



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 6th December 2023 at 7pm, Langstone House, Windermere

Minute No	
	<p>Present: Windermere & Bowness Town Council (W&BTC) Chair - Mayor Leith Hallatsch, Cllrs Jenny Borer, Beverley Cullen, Sandra Lilley, Marina Davis, Caroline Kearney, Lisa Greasley, Christine Hallatsch, Adrian Legge Peter Hamilton Also: Sally Parkyn (Town Clerk), Beccy Pinder (Facilities Officer - FO) and one member of the public. Also: Westmorland & Furness Council (W&FC) Dyan Jones and Andrew Jarvis. The meeting opened at 7pm</p>
117.	<p>Apologies and absence: Cllrs Jackie Cooper & Kevin Heffernan (illness), Kate Tripp (work commitment) & Christine Cook, Peter Cook and John Saunders (snow bound) W&FC Cllr Steve Bavin and Will Clark (prior commitments)</p>
118.	<p>Full Council Minutes: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th November 2023 were approved for signature with the addition of the words <i>W&F Cllr Andrew Jarvis agreed to provide information to W&BTC to explain to the residents how the charge is calculated at 114. Finance: b)</i></p>
119.	<p>Planning sub-committee Minutes: The minutes of the Extraordinary Planning sub-committee meeting held on 16th November 2023 and the minutes of the Planning sub-committee meeting held on 29th November 2023 were noted.</p>
120.	<p>Declarations of Interest: NONE</p>
121.	<p>Requests for Dispensations: NONE</p>
122.	<p>Items to be taken in private session: It was unanimously agreed to discuss the agenda items on co-optation of two new councillors in private session, after the close of the meeting, due to the confidential content. Discussion of Longlands Recreation Area was postponed until the next meeting due to lack of updates.</p>
123.	<p>Public Input: NONE</p>
124.	<p>Mayor & Member Updates: <u>Kate Tripp</u>: submitted a written report: On 20th November I attended a Lakes Line Rail User Group meeting: It is anticipated that the ticket office at Windermere should remain open however, it is not open for many hours. There is now a ticket machine outside where tickets can be purchased and pre-paid tickets can be collected without the office needing to be open. Whilst the RMT strikes seem to be over, ASLEF are still taking industrial action. On 2nd December we had a bit of snow: Seeing that Ambleside had been cut off and overnight refuge location had been established, it seemed that we needed to do the same. Chambers was opened up, and Sally Parkyn and Andrew Jarvis joined each other to welcome stranded</p>

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	<p>travelers who seemed incredibly grateful for sanctuary. We stayed till gone 2300hrs and left 23 people there. Having shared that the building was open, more arrived during the night so we believe around 30 people were helped by us. Thanks to the Mayor for agreeing to our plan.</p> <p>Cllr Lisa Greasley: noted that the Town Council owned bench on Queen's Park had become damaged and had been made safe for the moment by W&FC officers.</p> <p>Cllr Adrian Legge: reported that he had visited Elleray Woods with a chainsaw sculptor.</p> <p>Cllr Marina Davis: noted that there had been a huge rise in people asking to join the Town Council Facebook page during and after the snowstorm as it had proved a vital source of information.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Hamilton: expressed his frustration with the issues caused by the snow that impacted Bowness. He will provide written feedback so lessons can be learned. He also reported that he had met with Town Steward Gary in Elleray Woods which had been interesting and useful.</p> <p>Mayor Leith Hallatsch: Had attended the online Windermere Gateway meeting.</p>
125.	<p>Westmorland & Furness Councillors' reports:</p> <p>Cllr Andrew Jarvis reported that he had also attended the Windermere gateway Online meeting and had stressed the need for community engagement prior to planning permission being sought.</p> <p>W&FC had passed a rule making sure Councillors received the necessary information to ensure "no surprises" such as cancelled bin collections.</p> <p>Cllr Dyan Jones: noted that there had been recent bin problems caused by understaffing but a new manager had been appointed which should lead to improvements.</p>
126.	<p>Advisory Group Reports:</p> <p><u>Cllr Peter Cook - Water Quality Advisory Group:</u> Submitted a written report <u>WQAG Report December 2023</u></p> <p>Following last month's report, we've been following up on the possible project to lay 67 km of new pipework around the lake. Although it's still a high-level concept, it is the most promising development so far in our quest to stop all sewage discharges into the lake- and it's endorsed by Louise Beardmore.</p> <p>Cllr Christine Cook and I attended the UU drop in at the Marchesi Centre last month, but nobody was fully up to speed with this initiative.</p> <p>I also attended a full day workshop run by Love Windermere last week to identify the best ways forward in improving water quality, which was very useful, but again, no one was fully conversant with the detail of this innovative design idea.</p> <p>As a private individual, I therefore intend to put a message on Facebook along with a petition that I'm asking people to sign. This will help to keep the project in the public domain and keep its profile high.</p>
127.	<p>Facilities Officer's Report:</p>

