



# WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

*Representing the interests of the communities of Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge*

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm, Langstone House, Windermere

Minute No	
	<p><b>Present:</b> Windermere &amp; Bowness Town Council (W&amp;BTC) Chair - Mayor Leith Hallatsch, Cllrs Jenny Borer, Adrian Legge, Sandra Lilley, Christine Cook, Caroline Kearney, Lisa Greasley, Christine Hallatsch, Kate Tripp, John Saunders &amp; Peter Hamilton. Also: Sally Parkyn (Town Clerk), Beccy Pinder - Facilities Officer and 7 members of the public. Also: Westmorland &amp; Furness Council (W&amp;FC) Steve Bavin and Andrew Jarvis. The meeting opened at 7pm</p>
82.	<p><b>Apologies and absence:</b> Cllrs Marina Davis (holiday) and Peter Cook (family commitments), W&amp;FC Cllr Will Clark and Dyan Jones (prior commitments)</p>
83.	<p><b>Full Council Minutes:</b> The minutes of the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved for signature.</p>
84.	<p><b>Planning sub-committee Minutes:</b> The minutes of the sub-committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were noted.</p>
85.	<p><b>Elleray Woods Advisory Group held on 6<sup>th</sup> September:</b> The notes of the Advisory Group meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were noted.</p>
86.	<p><b>Items to be taken in private session:</b> It was unanimously agreed to discuss the agenda items on co-option of new councillors in private session, after the close of the meeting, due to the personal content. Additionally, the agenda items on reviewing the quotations and appointing a provider for the Elleray Woods tree work, leaflet printing and broadband would be taken in private session after the close of the meeting, due to the confidential content.</p>
87.	<p><b>Requests for Dispensations:</b> NONE</p>
88.	<p><b>Public Input:</b> <u>Sergeant Paul Mellard, Cumbria Police</u>, spoke about the recorded crime figures for Windermere. After a dip during covid the crime figures are back to roughly the pre-covid level. There does seem to be an increase in crimes recorded with the keyword alcohol and occurring in licensed premises since 2021. The police will be attending a multiagency meeting at Kendal Town Hall on 27.10.23 with the Town Council and Westmorland and Furness Council on this topic. There are positive moves in relation to staffing with a push to deploy staff from Windermere with the aim of two staff every shift working out of Windermere, though they are still called to emergencies across the area. Parking is a perennial issue but if it is causing a genuine obstruction can be reported to 101. The main cause of road accidents in our area is distraction and road conditions, alcohol is only a contributing factor in a low number of</p>

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	<p>incidents. Areas where speeding is noticed can be reported via 101 and if there is a pattern it will be acted on.</p> <p>There has been a focus on rural crime this month.</p> <p>CBO Becky Hunter's role has changed from problem solving to beat officer which means that the police have a less detailed input into licensing.</p> <p>Police have been working to tackle the issue of drugs and underage sales. There have been test sales, sniffer dogs and drug wipes for drivers. There have been areas where a late-night levy has worked to provide funding for extra police.</p> <p>The Town Council and residents can help by reporting all incidents via the reporting page on the Cumbria Constabulary website to make the police aware of problems and to attract funding for our area. Residents can also stay informed by subscribing to their newsletter, following South Lakes Police on social media and filling in Police and Crime Together (PACT) local surveys.</p>
89.	<p><b>Mayor &amp; Member Updates:</b></p> <p><u>Cllr Christine Hallatsch</u> reported that everything is on track for the Windermere in Bloom award evening on 19<sup>th</sup> October. She also noted witnessing a motorhome owner using a radar key to empty their chemical toilet down the changing places toilet at Rayrigg Meadow.</p> <p><u>Cllr Kate Trip</u> fed back from the Liaison Group meeting which had covered topics ranging from community grants, St Mary's Lane and the use of the Oldfield Road footpath by speeding bikes.</p> <p><u>Cllr John Saunders</u> had attended the Chamber of Trade meeting where Andrew Smith from the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) Planners had given a talk including the fact that they handle over 1400 planning applications a year and 300 enforcements with a team of 26 officers. The Chamber of Trade members had expressed concern about the extra days the market in Bowness was now operating as they felt it was taking trade from other businesses and they planned to carry out research to get more data.</p> <p><u>Cllr Jenny Borer</u> had participated in the first St Mary's Surgery Patient group meeting since Covid. It was very well attended with 35 participants.</p> <p><u>Cllr Lisa Greasley</u> reported that Windermere School pupils had planted the bluebell bulbs in Elleray Woods and would plant the daffodils after half term. She had attended the online Windermere Gateway vision group meeting and an online Chairs Forum run by CALC.</p> <p><u>Mayor Leith Hallatsch</u> had attended the in-person Windermere Gateway Highways group meeting as well as the online Vision Group. He reported that the Kendal Torchlight Parade which he had attended as a guest of the Kendal Town Mayor had been an excellent evening.</p>

