and 23rd June 2021 were noted.</p>
23.	<p>Item to be discussed in private session: Cllr Christine Hallatsch proposed and Cllr Lisa Greasley seconded and it was agreed to discuss the Assistant Clerk performance appraisal and terms and conditions and in private session at the end of the meeting, due to the personal nature of the content.</p>
24.	<p>Declarations of Interest: NONE</p>
25.	<p>Requests for Dispensations: NONE</p>
26.	<p>Public Input: <u>Grant Smith (White House)</u> Mr Smith wished to provide further explanation as to what is happening on this site, which is important to the heritage of the area. The building is undergoing a full refurbishment and will be remaining as a Guest House. As far as possible, local craftsmen are being used. Mr Smith admitted that there had been a couple of mistakes made, particularly with the steps and the original planning application designs for the walls, but he committed to putting these right. Councillors asked a number of questions and thanked him for taking the time to come along and talk to the Council. <u>Pauline Wilcox</u> Pauline drew attention to the now perilous situation with pot-holes in the area, both roads and pavements. Also the serious concerns at the number of bars and restaurants that are being converted from local shops and the apparent lack of planning enforcement, with particular reference to the “eyesore” at St Andrews. Cllr Jim Bland responded on behalf of the County Council and confirmed that work is starting next week in Windermere with a jet-patcher, to deal with the more prominent pot-holes. It was also highlighted that the new on-line highways reporting tool (HIMS) is a very easy and</p>

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	<p>effective way to report any issues with roads and pavements and that the response times are good.</p> <p>Mayor Legge drew attention to the letter he has written to a number of prominent and powerful executives in Cumbria, aimed at drawing attention to the serious social problems which are being experienced particularly in Bowness. This should be in the press shortly and it is hoped that, by raising the profile, the relevant authorities will start to address these problems. Finally, it is our understanding that, after reporting the St Andrews development to the LDNPA, an enforcement notice has now been issued which will require removal of the structures.</p> <p><u>Joy Kilner</u></p> <p>Joy voiced her concerns about the proposals for the Windermere Gateway development. The plans are very difficult to understand and it is almost impossible to understand the reasoning. Her key worries focused on the affordability of the housing and how it will be ensured that it is made available for genuinely local people. There are many local people who are against the development and its prominent positioning on the approach into Windermere and the Lake District.</p> <p><u>Roger Hartley</u></p> <p>Shared the same concerns as Joy with regards to the Windermere Gateway development. He is particularly worried about the density of the housing proposed and the fact that the National Trust are selling the farmland.</p>
27.	<p>Windermere Gateway:</p> <p>Mayor Adrian Legge welcomed Mark Kidd, parish representative and deputy chair of the LDNPA development control committee to the meeting. He asked if there were any points he would wish to make, particularly with regard to the points made by the public contributors. Mark confirmed that the majority of the housing proposed for the site will be affordable but that the detailed and specific criteria are yet to be decided, as this project is still in the early stages. All new housing in the national park has to be for local occupancy so it follows that these 160 homes will be made available for locals. There was a thorough discussion about local housing and occupancy and what it means to locals.</p> <p>Mark offered to return to a future Town Council meeting to speak in more detail on matters of planning enforcement, which is an issue of great local concern.</p> <p>Councillors then reviewed the draft response that had been prepared as a result of the discussion at Policy & Finance Advisory Group. Cllr Saunders made the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Having represented the Town Council for some time on the Windermere Gateway group, it is clear the current proposals have a much more limited vision than that first envisaged, particularly with regard to the development of an integrated transport hub, which, as a concept, has disappeared. This is a great shame and the Town Council should make the point that there needs to be much stronger and more visionary proposals for integration of road, rail, pedestrian and bike.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are serious concerns about the impact of, particularly the Thwaites Lane roundabout, on the estates and residential roads further down the line into Windermere. Providing a ready left-hand turn onto Thwaites Lane will invite cars to take this route and there should be a detailed impact assessment by Highways enabling a full understanding of the problem before any decisions are made.• The original traffic flow scheme into Booths has also disappeared from these proposals. This should be a fundamental part of the project. <p>Councillors added a couple of further points, clarifying the potential problems created on the A591 by removing the entrance to Booths (Cllr Hands) and underlining that the view of Windermere Lake is the first lake view experienced from the southern entrance to the Lake District (Cllr Greasley).</p> <p>It was agreed that these particular points will be strengthened in a re-draft of the Town Council's consultation response, which will be distributed by the Clerk for comment before being submitted to the LDNPA (deadline = 30th July).</p>
28.	<p>Mayor & Member Updates:</p> <p><u>Cllr Pete Cook:</u> had distributed a written report prior to the meeting to update on the work of the LGR Advisory Group. An announcement is expected imminently on which option the government has favoured.</p> <p><u>Cllr Lisa Greasley:</u> had met the Assistant Clerk at the allotment site, to review the plots and consider some options for the improvement of management. Viewed the new seating on Orrest Head summit and it looks very good. The new seats are going down well with visitors and locals. Work on the survey of all public benches is ongoing, as are enquiries via SLDC to get the trees cut back at St Martins church, which are causing a pavement hazard. Has been in touch with SLDC to get the overgrown vegetation cut back at Bowness Bay toilets and has dealt with some safety issues at Queens Park. Cumbria in Bloom judging has taken up some time and it is also pleasing to note that compost bins have now been installed at the War Memorial.</p> <p><u>Cllr Jenny Borer:</u> had attended the Lake Admin meeting (with Cllr Kate Tripp) at which Cllr Kevin Holmes was elected as the new Chairman and was congratulated. The session included some training on history and management of the lake bed, which is held as an asset by SLDC. It was confirmed that £1.5m is generated in income from the lake (moorings, encroachments etc) and expenditure is in the order of £700k. Cllr Borer made the point that it would be extremely helpful if some of this surplus could be directed to Windermere and Bowness, to assist with infrastructure requirements of the rising visitor numbers. For instance, to employ marshals or pcsos in larger numbers and for longer periods of time. A response is awaited.</p> <p><u>Cllr Hamilton:</u> supported Cllr Borer's proposals and drew attention to a number of infrastructure needs on the lake emerging from the greater number of public users.</p>

