

## Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade

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

### Present:

|                  |                       |                      |                     |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Eve Blatchley    | Honorary Member       | Bill & Chris Johnson | Past & Presents     |
| Barry Butler     | Butler Thompson Assoc | Jowty Mayo           | Musgraves           |
| Johnnie Curwen   | Low House B&B         | John Richardson      | Richardson Butchers |
| Naomi Darbishire | McClures Ltd          | Penny Seeds          | Manuka              |
| Adrian Faulkner  | AGF Business Ser Ltd  | Adam Thorp           | Thorp Ltd           |
| Joanne Harris    | Windermere Wines      | Sharon Wright        | Claytons Butchers   |

### Apologies:

|                 |                  |              |                   |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Liz Chamberlain | Things           | Adrian North | Edge of the World |
| Jill Crisp      | La Galerie D'Art | Carol Scott  | Things            |
| Tim Farron MP   |                  | Roby Tonnet  | La Galerie D'art  |
| 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 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007 where accepted as being a true record after the following amendments where made:

1. The Winter Lights AGM is on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, not the 10<sup>th</sup>,
2. Funding for the WoW Festival is being sought from the Northern Rock Foundation, not the Northern Rock Building Society and Cumbria vision.

### Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

#### **Fly Posting:**

The Secretary reported that he had been in touch with County Highways over this matter and informed the meeting of his findings. He was requested to write to those concerned regarding the legality of the posters.

#### **Hanging Baskets:**

The Secretary reported he had received the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007, from the Town Council and was concerned that *"It was proposed to reduce the number of hanging baskets to 25 in total but these would be more specifically sited to provide a more colourful and significant display."*

**Secretary's Note:** The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007 record that: *"Estimates were received from Horticare for planting Hanging Baskets and the Concrete Rings. Approximately 46 baskets would be planted at £15.00 plus VAT per basket and the Concrete Rings would be planted £65.00 plus VAT. It was agreed to accept this estimate and place the relevant order."*

### Correspondence:

The Secretary notified the meeting of the following correspondence:

1. A letter from Building Design Partnership (BDP) regarding the consultation on the Ellerthwaite Square Feasibility Study Workshop to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Joanne Harris would be attending on behalf of the Chamber. Joanne gave a short presentation on the previous meeting.
2. An email from Michaela Markland (Town Centres Manager) stating that although she is leaving the employ of the South Lakes Development Trust she had been contracted by them to continue working on WoW in the same way as she does at present.

## Reports:

### WOW:

Barry Butler reported that there was nothing to report

### South Lakes Development Trust:

Bill Johnson (the Chambers representative) reported that the meeting to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007 had been postponed.

### Membership Secretaries:

The Membership Secretaries reported that they had recruited 1 new member since the last meeting. They were thanked for all their efforts. They also reported that a further 2 businesses were interested in joining.

Adam Thorp handed out to those present, 'mock ups' of the new Chamber of Trade logo together with a flyer which is to be sent out to all businesses in the Parish. A style for the logo was agreed and it was left to the Membership Secretaries and Adam to amend the flyer as appropriate.

### Library Bid Meeting;

Joanne Harris reported on this meeting.

1. There was to be a bid for £800k in September 2007 for improvements to the library,
2. there would be additional smaller back rooms,
3. there would be additional computer facilities,
4. a café area,
5. better books,
6. Youth Meeting place,
7. retention of the CAB and the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

### Street Entertainer Sponsorship:

The Secretary reported that he had received an email from Michaela Markland (TCM) enquiring as to whether the Chamber would be willing to sponsor a 'street entertainer' at the forthcoming WoW Festival. After much discussion it was agreed that the Secretary should contact Michaela to ascertain whether:

1. the Chamber could choose who they sponsor,
2. where the "entertainer" would perform, and
3. exactly what benefits would accrue to the Chamber.

### Official Responses:

It was decided, by those present, that the Chamber's "official" response to the media, when asked should be: "We are not in a position to answer as the membership has not been consulted. Once they have, then we will respond back to you within 24 hours."

The membership would be emailed and asked for their response on the issue in question.

### Member Communication:

It was noted by one of the members that there was a high number of emails each month concerning Chamber business, updates, information. It was suggested that the Secretary, where appropriate, should send out one or two emails each month with all the issues within them. This the Secretary agreed to do with the proviso that where it was considered to be important, emails would be sent immediately.

### Non-Member Input:

It was commented upon that non-members should be allowed to make a contribution, albeit a limited one, on some of the larger issues being asked of the Chamber. The Secretary responded by saying that over half of the email addresses were to businesses/organisations who were not members. He hoped that these people would join the Chamber in the near future.

### 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 were showing an increase and this was encouraging.

## Any Other Business:

### Lakes School:

It was reported that the Lakes School were running Business Courses at 'A' level standard and suggested that some of the membership may be willing to go into the school and talk to the students regarding the running of their businesses.

### No Smoking in Public Places:

This Government legislation comes into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007. It was felt that the Chamber should object to the plastic or otherwise, signs that businesses have to legally display. This objection was based on the ecology angle of the 'carbon footprint' left by the use of plastic.

It was also felt the business should be able to 'opt in' rather 'opt out' of the signaging.

### Dates of Future Meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007

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

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