

The minutes of a General Members Meeting held on the 13th April 2010 at the Burnside Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present:

Tony Blaney (Fairfield Guest House)
Barry Butler (Chair)
Simon Everett (Simon Everett Opticians)
Adrian G Faulkner (AGF Business Services Ltd)

Rob Fowler (Rob Fowler & Assoc Ltd)
Bill Johnson (Hon Member)
Richard Rodgers (Old Pump House)
Christopher Rishton (Lakes Architects)

Guests:

PCSO Scott Livett
Ian Thompson

Ruth Thompson

Apologies:

Eve Blatchley (Hon Member)
Clayton Butchers
Anthony Dean (Threshers – W'mere)
Paul Frain (Helens Chocolates)
Tim Farron MP

Steve Holcroft (Steve Holcroft Photography)
Paul Liddell (Lakelovers)
Gareth McKeever (PPC)
Penny Seeds (Manuka)

Opening Remarks:

Barry Butler (Chair) welcomed the assembled members and introduced Ian and Ruth Thompson.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th April 2010 were accepted as being a true record.

Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

There were no matters under this heading.

Correspondence:

The Secretary informed the meeting that no correspondence had been received.

Reports:

a. **Police**

PCSO Scott Livett reported that the 'local character' had permanently left the area. Crime on the whole was down although the handbag thief had returned. Shop thefts of clothing are on the increase.

The Shopwatch scheme was still ongoing and awaiting the initial information from Kendal.

b. **Membership Secretaries:**

Rob Fowler reported that he had been in contact with the 2 newly opened businesses in Windermere, Poppie Red and Ball Clothes Shop regarding joining the Chamber. He asked that a "Welcome letter" be produced so he could include it in his mailing shots. This was agreed to and the Secretary pointed out that he already had one and would forward it to the Chair for approval. Rob suggested that around 200 be printed off.

c. **Community Safety Partnership**

No report.

- d. **Business Improvement District:**
Tony Blaney reported that Paul Holdsworth's (PH) had applied to 'Vales & Dales' for the funding for the feasibility study. This bid had been successful. Tony also informed the meeting that he had invited PH to attend the May meeting to give a presentation. It was suggested that the FSB, LHA, Cumbria Tourism and the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce be informed and their members be invited. The Secretary agreed to email those bodies with the invite. It was also suggested that the Chamber start to seek out suitable 'stakeholders' for this project.
- e. **Windermere & Bowness Winter Lights Group:**
No Report.
- f. **Windermere Town Twinning Association:**
Tony Blaney, as the Chambers new representative on Town Twinning, reported that the Blasergruppe would be visiting and performing in the area from May 22nd. Various venues were reported and these were to be put onto the Chambers website. He then went onto report that the Lions would be visiting Diessen in July, and the British Market would be held in September. It was suggested that the Chamber investigate the possibility of a "German Christmas Market" in the area. It was agreed to make initial enquiries at to this possibility.
- g. **Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme:**
Nothing to report.
- h. **Windermere Waterfront Project:**
Nothing to report.
- i. **Windermere Air Show/Glebe Trading:**
Nothing to report.
- j. **On Street Car Parking Charges:**
Nothing to report.
- k. **Snow/Gritting:**
Nothing to report.
- l. **Tourist Information Centers:**
Barry Butler reported that he still had not received a reply to his letter. The Secretary was requested to write to the Lake District National Park Authority requesting an update on the Bowness Bay Information Centre. This will be reported to the next meeting.
- m. **United Utilities Storage Tank:**
No further update to hand.
- n. **Business Maps/Guides for Windermere and Bowness:**
Richard Rogers introduced Ian and Ruth Thompson who between them were visiting the local businesses with a view to being included on the Business Map. Ian reported that there had been 8 definite responses and 23 'expressions of interest.' Ian also showed the meeting an updated version of the map which was enthusiastically welcomed. The Secretary was requested to do a 'round robin' email to Chamber members reminding them, if interested to contact Ian.
- o. **Local Development Framework:**
No report.
- p. **Windermere Community Action Plan:**
The Secretary reported that the Annual Windermere Town Council Litterpick and WinderClean would be on the same day this year – 22 May. There would be 3 venues, The Glebe, Baddeley Clock area and Queen's Park, with various youth organisations and schools as well as the general public taking part. The WinderClean would be clearing litter from the lake shore with the help of Voluntary Rangers and a group from the 'Community Pay Back' scheme.

The Secretary asked that those interested in giving a little of their time to this initiative to contact Cllr. Lisa Greasley on **015394 44465**. He also suggested that businesses may like to sponsor a lamp post hanging basket.
- q. **Cumbria In Bloom:**
Adrian Faulkner, in his capacity as an Executive Committee Member of Cumbria In Bloom gave an update on the competition and encouraged businesses to enter in their own right. Entry forms can be found on the Cumbria In Bloom website – www.cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk/entries
- r. **Street Signs:**
The Secretary reported that he had received costings for the signs in Old Bowness and had passed these onto the business group concerned.

Accounts:

The Treasurer handed out to the meeting a copy of the accounts for the 6 months to 31st March 2010. These showed that the Chamber was in a healthy financial position.

Business in Adjoining Parishes:

Noting to report.

Website Statistics:

The Secretary, in his capacity of webmaster of the Chambers website, informed the meeting that for the 3 months to March 2010 there had been over 196,500 world wide 'hits' on the site, this was averaging out at 1,356 per day. He gave a brief outline of where these had originated.

AOB:

Barry Butler informed members that they should check their business rates bill as it would appear mistakes have been made regarding the 'pence in the pound' figure.

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Dates of Future Meetings:

2010/11

TBC

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