

The Minutes of the Annual General Members Meeting held on the 15th December 2009 at the Burnside Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present:

Barry Butler - Butler Thompson Associates; Eve Blatchley - Hon Member; Carol Bullock - Edinburgh Woollen Mills; Liz & Tony Blaney - Fairfield Guest House, Sue Fixter - Pitlochry, Paul Frain - Helen Chocolates; Rob Fowler - Robert Fowler Associates; Simon & Wendy Everett - Simon Everett Opticians; Jo Harris - Windermere Wine Stores; David & Gillian Howarth - Renoirs; Scott Livett - Police; Jonty Mayo - Musgraves; Dyan & Richard Rogers - Old Pump House; Christopher Rushton -Architect; Bill Smith - SLDT; Penny Seeds – Manuka; .Leith Hallatsch – Windermere Town Council

Apologies: Adrian Faulkner (Secretary); Robin Love Ambleside Post Office

NB in the Secretary's absence, the Chairman had asked Bill Johnson to take the Minutes of the Meeting.

Opening Remarks: Barry Butler (Chair) welcomed the assembled members and guests. Barry then went on to give his Annual Report – which can be found on the Chamber's website.

Election of Officers: following nominations were received for the Officer positions for 2010/11 and were duly elected by those members attending the meeting.

Position	Officer	Proposer	Seconded
Chair	Barry Butler	David Howarth	Penny Seeds
Vice Chair	Simon Everett	Barry Butler	David Howarth
Secretary	Adrian Faulkner	Tony Blaney	Barry Butler
Treasurer	Adrian Faulkner	Tony Blaney	Paul Frain
Membership Secretary - Bowness	Robert Fowler	Eve Blatchley	Simon Everett
Membership Secretary – Windermere **	Left open		
Windermere & Bowness Community Safety Partnership	Bill Johnson	Simon Everett	Jonty Mayo
WOW ++	Left open		
Business Improvement District Group [BIDS]	Jo Harris	Barry Butler	Penny Seeds
Windermere & Bowness Christmas Lights Group	David Howarth	Barry Butler	Penny Seeds
Windermere Town Twinning Association	Tony Blaney	Barry Butler	Adrian Faulkner
Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme	Simon Everett	Barry Butler	David Howarth
Windermere Waterfront Project	Barry Butler	Bill Johnson	Simon Everett
Committee Members	Paul Frain	Eve Blatchley	Jonty Mayo
	Richard Rogers Bill Johnson Jo Harris David Howarth Tony Blaney	Simon Everett	Carol Bullock

Proposals to Amend Constitution:

- a) **Under Section 4:** Membership to add an additional paragraph:-
"Associate membership of the Chamber shall be open to all business that derives an income in the adjoining parishes to Bowness and Windermere, at the discretion of the officers."
- b) **Under Section 5:** Membership fees: - "The membership fee for associate members will be fixed at the AGM".
- c) **Under Section 8:** Annual General Meeting: - "Associate members will not have voting rights at the AGM or at meetings which affect the Windermere and Bowness area."

The above three were proposed by Barry Butler and seconded by Adrian Faulkner and were all carried on a majority vote.

- d) **Under Section 7:** there was a proposal from Tony Blaney and seconded by Barry Butler that "the first paragraph be rescinded."

Barry asked the meeting to receive the proposal which had been submitted outside the 14 day period for submitting items for the AGM Agenda – agreed. Barry Butler spoke to each proposal with his reasoning why, which included the fact that Ambleside Chamber had folded and this may help it get on its feet and also some of the parishes did not have enough businesses.

Tony Blaney spoke to the proposal, which sought to amend the Constitution in recognition that some Officers were serving continuously longer than the period set down; but were doing so with the agreement of the respective AGMs.

Bill Smith suggested that as the meeting had just agreed for some Officers to continue serving beyond the proscribed period, this proposal should be deferred pending a wider look at the Constitution for examples of anomalies or areas where the Constitution needed to be updated in view of changing external circumstances; an Extraordinary Meeting could be convened to discuss the findings of such a review.

The original proposal was put to meeting: For 12; Against 2; Abstentions 1. Motion passed.

Barry said he would check out the Constitution of other Chambers of Trade and would bring any findings to the January/February 2010 meeting of Chamber, with a view to determining whether a review of the Constitution was needed.

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 2nd December 2008:

Tony Blaney asked concerning the replacement of the "Snowball" telephone system for B&Bs and hoteliers. PCSO Scott Livett said the Police were introducing an email alert system – which also allowed them to give more detail concerning suspicious people, incidents or even missing people.

Scott added the Community Policing Team were holding a meeting in January 2010 for Barwatch members concerning a new 'alert' system which was working well in Kendal.

Proposed by Simon Everett, seconded Eve Blatchley that the Minutes be accepted - Approved.

Treasurers Report: in the treasurer's absence, Barry circulated the accounts presented to Chamber as at 30th September 2009, adding there had been some small expenditure since, but January 2010 would see the annual subscription monies received. The only question raised was on Secretarial expenses.

Barry advised the meeting the Treasurer was recommending annual subscriptions remain at £25-00 for 2010 and that this should also apply to Associate Members. This was approved.

Correspondence:

- a) Barry had letter from Peter Ridgway of SLDC concerning TIC closures, that TIC's were not being closed but that SLDC was seeking other partnerships to work with to keep them open. SLDC Cabinet had discussed this item when it met on 9th December 2009.

Bill Smith said he understood SLDC had received expressions of interest in involvement in (a) TIC from some possible associations (including SLDT) but any SLDC funding would be from a package which would reduce over 3 years. If no associated partners were found then TIC's would close.

b) Barry referred to correspondence with Rotary concerning catering on the Glebe at the Air Show Weekend. Bill Smith said it had been agreed in principle for outside (local) caterers to be on the Glebe Pitch & Putt area for the 2010 Air Show weekend as a trial. It was pointed out there were still a lot of Health & Safety requirements concerning Hygiene, preparing and serving food outdoors etc to be met before such a trial could take place.

Reference was made to toilet availability at the Air Show weekend and the subsequent Lions Festival and Bill Smith said for 2009 Taylors had offered to bring a Gibson unit but in the event were unable to obtain one. For 2010 'caravan' style WCs were being sought – but this would involve a cost element.

Reference was made to the need for a Map of Bowness & Windermere for visitors showing the location of the various businesses, (using business names and coding to show the type of business – eg retail clothing, cafe/restaurant etc). The map could be large scale at say car parks and TIC, small A4 fold for handing to people and also downloadable from the website.

Richard Rogers said he would look at this; Barry and Jo made brief reference to pilot work done some 5 years ago. Reference was also made to Bolton Town Council which has downloadable maps on its website.

c) There was a discussion concerning the United Utilities for improving sewage facilities by having an underground surge or holding chamber on the Pitch & Putt area of the Glebe. This was on hold until the Civic Society's application for Town Green status was discussed by the Planning Authority.

AOB

John Richardson said the Royal Windermere Yacht Club was founded in 1860 and in 2010 would be celebrating its 150th Anniversary with a number of events. It was hoped some of these would be 'open' to others on the Lake and so the Chamber's Cup for juniors may be competed for.