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	<p><u>Deputy Mayor Kate Tripp:</u> Attended the Lakes Line User group on 8th June and their Windermere Gateway consultation meeting. Key issues that emerged included the new flexi ticket, the significant rise in visitor numbers, the celebrations planned for the Furness railway ending in Windermere in 2022 and the potential use of battery electric trains on the lakes line. Kate was happy to confirm that there are now 1,231 members of the Town Council facebook site. She has been busy gathering evidence to support the Mayor's letter drawing attention to problems of anti-social behaviour in Bowness and would be happy to collate if other councillors have photographs, video or observations to share. Finally, Kate will be attending the Tactical Visitor Group for the first time next week.</p> <p><u>Mayor Adrian Legge:</u> Has been very busy with the final stages of the access project for Orrest Head and was very happy to confirm that this is almost complete and that for the first time many mobility vehicle users will be able to access the summit. The improvements been very well received locally and are a credit to the Town Council and LDNPA. Also attended a CALC meeting on Covid19 grant funding, met with the PCSO to discuss a number of issues at Langrigge play area and met local traders, to discuss shop-crime. In addition, has attended online meetings on Windermere Gateway, Local Government Reorganisation and has had some training on effective chairing.</p>
29.	<p>District & County Councillors' reports:</p> <p><u>Cllr Jim Bland:</u> Has a forthcoming meeting on Windermere Gateway. Highlighted the usefulness of the speed indication devices and their availability for Windermere and Bowness if followed up.</p> <p><u>Cllr Kevin Holmes:</u> drew attention to the new Cumbria Choice allocations policy and is looking forward to his new role as Chair of Lakes Admin.</p> <p><u>Cllr Andrew Jarvis:</u> was congratulated on his appointment as Deputy Leader at SLDC. He highlighted the effectiveness of the new highways reporting system and the small but quick wins he has been able to achieve. This includes the replacement of the dilapidated 1hr parking signs on Main Road.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the County and District Councillors for their attendance.</p>
30.	<p>Clerk's Report:</p> <p>The Clerk updated verbally on a number of work areas, including public toilets provision, Longlands, Langstone House, Public inspection of accounts, noticeboards and Elleray Woods access road.</p>
31.	<p>Policy & Finance Advisory Group:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2021 were noted with two amendments put forward by Cllr Kate Tripp. Individual recommendations were discussed at each separate item on the agenda.</p>
32.	<p>Increase in Anti-Social Behaviour in the community:</p> <p>The Mayor's letter to all senior executives in Cumbria had been distributed on 13th July. So far, there have been 3 responses, from Cllrs Kevin Holmes, Ben Berry and Andrew Jarvis. All have been positive and helpful, particularly with some good ideas. It is expected that the letter will be reported in the press on Thursday 15th July.</p>

