

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 6th November 2006 at the Burnside Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6:00pm.

Present:

Eve Blatchley	Hon Member	Ian Stevens	Cumbria Tourism
Adrian Faulkner	AGF Business Services Ltd	Bill Smith	SLDT
Bill Johnson	Past & Presents	Robert Tonnet	Galerie D'Art

Apologies:

Tony & Liz Blaney	Fairfield Guest House	Gail Micklethwaite	Windermere Lake Cruises
Liz Chamberlain	Things	H & J Rimmer	Ditto
Tim Farron	MP	Bob Sutcliffe	LDNPA
Robin Martakis	Windermere Lake Cruises	Carole Scott	Things

Opening Remarks:

In the absence of the Chair, Barry Butler, Bill Johnson (Vice Chair) took the chair and welcomed all those present. He then went onto point out that the AGM would have to be postponed to a later date because the Meeting was not 'quorate.' He also pointed out that all officers would remain in place until an Extra Ordinary Annual General Meeting could be arranged. This was agreed to by those members present.

Bill then sought the meetings approval to continue with the presentation by the guest speaker, Mr Ian Stevens from Cumbria Tourism. This was agreed to.

Ian Stevens: Ian pointed out that the change in name does not mean a change in emphasis of Cumbria Tourism. He updated the meeting on the numbers regarding membership (2,400), roughly split 50/50 between the private and business sector. Ian went onto point out that the aim of Cumbria Tourism was to promote Cumbria as a 'world centre of excellence.'

He then went onto outline Cumbria Tourism's marketing strategy in particular the promoting of mid-week bookings throughout the County. Overseas delegations had been and were currently doing, working closely with Cumbria Tourism to foster closer ties.

He then turned his attention to the Windermere & Bowness Master Plan which was a 'high priority' project with current funding standing at £2m for traffic management and street furniture. A minimal of outside influences has had an adverse effect on the retail trade and traffic management plays an important factor for the retail trade. It is envisaged that tax on air flights are going to come, not sure when, but will come in making UK destinations more expensive for the overseas traveller. There was also concern over the rail network serving this area. He went onto outline a number of attractions that would be going on during 2007.

However taking all things together Ian suggested that 2007/08 was going to be good for the area.

Adrian G Faulkner - Secretary, Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade.
DMS. MCMI., CLP.