

The minutes of a General Members Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at the Burnside Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present:

Eve Blatchley	Hon. Member	Steve Marston	The Cook House
Barry Butler (Chair)	Butler Thompson Associates	John Micklethwaite	Alpine
Naomi Darbishire	W McClures Ltd	Mike Nicholson	Seafarers
Anthony Dean	Threshers – Windermere	Ian Plumb	Threshers - Bowness
Simon Everett	Simon Everett Opticians	Pam Plumb	Plumbtrees
Adrian G Faulkner	AGF Business Services Ltd	Penny Seeds	Manucha
Jo Harris	Windermere Wine Stores	Cllr. Joan Stocker	WTC
David Howarth	Renoirs	Stuart Tweedale	Stuart Sports
Bill Johnson	Hon Member		

Paul Holdsworth      Town Centres Manager – Guest Speaker

Apologies:

Liz & Ton Blaney	Fairfield Garden Guest House	Richard Freeman	Freemans
Liz Chamberlain	Things	Carole Scott	Things
Tim Farron MP			

The Secretary informed the meeting of the retirement of Carole & Liz from Things with effect from April 2008. The Chamber expressed its good wishes to them both and hoped that the new owner may continue as a member.

Opening Remarks:

Barry Butler (Chair) welcomed Paul Holdsworth as guest speaker together with all those present.

Paul Holdsworth – Town Centres Manager

Paul opened by saying that he had received the consultation document regarding the Ambleside Master Plan and pointed out that he believed that the communities of the Windermere Parish and the Lakes Parish were inextricably interlinked.

He then went onto say that he had also received, in draft form, a copy of the “Parking Needs Feasibility Study.” This had been commissioned by the South Lakes Development Trust (SLDT). He pointed out that Cumbria County Council were looking at ‘visitor’ parking.

Paul continued by outlining the financial situation of SLDT for 2008/09 and stated that private/public sector funding “under pins” all that they do and they are hitting their targets. He then went onto give a brief outline of his position; that he had been ‘in post’ for one year; that he was not employed by any Council but a Charitable Organisation; funding was in place for work now being undertaken.

He then went onto say regarding the Enhancement Scheme “what was going on, on the ground now is totally different from last year. Compromise had occurred, the rumours going around where without foundation and that he was sending “good news” articles to the Westmorland Gazette.

Paul then answered questions:

**Q.** When are the works going to finish?

**A.** Realistically beyond McAlpines control, no set date can be given, although they have a ‘target date’ of the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008. The reason for this was explained to the meeting. Crescent Road had a ‘great possibility’ of being opened before the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Q.** What is going to happen over the Easter period?
- A.** McAlpines aspired to have Crescent Road opened although there will still be some barriers and cones will be in place as it is still a building site. Paul will chase if different and let the Chamber know.
- Q.** Free Parking up to the 14<sup>th</sup> March, what will happen after this?
- A.** Paul is in communication with SLDC and is making progress towards a solution and pointed out that there were increasing indications that post 30<sup>th</sup> March there maybe “free parking.” Please leave this to Paul to negotiate. If Broad Street Car Park is empty on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, please tell Paul. It was pointed out that the whole of the Car Park was free.
- Q.** The old Garden Centre site, could it be turned into a Car Park?
- A.** Unlikely as it is privately owned.
- Q.** Could the land at Alice Howe be a possible Car park site?
- A.** This site may be re-visited.

Penny Seeds raised the point that there is a ‘local issue for car parking as well as that of visitors.’

Paul went onto say that “the positive” to come from all this was the Windermere was to gain back its status of being the hub to the lake and surrounding area.

In conclusion, Paul was asked about **WOW 2008**. He replied that it was going ahead and is to be held over 2 weekends; 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June would be the local activities and the 14<sup>th</sup> June would be the “Spectacular” WOW factor. This weekend would have activities spread around Bowness and Windermere. Further details will be circulated when they become available.

Barry, on behalf of the Chamber, thanked Paul for his attendance. Barry then went on to remind members effected by the works in Windermere to make sure their applications for Rateable Value Reduction should be sent off before the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008. He suggested that a 50% reduction should be claimed.

#### Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting's held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008, where accepted as being a true record.

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

There were no matters arising.

#### Correspondence:

The Secretary also informed the meeting that he had received word from Malcolm - the Post Master - at the Bowness Post Office to say he had received a letter stating that “they would not be closing.” Malcolm asked that his thanks be passed onto to all those who have helped in keeping the office open.

#### Reports:

- a) **Membership Secretaries:**  
The Membership Secretaries had nothing to report.
- b) **Windermere Community Safety Partnership:**  
Bill Johnson reported that there was to be a meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and he would report back to the Chamber.
- c) **Winter Lights:**  
The Chambers two representatives, had nothing to report.
- d) **Town Twinning 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations:**  
.Please refer to the below.

#### Direct Train Services to Manchester:

Mike Nicholson reported that there were now only 3 direct trains from Windermere to Manchester Airport although there were more if you changed at Oxenholme, Lancaster or Preston. He pointed out that the Sunday service was disgraceful with the first leaving Windermere at 1pm. Come December 2008 the timetable is going to change again and a number of ‘critical’ trains are going to be lost. The members asked the Secretary to write to the train company regarding this.

#### Financial Report:

The Treasurer produced an Income & Expenditure Account as at the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 showing the Chamber’s financial standing. This was accepted.

Town Twinning Association – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations:

Eve Blatchley reported that the AGM was to be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at the Burnside Hotel, commencing at 8pm.

As far as the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations where concerned the Lake District Boat Club had been booked for the buffet etc also the steamer for a cruise with music provided by the *Blassergruppe*.

Details can be found on the Chambers website at: [http://www.wbcoft.org.uk/local\\_event\\_diary.htm](http://www.wbcoft.org.uk/local_event_diary.htm) Scroll down the page to the appropriate dates.

The grant application was referred to the next meeting in order for the Chamber to receive financial information.

Any Other Business:

Barry made the meeting aware of two awards won by businesses in the area:

- Tony & Liz Blaney, Fairfield Garden Guest House, Bowness had won a CBEN Bronze award for Environmental Consideration together with a 'flash' for Bio-diversity.
- John Huddleston, Huddleston's Butchers in Windermere, on becoming the National Dry Cured Bacon Champion for 2008.

He also reported that he had been invited to attend the "re-opening" of the Peter Rabbit & Friends shop in Bowness.

The Lions Club Annual Fund Raising Festival will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2008. If you wish to take part in the 'Boat Parade' details can be found on the Chambers website at: [http://www.wbcoft.org.uk/local\\_event\\_diary.htm](http://www.wbcoft.org.uk/local_event_diary.htm) Scroll down the page to the appropriate dates.

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Dates of Future Meetings:

**2008**

- 1<sup>st</sup> April – Gail Escolme, Employment Law Practitioner.
- 6<sup>th</sup> May

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