

Promoting the trading and commercial interests of Bowness, Windermere and the immediate area.

The minutes of a General Members Meeting held on the 6th October at the Burnside Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6pm.

Members Present:

Liz Blaney (Fairfield Garden)	Adrian G Faulkner (AGF Business Services Ltd)
Barry Butler (Butler Thompson Assoc)	Enid Goldthorpe (Welcome Guides)
Chris & Maureen Dodd (Hill of Oaks Caravan Park)	Bill Johnson (Hon Member)

Guest:

Brendan Chapman (Classic Cruises)

Apologies:

Cllr. Ben Berry (SLDC)	Sue & Peter Jackson (Heart of the Lakes)
Tony Blaney (Fairfield Garden)	Paul Liddell (Lakelovers)
David Carter (David Carter Chemist)	Richard & Dyan Rogers (The Old Pump House)
Clayton Butchers	Ian Seddon (HSBC)
Simon Everett (Past Chair)	Adam Slater (Booths)
Tim Farron – MP	Tim Swaine (NatWest Bank)
Cllr. Leith Hallatsch (Mayor – WTC)	Robbie Tonnet & Jill Crisp (La Galerie d'Art)

Barry Butler took the chair and welcomed members and guest to the meeting and welcomed the Chamber's newest members, Chris and Maureen Dodd (Hill of Oaks Caravan Park).

Minutes

There were no minutes to approve from the meeting of the 1st September 2015. notes on this meeting can be found on the Chamber of Trade website.

Police

Not present.

Correspondence

None to report.

Windermere Town Council Representative

Nothing to report.

Reports

Nothing to report

Rates

Barry Butler brought to the attention of the meeting that the Treasury announced on the 5th October 2015 the:

- Universal Business Rates (UBR) will be 'scrapped,' but will continue to be a 'national multiplier' in place
- 100% local authority business rates retention, but there will be a redistributive mechanism for 'top up.'

- Local authorities will have the ability to reduce the multiplier.
- Combined authorities with mayors will have the power to implement a supplement for infrastructure projects up to a cap (likely 2%) with support of the LEP's

These points were then discussed amongst those present.

Town Centre Parking

Barry Butler brought to the attention of the meeting that the FSB (Federation of Small Businesses) had revealed its results into the views of small businesses on future car parking provision across Cumbria. FSB members voted overwhelmingly for better co-ordination of parking policy, measures to encourage shoppers and visitors to stay longer and harnessing new technologies to bring the car parking provision into the 21st – century. **This is something the Chamber of Trade have been advocating for quite some time at local level and have been in dialogue with SLDC over this provision.**

Windermere & Bowness Local Economy: Scoping the Way Ahead Project

Barry Butler updated the meeting on the meeting he and the Secretary had attended, along with other interested parties. Douglas Wheeler Associates Ltd (DWA Ltd) have been commissioned by a public sector group (SLDC, LDNPA, WTC and FSB) with a brief to look at the short/medium and long term future of the local economy, identify the 'business case' to support action and new investment. In due course a report will be prepared which can be used to progress an effective partnership, action plan and delivery mechanism(s).

Barry pointed out that this happened 20 years ago!

The slides from the presentation can be seen at <http://www.wbcoft.org.uk/#Consultation> and scroll down the page.

Medieval Sensory/Herb Garden

The Secretary reported that work had begun on clearing the site with the help from the 'Community Pay Back' group. The site was being cleared of all roots, tree stumps and stones in preparation of making level and the laying a membrane. The tree stumps that were going to be crafted into animals for the garden had been removed without notice.

A.O.B.

1. Barry Butler made mention of the fact that cities throughout the country had been given £3,000 by the government to enhance the broadband in their locations. The Secretary offered to write to Tim Farron MP to ascertain if this sort of funding would be coming to rural areas. **Passed** by those present.
2. Enid Goldthorpe (Welcome Guides) informed the meeting that it was the time of year to look at the advertising on the Chamber of Trade's page of the "Welcome to Lakeland" guide. The Secretary said he would visit those businesses who already advertised with a view to signing them up to the 2016 publication. Enid mentioned that the owner of a new business in Windermere would like to possibly get involved. The Secretary said he would pop-in and have a chat about his proposals.

The meeting closed at 7:13pm.