

## Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade

The minutes of a General Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at the Burnside Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6:30pm.

### Present:

Tony & Liz Blaney	Fairfield Guest House	Joanne Harris	Windermere Wines
Eve Blatchley	Honorary Member	Bill & Chris Johnson	Past & Presents
Barry Butler	Butler Thompson Assoc	John Richardson	Richardson Butchers
Naomi Darbishire	McClures Ltd	Penny Seeds	Manucha
Adrian Faulkner	AGF Business Ser Ltd	Adam Thorp	Thorp Ltd

### Apologies:

Liz Chamberlain	Things	Adrian North	Edge of the World
Jill Crisp	La Galerie D'Art	Carol Scott	Things
Tim Farron MP		Mr Tonnet	La Galerie D'ar
David Howarth	Renoirs		

### Opening Remarks:

Barry Butler welcomed all those present and introduced the new attendees.

### Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting's held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007 where accepted as being a true record.

### Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

#### **Fly Posting:**

The Secretary was requested to write to those concerned regarding the removal of the 'Block Party' posters.

#### **Post Office Closure:**

The Secretary reported he had received a letter from Tim Farron, MP regarding the campaign he was running to save rural post offices from closure. Attached to this letter were a number of copies of the petition.

If anybody requires a copy of the petition, then they can be downloaded from the Chambers website or obtained from the Secretary.

### Correspondence:

The Secretary notified the meeting of the following correspondence:

1. An email from Michaela Markland (Town Centre Manager) regarding a request for an update on the achievements and progress over the last 12 months.
2. An email from Michaela Markland in respect of a meeting held regarding the Ellerthwaite Square Enhancement Project together with the dates of future meetings. NB: There will be Chamber representation at these meetings.
3. A letter from the Cumbria County Council regarding a meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007 in respect of a 'Big Lottery' bid to improve the Windermere Library. NB: There will be Chamber representation at this meeting.
4. An email from Lynette Berry (Secretary – Ambleside Chamber of Trade) concerning the leaving of Karan Herrington-Howell from the position of Museum Director, Armit Museum, Ambleside.
5. An email from Adrian North (Edge of the World) concerning the 'poor' street lighting near Rayrigg road car park. This was discussed later in the meeting.

### Reports:

#### **WOW:**

Barry Butler reported that he had represented the Chamber at a recent Steering Group meeting.

- He handed out copies of the website pages and the meeting noted that there was too much colour on them.

- He reported that it not yet been decided who will be the main act at this years' festival.
- The timetable for this years' festival would be similar as that of last year.
- The cost for this year would be in the region of £40k and funding is being from the Arts Council, Northern Rock Building Society, the Railway companies and local businesses.
- Publicity is being sort from the LDPA and the National Trust where going national with a publicity campaign. Also going into the local schools morning assembly's to spread the word.
- 'Accommodation' sponsors are being sought for the acts at the festival.

#### South Lakes Development Trust:

Bill Johnson (the Chambers representative) reported on the latest meeting he had attended. The fuller version of the newsletter can be found on the Chambers website on the 'News' page.

- A Newsletter had been circulated to all members and representatives with the following articles.
- The Cabinet Office had published a document called 'Social Enterprise Action Plan, Scaling New Heights.'
- Unitary Authority
- Lyons Enquiry
- Pilot Parish Lengthsman Scheme
- Shop Front Enhancement Scheme
- Workspace Units
- Retail Support

#### Membership Secretaries:

The Membership Secretaries reported that they had recruited 3 new members since the last meeting. They where thanked for all their efforts.

#### Windermere Activities and Services Workshop;

The Secretary reported he had attended, on behalf of the Chamber, the above at the Hydro Hotel. The programme was facilitated by the LDNPA and comprised of the following:

- Break into small groups to discuss the services provided on the lake; their importance and other ideas.
- How the services may be funded, and
- What happens next?

The LDNPA stated that they would report to those present by March 2007 the findings of this meeting.

#### Website Update:

The Secretary, in his capacity as the 'web designer' that there had been a number of new additions to the Chambers' website within the last month. The number of 'hits' on the website where showing and increase and encouraging.

#### Financial Statements:

The Secretary, in his capacity of Treasure, handed out copies of the accounts for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007. These showed that the Chamber was in a healthy financial position.

#### Any Other Business:

#### Winter Lights:

It was reported, by Penny Seeds, that the AGM of the above is to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007. It was also reported that the insurance, usually paid by the Chamber, was now inappropriate. In view of the above, it was agreed, by those present, that if a formal approach was made for a grant, it would be considered.

#### Lakes Hospitality Association:

Tony Blaney – Vice Chair, Lakes Hospitality Association – informed the meeting that the LHA are holding a design exhibition at the Hydro Hotel, Bowness during the first week of October 2007. It will be aimed at the trade

only with invitees by invitation. There will 6 stands available for local businesses out of a total of 40. Financial institutions would not be invited.

In conclusion, Tony stated that in time it is hoped that this event would become the North West's premier design show.

Any interested parties should contact Tony at The Fairfield on 015394 46565 or [tony&liz@the-fairfield.co.uk](mailto:tony&liz@the-fairfield.co.uk)

#### Town Twinning:

Penny Seeds reported that the Town Twinning Association is 10 years old in 2008. It is envisaged that there would be a week of celebrations beginning the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

#### Windermere Air Show:

Bill Johnson reported that the above would be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2007. It was also reported it would unlikely that the Red Arrows and the Chinook would be making an appearance.

#### E-mail from Adrian North:

The Secretary read out an email from the above expressing his concerns over the street lighting near Rayrigg Road Car Park. The meeting requested that the Secretary write to the Windermere Town Council expressing the Chambers support in the Councils work in getting more suitable street lighting in the area. He was also asked to write to County Highways expressing the Chambers concerns.

#### Hanging Baskets:

Christine Johnson raised the point that last year the Town Council had reduced the funding for street flowers and hanging baskets and that as a consequence none were present in Bowness.

She asked if it was feasible for the Chamber to write and suggest that once Windermere has its floral decorations, they 'skip' Lake Road and resume the display in Bowness – so bring the floral displays to the centres of both communities.

Finally, it was agreed, by all those present, that the Chamber should become more **pro-active** rather than reactive in its overall approach.

#### Dates of Future Meetings:

6<sup>th</sup> March 2007

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007

1<sup>st</sup> May 2007.

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