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	<p>Blachere installed the Bowness Lights on 22.11.23. They have been asked to fix one of the tree wraps. However, the team that carried out our installation have been seriously injured while working elsewhere so we have said get to it when they can.</p> <p>Toilet income was again up over the previous year for November. FO is still trying to get further quotes for the additional door at the Glebe.</p> <p>The meeting Healthmatic CEO and our cleaning manager was positive with definite actions to be carried out by Healthmatic. However, after the meeting the Cleaning Manager was hospitalised and remains gravely ill. The CEO has agreed to be our point of contact if needed during her absence.</p> <p>The FO is taking a long break over Christmas in order to use up her leave.</p>
128.	<p>Clerk's Report:</p> <p><u>Elections:</u> W&F website Town Councillor list still not up to date. Clerk has chased.</p> <p><u>Clerk Training:</u> Clerk has done first four sessions. Very useful information.</p> <p><u>War Memorial Culvert:</u> With support from W&FC Cllr Andrew Jarvis, Clerk has contacted a specific Highways officer at W&F highways and explained the situation. He is investigating to see if the floods section have information about this and seems keen to coordinate our actions.</p> <p><u>Longlands Land:</u> The consultation has had a good initial response on Facebook and the Drop in Evening.</p> <p><u>Langstone House/New council office:</u> There is likely to be a decision on Langstone House by LDNPA in the near future as the Section 106 Agreement has been held up with the LDNPA solicitors.</p> <p><u>Finance:</u> Clerk has booked a demonstration of Scribe accounts package.</p> <p><u>Defibrillator:</u> We have been approached by the Windermere First Responders to ask if we would pay for the installation of a defibrillator at Rayrigg Meadow toilets. Cllrs approved the idea that the Clerk get quotes to bring to the January meeting.</p> <p><u>W&FC Liaison Group:</u> Next Liaison group meeting 2.2.24. Send items for Agenda to Kate.</p> <p><u>Langrigge Play Area:</u> Clerk has chased up lease with Windermere Endowed.</p> <p><u>Parking:</u> Clerk to chase request for clarification on Rectory Fields car parking with the National Trust in early 2024.</p> <p><u>Planning & Licensing:</u> A grant application has gone in to W&FC for marshalls covering the two May Bank Holiday weekend evenings Friday-Sunday, Friday and Saturday evenings on weekends in June Half Term and Summer Holidays for 2 marshalls.</p>

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	<p>Some councillors are meeting with the owners of Windermere Manor and the planning subcommittee members are meeting with the Belsfield owners to learn about their development plans.</p> <p><u>Facilities Officer (FO):</u> All Bowness Bay Christmas lights are now up. <u>Public Toilets:</u> verbal report from FO. <u>Town Steward (TS):</u> TS has chased quote for repairs to Baddeley Clock, they will respond by Christmas. More bulbs planted in beds and planters. Sign cleaning starting this week. Waiting for warmer weather to repair low wall at Quarry Rigg. <u>Elleray Woods:</u> Now leaves have fallen hopefully last big clearance of leaves on Orrest Head road completed. Overgrown hedges trimmed back. New section hopefully opening at Spring half term. Waiting for suitable weather for concrete bench standings. Following Saturday's snowstorm there is snow damage to branches which TS's cleared and Will Hicks has taken out a hanger over a path. Clearing and gritting the track has taken place as people still going up. <u>Community Drop-in Evening:</u> Communications group meeting was postponed due to snow. They will have looked through the evaluation sheets and bring a report to January's Policy & Finance meeting. <u>Fraud Prevention:</u> the police have contacted the clerk about giving a fraud prevention talk to the community. The clerk has requested more information. Cllrs agreed it could be useful. <u>New Cleaner:</u> the FO took over the cleaning of Langstone House temporarily, but this has now lasted for over a year and she would like to step down. The clerk will bring quotes from self-employed cleaners to the January meeting. <u>Winter Lights:</u> The Clerk went out with the Winter Lights group and now has a better understanding of what is involved. When they come down in January, discussion into future plans will be needed. The library tree lights are damaged and probably can't be lit this year. <u>Rural Market Towns Group membership:</u> the Clerk has been approached by a groups campaigning for fairer distribution of government resources for rural areas and have offered free membership. The clerk will bring a report on this to the January meeting. Emails and phone calls: Ongoing at 50 a day.</p>
129.	<p>Finance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Payment of the invoices detailed on the Orders for Payment listing was approved.The budget monitoring position for the first 8 months of the financial year was accepted.A donation of £500 to the Great North Air Ambulance Service was approved and the Clerk was asked to investigate a matching donation to the North West Air Ambulance Service who also operate in this area..
130.	<p>Code of Conduct: The Westmorland & Furness Council's Code of Conduct was accepted.</p>
131.	<p>Elleray Woods Chainsaw Sculpture Trail</p>

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	The idea of a native animal chainsaw sculpture trail to enhance the new compartment in Elleray Woods was approved. The clerk will bring quotes from three sculptors to the January meeting for a final decision to be made.
132.	New Town Council Meeting Room: It was unanimously agreed to approach W&FC to request a larger meeting space due to the increase in councillor numbers and necessity for a rebuild of the depot building stated in the current plan. The possibility of repurposing the former Court Building was also asked to be considered.
	Dates of Next Meetings: Forthcoming meetings as follows, starting at 7pm, unless otherwise shown: Wednesday 13 th December 2023: Planning sub-committee: Langstone House Wednesday 10 th January 2024: Full Council: Langstone House Wednesday 24 th January 2024: Planning sub-committee: Langstone House Thursday 25 th January 2024: Policy & Finance Advisory Group Meeting
	The Mayor then closed the meeting in public at 8:30pm and convened in private session to discuss the following item:
133.	Co-option of Town Councillors: Councillors agreed to co-opt Kay Kennedy-Hardy to the vacancy in Windermere Town Ward and Fiona Poole to the vacancy in Bowness North.

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