



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 31st August 2023 at 7pm

Minute No:	
1.	<p>Attendance, Apologies & Absence: <u>Advisory Group attendance.</u> Deputy Mayor Lisa Greasley (chair), Mayor Leith Hallatsch, Cllrs Christine Hallatsch, John Saunders, Kate Tripp, Other Town Councillor attendance: Cllr Peter Hamilton Also Sally Parkyn (Town Clerk), Apologies: Cllr Marina Davis (family responsibilities), Beccy Pinder (Facilities Officer, holiday)</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2023: These were agreed.</p>
3.	<p>Toilets update by Facilities Officer (FO) Overall, footfall has been well up this year so taking are up though there have been more repairs and maintenance costs particularly drain unblocking including another at Braithwaite Fold 30.8.23. There was a successful meeting with area manager Lyn on August 4. This is the first monthly meeting that has been completed as planned. There have been quite a few complaints about cleanliness but not unexpected as mainly Bowness Bay and there were 400 people through the ladies' toilets there yesterday. The next full Healthmatic meeting with Lyn and Andy is October 3 so Town Clerk (TC) & FO will carry out a joint inspection beforehand. FO has put up new signage explaining payment wait times to hopefully cut down on frustration. There seem to have been fewer issues with Rayrigg Meadow door being left open. However, discussion among the Councillors who had been down over the bank holiday showed it was still a problem. Initial investigation had found open door alarms but finding one that was weather and tamperproof was more difficult. A quote had been obtained of £500 for painting the recently replaced doors and architraves. It would be a further £500 to paint Broad Street men's toilet with special paint to cover smoke damage.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (13th September2023):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) That the painters quote be acceptedb) That the Facilities Office get quotes for open door alarms for Rayrigg Meadow.
4.	<p><u>Biodiversity Duty:</u> Councillors were made aware that government guidance had been published on 17.5.23 asking that councils complete their first consideration of what actions to take to promote biodiversity by 1.1.2024 and agree policies and objectives as soon as possible afterwards.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (13th September2023):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) That the clerk consults with the relevant advisory groups (Orrest Head & Elleray Woods, Parks & Open Spaces, Windermere Lake Water Quality Group and Planning



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	<p>Subcommittee) about actions they were currently taking or could take to promote biodiversity.</p> <p>b) That the clerk begins to draft a Biodiversity Policy.</p>
5.	<p><u>Langrigge Play Area</u> <u>Basketball Hoop</u> The playground inspector, Peter Clarke, has recommended that the post be repaired, replaced or removed. Repair would cost £60-£100+VAT and replacement would be £300-400+VAT. The Councillors felt that the hoop was still well used and offered an activity for older children so should not be removed. Cllr Peter Hamilton noted that welding a repair would further weaken the metal so would be unlikely to be a long term solution.</p> <p><u>Draft Lease</u> The vicar of St Martin's who would need to sign the lease for Windermere Endowed is going on sabbatical until December so the lease cannot be finalized until then. There were concerns about the lack of a get out clause in the 21 year lease.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (13th September 2023):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recommend approval of the replacement of the basketball post using the contractor suggested by the Playground Inspector. b) Recommend the clerk write to Windermere Endowed's lawyer requesting a clause be added to the lease granting either party the right to terminate the lease by giving 6 months' notice.
6.	<p><u>Longlands:</u> There was discussion of issues at the site raised by the Parks & Open Spaces members.</p> <p><u>Signage Quote</u> Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Group had requested a quotation for updated signage. However, it was felt that this should be postponed until after the consultation had been carried out. Additionally, planning permission may be needed for signage.</p> <p><u>Community consultation</u> This has been scheduled to begin in September and the Parks & Open Spaces Advisory Group would like it to go ahead as soon as possible beginning with getting suggestions from Councillors and then moving into wider community consultation aiming to use a range of methods to get the opinions of as broad a section of residents as possible.</p> <p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (13th September 2023):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the clerk consult with the necessary organisations to make progress on the Longlands site issues. b) That the community consultation regarding the Longlands play area begin ensuring that a range of methods are used to capture the views of a wide range of residents.
7.	<p><u>Grant applications</u> NONE</p>



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	<p><u>Recommendations to Full Council (13th September 2023):</u> That the information on Facebook and the website be updated encourage a wider range of applications and this information also be made available in paper form at the Windermere Library.</p>
8.	<p>Langstone House Still with LDNPA planners. Fire Safety Risk assessment will be carried out by W&FC on 19.9.23. W&BTC will need to provide a policy and up to date evacuation procedure. <u>Recommendations to Full Council (13th September 2023):</u> That a fire policy and updated evacuation procedure be adopted.</p>
9.	<p>Finances: Budget monitoring The general accounts are currently showing a slight surplus over budgeted expenditure due in part to fewer grant applications. The toilet accounts are showing a significant surplus due to increased footfall over the previous financial year. There was a discussion about the quotation for tree work in Elleray Woods. The clerk was asked to get further information to bring to the Full Council meeting.</p>
10.	<p>Any other business: Orrest Head Collection box contract: The contract offered by the Lake District Foundation (LDF) did not align with the agreement discussed previously. The chief concern was the lack of clarity over the costs LDF would take from the donations before the money was split between the Council and Lake District National Park (LDNPA). Millerground: Request that W&FC urgently put in waste disposal and water facilities for the motorhomes they allow to stay overnight and charge a fee for. While the efforts to improve the litter disposal situation are welcomed the area where all the work to open the view and put in disabled access has become very overgrown and needs clearing. Opening up the site will not only improve the views but discourage the antisocial behaviour that has been occurring there. <u>Recommendations to Full Council (13th September 2023):</u> a) That the clerk write to LDF & LDNPA requesting clarification about LDFs costs and that the contract reflect the verbal agreement from the meeting. b) That the clerk write to W&FC requesting the necessary facilities for motorhomes be installed and vegetation management be carried out as a matter of urgency.</p>
11.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd November 2023</p>