



**Windermere  
& Bowness** | Chamber  
of Trade

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

The minutes of a General Members Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Burnside Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 7pm.

**Members Present:**

Tony Blaney (Fairfield Guest House)	Eric Hargreaves-Wood (Erica's Hair Salon)
Eve Blatchley (Hon. Member)	David Howarth (Renoirs)
Sue Bloy (Lakes Accountancy)	Bill Johnson (Hon Member)
Barry Butler (Butler Thompson Assoc)	Jonty Mayo (Musgraves)
Amanda Davies (Brambles)	Christopher Rushton (Lakes Architects)
Simon Everett (Simon Everett Opticians)	Enid Thompson (Welcome Guide)
Adrian G Faulkner (AGF Business Services Ltd)	Nigel Wilkinson (Lakes Cruises)

**Guests:**

Cllr. Ben Berry (S.L.D.C.)	Insp. Kevin Spedding (Cumbria Police)
Jim McGuire (S.L.D.C.)	Cllr. Ian Stewart (Portfolio holder – S.L.D.C.)

**Apologies:**

Liz Blaney (Fairfield Guest House)	Paul Liddell (Lakelovers)
David Carter (David Carter Chemists)	John Richardson (Richard's Butchers)
Bob Cheetham (Chocolate Crescent)	Penny Seeds (Manuka)
Clayton Butchers	Adam Slatter (Booths Supermarket)
Jill Crisp (la Galerie D'Art)	Tim Swaine (NatWest Bank)
Tim Farron, MP	Ruth Thompson (Welcome Guide)
Sue Jackson (Heart of the Lakes)	Cllr. David Williams (S.L.D.C.)

Simon Everett (Chair) welcomed the Cumbria Constabulary and assembled members and guests to the meeting.

He then went onto introduce Cllr. Ian Stewart - Economy and Enterprise Portfolio holder at S.L.D.C. and Jim McGuire – S.L.D.C. officer. Cllr Stewart gave a presentation regarding the car parking situation within Windermere and Bowness.

**Presentation:**

Cllr. Stewart started by introducing himself and Jim McGuire and stated that SLDC wanted to “optimise the tourist £ and utilise their assets.” The new car parking machines were now only netting £2m of which £500k was for business rates. There were new practices in place with staff were emptying the cash from the machines and the ability to pay by ‘plastic.’ It was possible that residents may get a discount on parking charges. This was being looked into. New charges were being introduced:

£15 – 3 day pass  
£30 – 7 day pass

The automated number plate recognition system was not going to be introduced by the Authority. Cllr Stewart stated in a throw away comment “that it was the intention to fleece the tourist.” S.L.D.C. were now able to monitor trends over time and this would prove to be a useful management tool.

There then followed a Q&A session:

Q: Barry Butler (BB) asked about the reduction in the parking charges in Ulverston and Barrow.  
A: Jim McGuire (JMc) answered by saying that in Ulverston, the Stockbridge Lane car park appeared to be empty and this was a way of filling it. JMc quoted charges of 20p/40p/60p/80p and £1 for 24 hours. In the other car parks there was no reduction.

BB responded by saying 'reduce the tariff and you will increase the footfall.'

Cllr. Stewart (IS) responded by saying 'we might trial in a different patch.' Between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013, £96,000 including VAT had been collect in Windermere/Bowness which represented 28,000 users.

From the floor came the comment that there was 'no advertising/marketing' regarding the charges etc. IS stated that he 'fully accepted the criticism.' There was going to be a 'big green dot' on the machines to drive the user to the 'app' and the website on which details could be found.

Q: Nigel Wilkinson (NW) outlined the problems faced by the businesses concerned and asked what were the plans for Bowness and Windermere?

A: IS responded by stating that the new operation would be more responsive. He then went onto outline the possibilities of an extra tier over Rayrigg Road CP which would be a move that will bring benefit to SLDC. He also stated that the business case had been well presented.

JMc followed this up by saying the Braithwaite Fold CP could accommodate a further 390 spaces and Rayrigg Road a further 90 with a second tier. A Planning Application for Rayrigg Road to be submitted sooner rather than later. Better signaging to the car park's is envisaged.

Bill Johnson (JB) stated that there was a perception that the visitors and residents were being 'taken to cleaners' regarding the charges.

Adrian Faulkner (AF) commented that there was no notice either on the machines nor within the car parks pointing out that tickets for the 'same tariff' parking could be transferrable as long as time permitted. There was a design fault with the machines for use in the dark.

Q: Tony Blaney (TB) asked "if you are raising £2m do you not think you should not be putting some back into the community?"

A: No answer!

Q: NW - What is the value of GDP of S.L.D.C. and should the benchmark be the GVA not GDP?

A: £980m from tourism.

Q: What are the plans for the Glebe Road development?

A: IS stated that 'yes – conversations are taking place.'

JMc continued "plans for Glebe Road have changed and that the developer is to manage the car park.

IS – comfortable to explore a 'park & ride' scheme.

NW – "put the public nearer the businesses, hence the need for a second tier at Rayrigg Road car park."

There is a need for cheaper local car parking for business staff.

BB suggested that S.L.D.C. ask the businesses what they would be willing to pay in charges.

Simon thanked both Cllr. Stewart and Jim McGuire for their presentation and attendance.

