



# 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 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the Marchesi Centre, Windermere at 7pm

Minute No	
	<p><b>Present:</b> Mayor Adrian Legge (in the Chair), Deputy Mayor Kate Tripp, Cllrs Jenny Borer, John Saunders, Peter Cook, Christine Cook, Christine Hallatsch, Leith Hallatsch, Lisa Greasley, Marina Davis, Peter Hamilton, Cath Musetti, Grania Nicholson, Fiona Wilkinson &amp; Alan Hands. Also: Julie Hartley (Town Clerk) &amp; and 2 members of the public. SLDC/CCC Councillors: Andrew Jarvis, Kevin Holmes &amp; Jim Bland &amp; Sarah Blacow, PCSO (for item 143). The meeting opened at 7pm</p>
137.	<p><b>Apologies and absence:</b> Apologies were accepted from Cllr Magda Khan &amp; Joanne Daley, due to work commitments and SLDC Cllr Dyan Jones, due to family commitments. The resignation of Cllr Mike Stafford was announced. Mike has resigned due to a forthcoming house move out of area. He has served many years on Town Council and will be invited to attend the AGM in May to enable a formal farewell. The Clerk will contact SLDC and start the procedure to recruit a replacement.</p>
138.	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting:</b> The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were approved.</p>
139.	<p><b>Planning Minutes:</b> The minutes of the planning meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 were noted.</p>
140.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> Mayor Adrian Legge and Deputy Mayor Kate Tripp in item 148 (Wings over Windermere) as they are both trustees. It was agreed that both Councillors would remain in the meeting when this item is discussed but would take no part in the debate, unless asked specifically to answer questions from fellow councillors.</p>
141.	<p><b>Requests for Dispensations:</b> NONE</p>
142.	<p><b>Co-option of Councillor:</b> It was agreed that this item should be taken in private at the close of the public part of the meeting, due to much of the content being personal (proposed Cllr Borer, seconded Cllr Musetti)</p>
143.	<p><b>Cumbria Police</b> PCSO Sarah Blacow gave an update on police matters in the community, including burglaries in Bowness and the need for residents to be security conscious. She highlighted that counterfeit notes are still in circulation and are a problem and left a number of leaflets for Councillors' information. The mini-police are still active (9 to 11 year olds from local schools) and recent projects have included litter picking and speeding. Police cadets will be coming into our area and visiting Gatesfield as a way to get to know the elderly community and the problems that they face. Sarah advertised talks that aimed at Cyber and Digital Crime. Finally, police surgeries are now being resurrected and will be taking place at</p>

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	<p>libraries rather than Booths. Posters will be distributed to advertise these. Councillors asked many questions, focused on drugs incidents in the area and the lack of youth services. Sarah reminded everyone that it is crucial to report all incidents to the 101 phone number or email address, so that a comprehensive picture of crime in the area is established. Requests for additional resources are supported using this data.</p> <p>It was announced that Paul Mellard is the new Sergeant (part-time) for the area and it was agreed that he should be invited to a future Town Council meeting.</p>
144.	<p><b>Public Input:</b></p> <p>Mark Gunner spoke to the Council about the South Lakes Business Review, a new local project, aimed at encouraging positive co-operation amongst businesses. This will take the form of a virtual network (using podcasts and u-tube) to share best practice and problem solving. It will be a corporate community, sharing news, insights and knowledge. It is hoped that the sharing can be extended to what is happening in the town and the community and that it can act as a single focus for communication.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked Mark for attending and for his presentation and questions were asked about the way in which this new initiative will work with the already established Chamber of Trade. The Town Council were generally supportive and wished Mark the best with his project.</p>
145.	<p><b>Mayor &amp; Member Announcements:</b></p> <p><u>Mayor Adrian Legge:</u> Planning Sub-committee meeting at Langstone House, followed by (Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> February), a BBC TV interview to explain this council's decision to make a bid for return of the bed of the lake. LGR group meeting, led by Peter Cook, with Steve Ratcliffe from LDNPA. 3<sup>rd</sup> March was a Teams meeting hosted by Gerard Acton who is the Project Engineer for the Promenade Enhancement scheme. The meeting was also attended by the Town Clerk, by National Park's Steve Ratcliffe, SLDC's Sion Thomas, Deputy Chief of Cumbria Highways, Nigel Wilkinson of Windermere Lake Cruises and by Sgt Paul Mellard, who introduced himself as the Neighbourhood Policing Officer for Windermere. 7 March: LGR Group, led again by Peter Cook, in a live meeting with Nigel Wilkinson of Windermere Lake Cruises. 8 March: Attended, along with the Deputy Mayor, a virtual meeting on Windermere Gateway, chaired by the North of England Director for National Trust, with about twenty attendees, including LDNPA's Head of Sustainable Development, Network Rail, Booths, Lakeland, URBAN SPLASH, consultants who describe themselves as "an award-winning regeneration company making exceptional places for people to live and work, and delivering better futures", SLDC, and numerous others. The focus is now on DELIVERY of the project and, of course, it all hangs on finances. Railway passing loop was not successful in attracting funding this time, though further bids will be made. We raised several questions on the housing and infrastructure to support a 6% increase in population. Deputy Mayor reminded Urban Splash that all houses will have a Local Occupancy condition, which will depress selling prices and, therefore, profit margins. The importance of Public Relations was stressed, as some local people are still sceptical about the project. Councillors asked many questions and it was clear that the issue of affordable housing is very high on the agenda. It</p>

