



**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 14th October 2014 at the Burnside Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 7pm.

Members Present:

Tony Blaney (Fairfield Guest House)	David Howarth (Renoirs)
Sue Bloy (Lakes Accountancy)	Bill Johnson (Hon. Member)
Barry Butler (Butler Thompson Assoc)	Jonty Mayo (Musgraves)
Adrian Faulkner (AGF Business Services Ltd)	Penny Seeds (Manuka)
Enid Goldthorpe (Welcome Guide)	

Guests:

Amanda Davies (WTC)	Cllr. John Saunders (WTC)
Brian Harrison (Fed. Of Small Businesses)	

Apologies:

Liz Blaney (Fairfield Guest House)	Lisa Holden (Hapimag)
Eve Blatchley (Hon. Member)	Sue & Peter Jackson (Heart of the Lakes)
Cllr. Ben Berry (SLDC)	La Galerie D'art (Jill Crisp & Mr. Tonnet)
David Carter (David Carter Chemists)	Paul Liddell (Lakelovers)
Bob Cheetham (Crescent Chocolates)	Adrian North (Edge of the World)
Clayton Butchers	Ruth Parson (Welcome Guide)
Cinderella-Me	Ian Seddon (HSBC)
Simon Everett	Adam Slater (Booths Supermarket)
Tim Farron (MP)	Tim Swaine (NatWest Bank)
Erica Hargreaves-Wood (Erica's Hair Salon)	

Barry Butler took the Chair and welcomed members, guests and introduced Brian Harrison, Chair of the Federation of Small Businesses South Lakes (FSB).

Presentation:

Brian gave an introduction as to how the FSB became involved in the consultation process of a proposed Windermere & Bowness Futures Board. He pointed out that the FSB had been approached by Cllr. Giles Archibald, SLDC portfolio holder for town centres and small businesses. He gave Kendal Futures as a 'working' example.

He pointed out that:

- there would be no financial involvement to businesses.
- Windermere & Bowness would develop its own actions and make up the board.
- The Private Sector would always have a voting majority on the board.
- The board would make grants to other groups within the community.
- Consultation costs would be in the region of £5k. Highly likely that Cumbria County Council may contribute to the cost.

The FSB had surveyed a panel of local members to test for interest and had had a meeting with 15 of its local members. People who are consulted would have an opportunity to be on the board.

He pointed out that those authorities in favour of the board at the time of the meeting were:

- SLDC
- Windermere Town Council
- With The Lake District National Park still to make a decision.

The consultation process would be open to everyone. A contribution towards the cost of the consultancy would not be conditional for inclusion on the board.

Sue Bloy raised the question of why there was a need for a futures board when groups in the past had not worked. FSB had identified a problem in this area.

Brian took questions and was thanked by the Chair for his presentation.

Police:

The secretary reported the PCSO Sarah Blacow had return work on light duties and that he was having a 'catch up' with her in the near future.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September 2014 were accepted as being a true record. These were proposed by Barry Butler, seconded by David Howarth.

Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

No matters arising.

Correspondence:

The Secretary read out the following pieces of correspondence:

- An email from Carly Pearson (Lakes School) who had offered the help of her students to do some soil sampling and chemical analysis in the Medieval/Sensory Garden and produce a written report which could be forwarded to the RHS judge who was advising on the types of lavender to be planted. Also on display was the banner which is to be erected on the site.
- A letter from the Windermere Town Council acknowledging that the Chamber had received a grant for £190 towards the cost of the above project.
- An email from the police commissioner and chief constable regarding the launch of a 'Ethics and Integrity Panel' – <http://www.cumbria-pcc.org.uk/recruitment/ethics-panel.aspx>
- An email from Cllr. Ben Berry (SLDC) regarding the recycling bins in Booths car park. He pointed out that this had been raised at Full Council and that the portfolio holder was aware of the situation. He also pointed out that he was trying to resurrect the New Years Day 'Pram Race' in Windermere.

Report/comments from the Windermere Town Council Representative:

Cllr. John Saunders reported:

- The 597 bus has had its funding stopped.
- The WTC had proposed call upon Cumbria County Council (CCC) to publish clear guidelines and rules for businesses and members of the public who wish to place obstacles on public property. WTC call upon CCC to ensure that all existing and future obstacles be recorded and regularly checked to ensure that they comply with the guidelines and rules. It was pointed out to the Councillor that a similar exercise had been undertaken 2/3 years ago by Cllr. Greasley and that it was for the LDNPA to enforce as the town was within the National Park boundary.
- The planning application made on behalf of the Troutbeck Swimming Pool had been refused.

Reports:

All the reports are now sent in advance of the meeting and can be found at:

<http://www.wbcoft.org.uk/reports.htm>

The secretary reported that there is to be a new judging marking scheme being adopted by the RHS. This will also be adopted by Cumbria in Bloom.

Winter Lights:

David Howarth reported that it was 'go' for this year's Winter Lights. This would happen on November 29th.

Street Parking Charges:

It was reported that Cumbria County Council had put forward their recommendations of £1.50 per hour to park on Glebe Road, Bowness. This was cheaper than some other places in the South Lakes. Barry Butler commented that he had met with the FSB over the matter.

Possible closure of Blackpool Airport:

Barry Butler reported that he had raised the point with Tim Farron, MP and was waiting for a reply.

Possible Sponsorship of a trophy for Lakes School

The secretary raised this idea after reading a recent article in the Westmorland Gazette regarding 'prize giving' at the Lakes School. It was AGREED by those present that further investigation should be made with the school as to its feasibility. Barry Butler said he would make contact.

Bank Closure in Bowness

The secretary brought to the attention of the meeting the impending closure of the NatWest Bank on Bowness. He had made contact with the bank and was informed that:

- the Windermere branch would remain open
- there was a possibility of a mobile bank for the area
- the local post office would be taking cash deposits on their behalf.

Website Statistics:

For the month of September there was over 35,000 world-wide hit on the website. This brings the 9 months total to over 396,000.

A.O.B.

A discussion of matters of concern to the area ensued.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.

----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + -----

Dates of Future Meetings:

- Nov 11th – Bill Smith, Chair of LAP
- Dec 16th – AGM and Christmas "Get Together"

2015

- Jan 6th
- Feb 10th – Jon Owen, Windermere/Brathay Marathon Arrangements
- Mar 10th - Gail Escolme - Employment Law Update
- Apl 21st
- May 12th

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