



WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

Notes of the Policy & Finance Advisory Group Meeting held at Langstone House on 25th July 2024 at 7pm

Minute No:	
1.	<p>Attendance, Apologies & Absence: <u>Advisory Group attendance:</u> (Chair) Deputy Mayor Sandra Lilley, Lisa Greasley, Jenny Borer, Marina Davis, Kendra Kennedy, Beverley Cullen, Christine Hallatsch, Fiona Poole, John Saunders Other Town Councillor attendance: Cllr Adrian Legge Also, Sally Parkyn (Town Clerk), Apologies: Cllrs Hamilton, Heffernan, Kearney and Kennedy-Hardy. Also, Facilities Officer Beccy Pinder</p>
2.	<p>Notes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2024: These were agreed: Outstanding item: were included for discussion in the agenda.</p>
3.	<p>Clerk's Report: Proposal that the clerk's report be presented in a text not table format so it can be pasted easily into the minutes to save time and increase transparency. <u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u> To go back to table format. (NB Clerk has figured out how to keep the table format and save time adding the text to minutes)</p>
4.	<p>Finances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Budget monitoring: The report produced is still not clear enough for councillors. Cllrs Saunders and Kennedy offered to work with the clerk to produce a reporting format that will provide the information Councillors need in a clear format.b. Insurance: Councillors felt that the cyber insurance was not. Clerk agreed to check NALC's recommendations and circulate full policy document to councillors before the Full Council to confirm the decision. <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. That the clerk will work with volunteers from the Council to find a reporting format that makes the essential information clear to Councillors.b. That the Council not obtain cyber insurance at this time.
5.	<p><u>Grant applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Band Grant - The National Methodist Youth Brass Band had applied for a grant in relation to a performance at the Bandstand in August. It was noted that there may be a conflict with the Council's duty not to provide funding for religious activities as the band is only open to Christians.b. Friends of the Lakes Line - request approximately £400 to replace planters at the station. They have not yet submitted a formal grant as a decision about what to buy and who owns and should remove the old planters has not yet been made. <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. That the Town Council does not award the grant to the National Methodist Youth Brass Band as it does not meet the wider grant awarding criteria.b. That the Town Council waits for a full grant application to make a decision.



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6.	<p><u>Allotments:</u> The report containing the proposals from the allotment holders' meeting was discussed.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">That the clerk has authorisation to make spends on the allotment items or work up to £500 but the Facilities Officer bring proposals for items that exceed that to council.That the Facilities Officer be requested to update the allotment holder's agreement to ensure it is clear and accurate.That the Facilities Officer be authorised to apply for grants to improve the allotments.
7.	<p><u>Christmas Lights:</u> Initial meetings with two contractors to obtain quotes to test and fix existing lights and anchors and an additional quote to light the library tree have been obtained and a third meeting has been set up.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">That the council funds at least the safe installation of the Christmas lights obtained from the Winter Lights group for Christmas 2024.That the clerk provide an itemised report to enable the council to make a comparison between the three contractors and decide which elements of the scheme to choose at Full Council.
8.	<p><u>Remembrance</u> The report on the different contractors was discussed. The Council expressed their gratitude to Sunbelt Traffic Management for their generous offer to provide the road closure as a gesture of respect for the fallen.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">That the council should accept the offer of Sunbelt to provide the traffic management for free.
9.	<p><u>Elleray Woods Sculptures</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">A report into a proposal to carry out tree work along the boundary with Orrest Howe and Orrest Howe Lodge was discussed with the additional information from the Tree Surveyor who advised that we stick to our schedule but try to arrange access to the properties to view the trees on his next visit in 2025.There was a discussion about a proposal to pay the sculptor to install the sculptures rather than the Town Steward. <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Recommend that council wait to hear what property owner's tree report says before making a decision.That the Council pay the sculptor £845 for installation and £65 for delivery. This work to be funded half from the Orrest Head budget and half from contingency.
10	<p><u>Toilets</u> Verbal update from Clerk reported no issues of consequence. July takings look promising to match the previous July.</p>