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	<p>was recommended and agreed that the Town Council need to meet with the Leader and Portfolio holder at SLDC to obtain an up-to-date perspective on this issue that is of such importance to the local community. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.</p> <p><u>Deputy Mayor Kate Tripp:</u> In addition to meetings covered by Mayor (above), has been visiting numerous parishes around the Lake, to communicate the issue of ring-fencing income from the lake for use in local infrastructure as part of the changes that are proposed for LGR. It has been a good and supportive response so far. Attended a meeting of the Lakes Line Rail User Group, at which the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary was discussed. There are a number of events planned locally but the key one will be on 27<sup>th</sup> April at Booths. Took part in a Teams meeting of the Tactical Visitor Group, covering plans this summer. It is fair to say that there is lots of detail and some good ideas. Finally, attended Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership meeting, where the main subject was the warning of great disruption to the Western line over Easter which will inhibit public transport from the south to the Lakes substantially.</p> <p><u>CLlr Peter Cook:</u> Had already circulated a report to update Council on the LGR Advisory Group activities. The focus of work is on ownership or ring-fencing of income from the Lake and there has been positive feedback from local parishes, local businesses and Chamber of Trade.</p> <p><u>CLlr Lisa Greasley:</u> was sad to reflect on the death of Frank Sanderson, a local activist and past Chairman of Windermere Parish Council. He was a leading light in Windermere and Cumbria in Bloom and a positive activist in the community. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a card to his family, acknowledging his contribution. CLlr Greasley also updated on the Queens Park Skate Park and planting of bulbs in Elleray Woods by local school children. Attended a Windermere Endowed Schools meeting and has been active in formulating plans for Bowness Bay toilets garden area, working with the Assistant Clerk.</p> <p><u>CLlr Leith Hallatsch:</u> Was pleased to report some progress with the speed cameras and there is now a contact provided. He highlighted the forthcoming CALC meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March at Gilpin Bridge. This is the County Council focused meeting so useful if there are highways issues to raise.</p> <p><u>CLlr Jenny Borer:</u> Had reported the problems with the St Mary's lane footpath, which is now impassable and dangerous for those with mobility issues. The Clerk had reported this and also the Sheriffs Wood footpath to Highways, using the HiMs system and had received messages indicating that the problems had been resolved, but, on inspection, this was not the case. The Clerk was advised to raise both footpaths and the response from HIMS as a formal complaint.</p>
146.	<p><b>District &amp; County Councillors' reports:</b></p> <p><u>CLlr Andrew Jarvis:</u> updated on progress with LGR (failure of Judicial Review, Structural Changes order due, s 24 order will limit any spending and disposal of assets/entering into long-time contracts by the outgoing Councils). A Joint Committee has been established to make decisions prior to the Shadow Authority being elected in May. From SLDC, this comprises CLlrs John Holmes, Jonathan Brook and Andrew Jarvis. He acknowledged the</p>

