

Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade

The minutes of a General Meeting held on the 8th January 2007 at the Burnside Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6pm.

Present:

B Butler (Chair)
Jill Crisp
Naomi Darbishire

S Everett
A Faulkner
Joanne Harris

C & B Johnson
J Richardson

Apologies:

Eve Blatchley
Liz Chamberlain
T Farron MP

D Howarth
Gail Micklethwaite
Penny Seeds

Carol Scott
White Rose (Caroline)
N Wilkinson

Opening Remarks:

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

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting's held on the 9th October 2006 were accepted as being a true record.

Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence:

The Secretary notified the meeting that there was no correspondence.

WOW:

The Secretary informed the meeting of the contents of the Minutes of the WOW 2007 Steering Group held on the 11th December 2006. He also reminded the Meeting that the event would be held over the weekend of the 8th – 10th June 2007.

It was suggested that the Secretary should contact the Town Centre Manager to ascertain whether there could be a banner put up over the top end of Crescent road, Windermere, advertising the event.

It was also suggested that there should be a 'WOW Information Point' banner at the event. This would make it easier for the public to find a point of contact as to what events were being held where and when.

It was suggested that the businesses within the area could take a more active part in this year's event.

South Lakes Development Trust:

Bill Johnson (the Chambers representative) had nothing to report as he was not aware of there being a meeting.

Membership Secretaries:

Both Naomi and Jo had nothing to report.

The Secretary stated that he would try and amend the 'Membership Application Form' that is on the website.

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. He went on to report that over the last 12 months there had been over 3,600 "hits" on the site, with a high of 468 in March 2006. Since the site was started in 2005 there has been over 4,200 "hits."

Continued:

Any Other Business:-

Shop Radio 'Link':

The Secretary reported that he had been talking to the Local Community Police Officer regarding the possibility of more radios for use with "Shop Link." He was told that money maybe available depending on the number required. **Secretary's Note:** Anybody interested please email the Secretary.

New Year 'Plunge'

Barry Butler asked if the Chamber should get involved with this event? The Meeting felt that it should not, but look into the possibility of 'resurrecting' the New Year Pram Race.

Fair Trade Town:

The Secretary reported that he had been in conversation with Penny Seeds regarding the Fair Trade Fortnight being held between the 26th February and the 10th March. He asked the Meeting if the Chamber should be a supporter of this group and whether there should be made available a web page on the Chambers' website. Both suggestions where unanimously agreed to by those present.

Potential Businesses on the 'Royal' site:

Concern was expressed as to the type of businesses that would be present within the site and the impact they may have on the local traders. Barry Butler said he would try and contact the agents to ascertain information.

Post Office Closures:

The Secretary reported that he had emailed Tim Farron MP regarding what help, if any; the Chamber could offer to prevent any such closures within the local community. He reported he was awaiting a reply.

'Fly Posting':

It was noted that there was an increase in 'fly posting' throughout the area and the meeting asked what steps could be taken to stop it. It was suggested that, were the posters where on lampposts etc that they could be taken down and handed back to those who had put them up. It was also suggested that the Secretary contact the Clerk to the Council over the issue.

Dates of Future Meetings:

6th February 2007

6th March 2007

3rd April 2007

1st May 2007.