#### Police:

Insp. Kevin Spedding reported on behalf of the local constabulary:

- Crime -11.5%
- Assaults -7.5%
- Rise in "Stag/Hen parties
- Anti-social behaviour -8.9%
- Criminal damage -53%
- Theft -17%
- Burglary -86%
- 'Shop Watch' stickers had been received, circulated and agreed together with the cost. The Chamber of Trade has met the cost. It was decided to make a charge of £1.50 per sticker in order to re-coup the cost.

Insp. Spedding was thanked for his input and attendance.

#### Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 were accepted as being a true record. Proposed by D Howarth, seconded by B Butler.

#### Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

There were no matters mentioned

### Correspondence:

The Secretary reported he had the following correspondence;

- An email from the Private Sector Advisory Panel asking for private sector representatives to join the new Skills & Enterprise Commission. All nominations to be in by the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013.
- An email from a member regarding fake Royal Bank of Scotland £20 notes.
- An email from The Chartered Institute of Taxation regarding a survey they are planning to carry out. And use of the Chambers website to host links to the survey.
- An email from SLDC regarding their "Draft Homelessness Strategy"
- Information regarding the lack of 'superfast broadband' in the area and where to sign the petition.
- Information regarding the 'WinderClean' on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013.
- Information regarding 1264 (Windermere) Squadron Air Training Corps celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Dambuster Raid."

### Reports:

a. **Membership Secretaries:**

Nothing to report

b. **Community Safety Partnership**

Nothing to report

c. **Windermere & Bowness Winter Lights Group:**

- AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup> May at Renoirs at 7:30pm- open to all.
- The lights will go up this year
- There is a letter to come from the Group.
- Amanda Davis and Ruth Thompson volunteered to act as the Chambers representatives for Windermere and Bowness respectively.

d. **Windermere Town Twinning Association:**

- The concert went very well and was well supported. The curator of the Carl Orff museum attended.

e. **Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme:**

Nothing to report

f. **Visitor Information Centers:**

Nothing to report

k. **Windermere Community Action Plan:**

Nothing to report.

l. **Cumbria In Bloom:**

The Secretary, in his capacity as Treasurer of Cumbria In Bloom updated the meeting on the progress being made to obtain sustainable funding.

In his capacity as a member of the Windermere in Bloom Advisory Group he advised the meeting that there were a number of It's Your Neighbourhood projects being undertaken within the community with 2 being business led.

Windermere In Bloom is looking for sponsorship of these troughs and information can be obtained from the Secretary.

### Windermere Waterfront Project:

It was reported that the £100 committed by the Chamber, as per the April 2013 minutes, would not be needed in the foreseeable future. The LDNPA were re-wording their submission regarding the Land allocation document. This was on the back of the meetings had with the Chamber of Trade and glebe Road traders.

### Windermere Drought Impact Assessment Refresh:

Barry Butler reported that there was not enough information to hand to make a report.

### Independents Day:

The Secretary reported that he had received a 'press release' from the National Skills Academy for Retail and he would be forwarding it onto the local media nearer the time.

Christmas Market:

The Secretary updated the meeting on an email he had received (dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013) from the Chair of the Town Twinning Association, Mrs Jenny Borer, wherein it stated that the Diessen contingent had agreed to the Marchesi Centre on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and the Rayrigg Rooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013. There would be approx. 6 stalls and a small group from the Brass Band attending. Times had yet to be agreed.

Items of interest from the Windermere Town Council minutes:

- The Secretary reported on the Council’s minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013: Peter Winter, an independent planning consultant from Kendal appointed by SLDC, addressed the meeting with a view to update the council on where they are with proposals for the re-development of Ferry Nab. Town Council received a briefing on Ferry Nab some time ago. The planning application is likely to be submitted in the next 6 to 8 weeks. We shall be invited to attend site prior to any discussion in full council taking place. The drawings shown were schematics at this stage, but the vision is revamping of the car park to grasscrete; lengthening of the jetties, both private and public; the snack bar is to be replaced with a more up to date building and will incorporate facilities for lake users; dispensing with the public toilets and incorporating those into the new snack bar building; making a new use for the existing toilet building. It was emphasised the drawings and current plans are still schematics and not everything is finalised. Any questions need to be addressed quickly. With regards to timescales, it is likely to happen in 3 parts. If passed – attempt for some to be completed by April 2014, the car park by winter 2014. It is a 3 year project from start to finish.
- Tony Naylor of SLDC had requested the Councils thoughts on a Bownessie story teller on The Glebe in summer. It was felt they would be happy with this so long as it is limited to school holiday weekends, no paraphernalia and no commercial sales of any associated products.
- No sites for conservation projects could be recommended, individuals were encouraged to contact Windermere Reflections direct should any come to light.

Business in Adjoining Parishes:

No report.

Website Statistics:

Over 68,000 world wide hits on the website during April 2013.

A.O.B.

Barry Butler brought to the attention of the meeting that the LDNPA were submitting a planning application for a café in their TIC on Bowness Bay.

The Great North Swim would be held over the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> June at the Low Wood Hotel.

The “From Auschwitz to Ambleside’ exhibition had re-opened in the Library.

The Secretary confirmed that he had firmed up the dates for the winter/spring meetings.

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Dates of Future Meetings:

**2013**  
**Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Nov 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dec 17<sup>th</sup> – AGM & Christmas Get Together**

**2014**  
**Jan 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Feb 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Mar 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Apl 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**May 6<sup>th</sup>**

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