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	<p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <p>a. That to save the Facilities Officer’s time the council receive a written report unless there is a significant proposal on which her advice is required.</p>
11.	<p><u>20mph scheme:</u> Clerk has chased for the highways Speed Indicator Device report and signage rules but no reply yet. Clerk has the 20mph Bowness plan but is still awaiting the consultation information.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <p>a. Clerk continues to follow up with Westmorland and Furness Council to obtain the information which was offered.</p>
12.	<p><u>Longlands</u></p> <p>a. Standing Item: The clerk gave a verbal update on the lease with Bowness Bowling Club(BBC) noting that a copy of the Section 25 notice sent by SLDC to BBC gives a date of 1995. This has been forwarded to W&FC. Our solicitor has been in contact with BBC directly and is awaiting their reply and the information from W&F. A further issue is that the Land Registry details now show it as registered to W&FC. Solicitor thinks that when they sent the list of SLDC holdings to Land Registry after vesting day it was included in error. Solicitor will chase up as it looks like it is their mistake.</p> <p>b. The report on the drain survey options was discussed.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <p>a. That in closed session the Town Council resolve to approach Westmorland & Furness Council to investigate returning the trusteeship of Longlands to them as Council were not made aware of the full Bowling Club lease history before taking trusteeship on and without the cooperation of the Bowling Club are unable to execute their duties as trustees fully.</p> <p>b. That Enviroguard be appointed to carry out a survey of the drains under the site to check location and condition.</p>
13.	<p><u>Langstone House:</u> There was no update from W&FC. There was discussion about the unsuitability of the depot plan and discussion of alternatives.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p> <p>a. That the clerk write to the CEO of W&FC stating that while the Town Council is supportive of the idea of converting Langstone House into affordable homes the offer to move into a converted depot building in Broad Street Car Park has expired. It would not be large enough to fit the Full Council and public and would not represent a good use of public funds. The Town Council would consider moving into the top floor of the library. Locating a Town Council meeting room there, which could also be used by other community organisations, would free up funds to make the necessary repairs to the library building to ensure it is fit for purpose into the future.</p>
14.	<p><u>Langrigge Play area:</u> Standing item. No developments.</p>



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	Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024): NONE
15.	<p><u>Lake's Parish Council's Vote of no Confidence in the LDNPA:</u> It was discussed whether a similar vote by W&BTC is an action councillors feel would be effective. However, in view of the upcoming meeting between the LDNPA and town and parish councils it was felt that a recommendation at this time would be premature.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u> a. That the item be revisited at the Policy and Finance meeting in September.</p>
16.	<p><u>Consultations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That Councillors be asked to send their thoughts in response to the W&FC Public Spaces Protection Order consultation to the clerk for compilation. b) Due to the timing and confidentiality requirements the clerk would respond to the W&FC officer regarding signage encouraging using bins to dispose of litter in the Glebe area. She would note the LDNPA policy to keep signage to a minimum in the World Heritage site and recommend the use of small black and white bin stickers over the more large and colourful designs. c) That Councillors who wish to should respond individually to the W&FC Sports and Leisure Services Consultation which closes on 2.8.24. d) That Councillors who wish to respond individually to the LDNPA Active Travel Consultation which closes 15.9.24 <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u> a. That the responses from Councillors be submitted to the to the W&FC Public Spaces Protection Order consultation.</p>
17.	<p><u>VE Day 80 - 8th May 2025:</u> A resident who helped organize the 50th Anniversary Commemorations has approached us to offer us a Windermere Lake Cruises Boat for a floating street party and provided records of the previous event. However, at this time there was no councillor who felt able to organize such an event for 2025.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u> a. That the Town Council commemorate the VE Day 80th Anniversary with a beacon lighting on Orrest Head.</p>
18..	<p><u>Any Other Business</u> Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. It was noted that the litter picking event information was not fully circulated before the date was selected. It was discovered there was no quick method of messaging all councillors. The clerk agreed to set up a Whatsapp group for all councillors who wish to be part of it to allow informal communication to be used when needed and appropriate. b. Councillors were requested to check they don't use the reply all option in group emails especially from the clerk to all councillors. Please just reply to the clerk and check that no one else is CC.d or BCC. In by accident. <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (14th August 2024):</u></p>



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	a. Clerk to set up an All Councillors Whatsapp group but be aware of the needs to consult mobile phone free councillors separately.
19.	Date of Next Meeting: <i>Thursday 19th September 2024 at 7pm.</i>