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33.	Windermere in Bloom: Cllr Christine Hallatsch updated Council on the latest plans for a scaled down “back to basics” Windermere in Bloom competition, which will have the following features this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A limited number of certificates and trophies;• The large public presentation ceremony will be replaced with a smaller gathering, to make presentations and take photographs.
34.	Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The financial monitoring report (1 April to 30 June 2021) from the Policy & Finance Advisory Group minutes, was noted.b) Invoices listed on the July Orders for payment were approved, with the addition of: Npower, Toilets electricity for June 21: £236.11 Treble 3: Website hosting: £144.00 Town Steward payment for work in June: £1,232.00 NAYAX: Contactless payment fees: £778.12 Thomas Graham: Toilets supplies: £432.60c) The transfer of funds from the current account to the savings account was authorised (as recommended by Policy & Finance Advisory Group)d) The 2 Grant Applications for performances at the Glebe Bandstand were authorised (as recommended by Policy & Finance Advisory Group);e) The Clerk was authorised to purchase two Amalanchier trees for Birthwaite Gardens and the War Memorial, to contribute to the Queen’s Canopy, in her Platinum Jubilee year next year (recommended by Policy & Finance Advisory Group)f) The offer to purchase the land currently used for a parking space by the Old Bathe House was rejected.g) The Clerk was authorised to place the legal work on the Elleray Woods access road with the NALC contracted solicitors (Wellers Hedleys) at an initial fee of £750.
35.	Plastic Free Windermere: Council approved the proposals from Cllr Marina Davis, aimed at encouraging local businesses to take a pledge to reduce plastic usage in return for posters that can be placed in their businesses. It was noted that the Chamber of Trade should be consulted on the proposals.
36.	Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries: The draft response recommended by Policy & Finance Advisory Group was discussed and a couple of wording changes put forward by Cllr Borer which were approved. The draft response was approved. Cllr Saunders voted against. The amended response will be sent as the Council’s corporate response to the Boundary Commission consultation.

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37.	<p>Traffic Regulation Orders: The following proposed traffic regulation orders were open for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Craig Walk (first 60m from its junction with New Road): Double Yellow Lines (no waiting at any time):b) Brook Road (both junctions with Lake Road and New Road): Double Yellow Lines (no waiting at any time):c) Parts of Church Street at the Junction with St Mary's Park: Double Yellow Lines (no waiting at any time) + Waiting Limited to 2hours on parts of Church Street.d) Part of St Mary's Park and the cul-de-sac: Double Yellow Lines (no waiting at any time) + Waiting Limited to 2 hours on parts of St Mary's Park.e) Parts of New Road and Lake Road: No Waiting 9am to 7pm: <p>Councillors views differed significantly and the deadline for responses is 22nd July. Cllr Legge offered to attempt to collate a response based on emails sent to him by councillors, but it was agreed that, if there is no clear consensus, a corporate response will not be sent on this occasion and councillors will be able to respond as individuals.</p>
38.	<p>Dates of Next Meetings: The following dates were noted. All meetings will commence at 7pm: Wednesday 28th July 2021: Planning sub-committee: Langstone House. Wednesday 11th August 2021: Full Council (Marchesi Centre).</p>
	<p>The Mayor closed the business in public and the following item was considered in private session.</p>
39.	<p>Assistant Clerk Performance Review: The contents of the report were noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Lisa Greasley proposed and Cllr Jenny Borer seconded the proposal to award an increment to the Assistant Clerk on the successful completion of her probationary period. This was agreed.• Cllr Grania Nicholson proposed and Cllr Jenny Borer seconded the proposal to amend the notice period for the Assistant Clerk to 1 month. This was agreed.• Cllr Lisa Greasley proposed and Cllr Jenny Borer seconded the proposal to increase the hours worked by the Assistant Clerk during the summer months (1June to 31 October 21) to 22hrs. This should be a temporary measure and should be reviewed at the end of the summer period, allowing further consideration as to the necessity for future years. This was agreed.
	<p>The meeting closed at 10.05pm</p>

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