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problems that are being encountered with the HIMS system, although recently, he had been successful in obtaining some replacement road signs. He was pleased to report that SLDC Cabinet have now agreed the investment of £90k into Ellerthwaite Depot and its transfer to W&BTC. In principle they have agreed that Langstone House will be developed for Housing Association housing but any detailed plans will be agreed with W&BTC. Finally, as treasurer of the Friends of the 597 Bus, Cllr Jarvis thanked the Town Council for its donation and was pleased to announce the receipt of a significant grant from the National Lottery Communities Fund. These should secure the short to medium term future of the bus.  
Cllr Kevin Holmes: Updated on Lakes Admin issues and preparation for the next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Cllr Jim Bland: Updated on two significant CCC highways projects - Bowness Promenade and Bowness Roundabout. It was acknowledged that there has been a lot of local comment on the layout of Bowness Roundabout and Mayor Legge has had regular contact with the project engineer who has dealt with every issue raised. For the record, the issues that have been raised and dealt with are:

STOP-LINES - The “Give Way” markings on Crag Bow have been there for many years and were replaced at a very similar location. The advice from Traffic Engineers is that “Give Way” marks can be used as an alternative and provide addition indication to give way along with the “Give Way” sign. This is particularly important when, as in this case, there is limited deflection and poor visibility to the right. The major road in this case is the A592 (St. Martin’s Place and Rayrigg Road) and traffic on A5074 (Crag Brow) will need to give way. You will see that, on many occasions when an “A”- road meets another, you will have a “Give Way” line on one of the roads. Indeed, in Windermere the A5074 (High Street) meets A591 and there are giveway markings on A5074.

ROUNDAABOUT CENTRAL DISC - The concerns are understood. However, moving the centre island to right would reduce the circulation area and would result in moving the “Give Way” roundabout marking on Rayrigg Road forward, resulting in less decision time for driver. The movement would do little to stop the concern rising, as a driver coming down Crag Brow would drive over the central island as well and we would still have two vehicles entering the roundabout from opposite directions. What could be considered is marking the St Martin’s Place approach to persuade drivers to approach the central island differently. However, it is suspected that this would have limited effect.

PARKING BAYS ON CRAG BROW - The removal of the parking bay was recommended and consulted-on via a legal process. However, following consultation and objections, it was decided that only the first 18m should be removed. This was then considered and approved by Cumbria County Council’s South Lakeland Local Committee. Removal of the remaining bays will require another legal process. CCC will look further into removal, particularly if it is recommended by the independent Road Safety Team.

REPLACEMENT TREE - There is no room for a planted tree near to the roundabout due to the number of underground services in the area of the widened footways. A tree in a planter is

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	feasible but would struggle to achieve any size and thus any benefit. It is always an option for the contractors to donate a potted tree.
147.	<b>Clerk's Report:</b> The written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, reporting progress on agreed project work for this year. Key work this month will focus on preparation for year end accounts, Policy & Finance Advisory Group, Planning sub-committee. Work-streams include Elleray Woods access road, succession planning, Elleray Woods (first site visit in April) and meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> March of Town Clerks in Grange to discuss LGR (Cllr Andrew Jarvis attending). There were no questions.
148.	<b>Windermere Byelaw Exemption for Wings over Windermere:</b> The Town Council has no problems with the LDNPA granting this exemption and the Clerk was asked to reply to the LDNPA to that effect. (Proposed Cllr Lisa Greasley, Seconded Cllr Jenny Borer and carried unanimously).
149.	<b>Finance:</b> a) Payment of invoices listed on the March Orders for payment were approved unanimously (proposed by Cllr Christine Hallatsch, Seconded by Cllr John Saunders and agreed unanimously) with the addition of: Julie Hartley: refund of outlay for British Legion Queens Canopy plaques: £289.98 HSBC Bank Charges for February 2022: £9.00 Marchesi Centre: Room Hire for 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2022: £25.00 All amounts are inclusive of VAT. b) The quotation from Healthmatic for £1,090 + VAT for health and safety works at Rayrigg Road toilets was approved as the most competitive. The expenditure will be funded from the Public Toilets reserve funds. (Proposed Cllr Leith Hallatsch, Seconded Cllr Kate Tripp and carried unanimously).
150.	<b>Dates of Next Meetings:</b> The following dates were noted. All meetings will commence at 7pm: Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2022: Policy & Finance Advisory Group (Langstone House) Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022: Planning sub-committee (Langstone House) Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2022; Annual Parish Meeting at 6pm followed by Full Council; Marchesi Centre.
	<b>The Mayor concluded business in public at 9pm and moved to private session for the following agenda item:</b>
151.	<b>Co-option of Town Councillor:</b> As the prospective Councillor was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed that this item be postponed to a future meeting.

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