



**Windermere
& Bowness** | Chamber
of Trade

The minutes of a General Members Meeting held on the 8th January 2008 at the Burnside Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present:

Simon Everett	Simon Everett Opticians	Cllr. Joan Stocker	WTC Representative
A Faulkner	AGF Business Services Ltd	Stuart Tweedale	Stuart Sports
Bill Johnson	Hon. Member	Nigel Wilkinson	Windermere Lakes Cruises
Jowty Mayo	Musgraves		

Guest Speaker:

Dave McGowan LDNPA

Apologies:

Liz & Tony Blaney	Fairfield Guest House	Tim Farron	MP
Eve Blatchley	Hon. Member	Jo Harris	Windermere Wine Stores
Barry Butler	Butler Thompson Assoc	Carol Scott	Things
Liz Chamberlain	Things	Penny Seeds	Manucha
Naomi Darbshire	W McClures Ltd		

Opening Remarks:

In the absence of the Chair (Barry Butler), Bill Johnson (Vice-Chair) welcomed all those present and introduced the evening's guest speaker, Dave McGowan, Head of Planning Department from the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA).

Planning Issues:

Dave McGowan started by introducing himself and gave a brief bibliography of himself. He has been with the LDNPA since 1999 and in 2004 took up the position of trying to sort planning control, an area of inconsistency.

He noted that there had been an improvement in the time taken to make planning decisions although he did admit there was still room of improvement in the customer service aspect of the department. This improvement was 'on going.' Dave went onto to point out that planning had become very complicated with trying to 'find' the right policy to implement. This Planning Policy is produced by the LDNPA with public consultation. The current Policy document is 14 years out of date. On the 19th May 2008 the LDNPA are to publish there "Core Strategy" for public consultation. This will be found on the LDNPA's website. (Secretary's Note: I'll inform the membership when, where and add a link to our website). This document is to take a 'fresh, new' approach and nothing from the old document will be included in the new. The thrust of this document will be looking at regeneration. Dave pointed out that the LDNPA would welcome as much feedback on this document as possible.

He then went on to inform the meeting of the 'workings' of the Development Control Committee. This committee was 13 in number made up from the Park Authority. With regard to planning applications, if there were more than objections then the application would automatically go to Committee. All outdoor advertising (banners/signs/'A' boards' all come under planning control and there is a mountain of legislation governing its control. There is one very good guide on this subject entitled "Outdoor Advertisement and Signs: a guide for advertisers." (<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/outdooradvertisements>), or it can be found on the Chambers website on the "Working with the National Park" page. Dave went onto point out that it was a criminal offence to put up advertisements without authorisation with a maximum fine of £2,500. Any advertisement over 0.6 square meters needs the landowner's permission.

Dave then went onto answer a number of questions put to him by those present. His over-riding message was,
IF IN DOUBT – ASK!

Bill Johnson thanked Dave on behalf of those present for a humorous and well presented talk.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting's held on the 7th November 2007, with one amendment, where accepted as being a true record.

Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence:

The Secretary reported that other than what had been put on the website there was no further correspondence.

Reports:

1. Membership Secretaries:

In the absence of the Membership Secretaries, the treasurer reported that there had been a 25% increase in membership over the last 12 months. This was down to the sterling work of the girls.

2. Windermere Community Safety Partnership:

Bill Johnson reported that there was a meeting of the above on the following Thursday. He would report back to February's meeting.

3. Winter Lights:

In the absence of the Chambers two representatives, there was no report.

4. Crescent Road Traffic Problems:

No report.

5. Town Twinning 10th Anniversary Celebrations:

In the absence of Eve Blatchley, there was no report.

Wreath Laying at the War Memorial

It was agreed by those present, that the Chamber of Trade should lay a wreath at the War Memorial on Armistice Day as a mark of respect of those business people in the area who lost their lives in the conflicts.

Train Services to Manchester Airport.

In the absence of the Chambers representative it was agreed that this matter should be carried over to February's meeting.

Certificate of Membership:

The Secretary showed the meeting some 'mock-ups' he had done for an "Acknowledgement of Membership" certificate which was to sent to those members who renewed their subscriptions for 2008. He pointed out that there would be no cost to the Chamber. It was agreed by those present to go ahead with the idea.

Payment of Accounts:

The Treasure sought the meetings approval to pay:

- a. The Burnside Hotel – Christmas buffet, and
- b. The website hosting company annual fee for web hosting.

This was agreed to by those present.

Any Other Business:

Post Office Closure:

Bill Johnson brought up the subject of the closures of the local POTS Offices and reported that there was a criteria already in place for voicing objections. He urged all members to make their views known. He went on to say that Tim Farron, MP should be congratulated for all his hard work on this matter.

Dates of Future Meetings:

2008

5th February

4th March – Paul Holdsworth, Town Centres Manager

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