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	<p>The Mayor informed the Council of his intention to visit Diessen am Ammersee in return for their visit here for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town Twinning.</p>
90.	<p><b>Westmorland &amp; Furness Councillors' reports:</b></p> <p><u>W&amp;F Cllr Andrew Jarvis</u> had also attended the Windermere Gateway Highways meeting and reported that the focus was now more on the housing and not the gateway, with the highways changes now suggested being more modest and sensible.</p> <p>At W&amp;FC Cabinet additional funding for buses had been approved which would result in a third day on the 597 bus for Windermere and the Barrow to Windermere Number 6 bus was having its hours extended to help people using it for work.</p> <p>The Licensing Policy has now been approved and has gone out for consultation. Our local W&amp;F Councillors made sure the wording on Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA) was changed to a simple factual statement of the current situation.</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis had attended the successful opening of the Lakes Comic Arts Festival.</p> <p>In his role as Governor of St Martin and St Mary's School he reported that the falling roll, believed to be caused in part by the lack of affordable housing for young families, meant that from next September the school would be losing a quarter of the classes in Key Stage 1 and 2 and teaching in three mixed age classes across two year groups instead of the current two form entry leading to redundancies among the staff. There had been a meeting for parents to explain the changes.</p> <p><u>W&amp;F Cllr Steve Bavin</u> reported that the Comic Arts Festival had been a positive event. He would be attending the multiagency meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> looking at the Town Council's request for a CIA and marshalls.</p> <p>He thanked Cllr Marina Davis for her litter tour of the Glebe using her local knowledge to show him where bins would be useful and some new bins had been arranged. Environmental Health and the Fire Brigade have checked the problem alley in Bowness and currently the bins are not causing a problem.</p> <p>He reminded the Town Council about the availability of the Household Support Fund for people struggling with the cost of living.</p> <p>The problem of rats on Bowness Bay is being dealt with by W&amp;FC officers.</p> <p>He noted that defibrillator grants were currently available. This led to a request from the Council for the Clerk to investigate who maintains the defibrillators around the village.</p>
91.	<p><b>Advisory Group Reports:</b></p> <p><b>Water Quality (WQ) Group:</b> The Clerk read the written report from Cllr Peter Cook: <u>WQAG Report October 2023</u></p>

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	<p>The group is exploring ways forward with water testing - phosphates and/or bacteria (for bathing water quality). Checking whether it is worthwhile starting before next Spring. Very helpful advice has been received from Juliet Cunningham (Lakes Parish) and Clare Humphrey (Ambleside Action For A Future Water Group). The group has also received offers of assistance.</p> <p>The group has begun liaising with Save Windermere for specific details of testing required - type, frequency, locations, facilities, costs. The Lead and clerk attended workshop for a new project of Save Windermere working with Map Impact using data from the UK Space Agency. Looking at using satellite imagery to collect data linking movement of people to events on the lake. It is early days, and they are still identifying issues.</p> <p>Cllrs Cook &amp; Cook attended a Friends Oof the Lake District lecture at Kendal Town Hall on Reimagining Lakeland's Water: Fresh Ideas for a Sparkling Future. Presentations from West Cumbria Rivers Trust, Freshwater Biological Association and United Utilities, plus individual experts on septic tanks and agricultural flow. Septic tanks are a particular problem area due to non-compliance with modern standards either through ignorance or general "don't care" attitudes and a large number of tanks that are not monitored or managed. Very interesting points were discussed, with general agreement that the lack of monitoring and enforcing by the Environment Agency (EA) is adding to problems whilst acknowledging their chronic underfunding and resourcing. Overall though, no earth shattering conclusions were reached. There is a meeting with Andy Brown who is taking over at EA as Love Windermere lead at 9:15 Friday 13.10.23.</p>
92.	<p><b>Facilities Officer (FO) Report:</b></p> <p><b>Toilets:</b> The September income for the toilets is up on last year.</p> <p>The FO has visited the Tourist Information Centre next to the Glebe Toilets as they had rung the clerk to say they had been getting a lot of complaints about the cleanliness of the toilets from customers but because they didn't contact The Town Council or Healthmatic there was no record of them. The complaints are believed to be, in part, due to the age and condition of theses extremely busy toilets so the FO is meeting with builders to get ideas and prices for possible refurbishment.</p> <p>Steve Kilner has begun the painting work starting with Broad Street.</p> <p>The FO has investigated door alarms for the Rayrigg Meadow toilets but isn't sure that the systems found so far would be effective so she will bring the information to the Policy and Finance meeting in November for further discussion.</p> <p>There has been an issue with lack of access via radar key for the disabled toilets at Quarry Rigg. The FO will investigate if it is possible to retrofit a new door with a radar lock.</p>

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	<p><b>Allotments:</b> One person has given up their plot due to ill health. They had already been sent a warning letter as they weren't maintaining their plot. The FO will contact the waiting list to find a replacement.</p> <p><b>Christmas Light:</b> Blachere will turn on the Bowness Bay Lights on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The St Martin's tree lights were turned on for the Comic Arts Festival and the Council voted to keep them on until Christmas.</p>
93.	<p><b>Clerk's Report:</b></p> <p><u>Elections:</u> The elections team have replied that there have been issues in getting the declarations of interest onto the W&amp;FC website and they are trying to progress this. There is a new Code of Conduct which will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Clerk Training:</u> CiLCA course run by CALC has started. The clerk will need to also register with SLCC and with then have 12 months to complete the portfolio.</p> <p><u>War Memorial Culvert:</u> Clerk has written to Environment Agency (EA) regarding the delay until June 2024 due to their restrictions and processing delays. There has been a reply from the EA stating that the culvert was not thought to be causing an imminent flood risk or setting out any timescale for repairs. The EA noted it would be prudent to continue making arrangements for repairs to commence once restrictions allow. Clerk has started the paperwork to apply for the permit and is in the process of gathering the necessary information and plans.</p> <p><u>Longlands Land:</u> Clerk is awaiting reply from Wellers Headley. Clerk collected a range of catalogues from playground companies and with Cllr Saunders has met a representative from Playdale to get some ideas. Clerk has contacted the company who put in the Queen's Park pump track to find out space requirements. Also requested the mini police to consult with their schools about what they would like. Other possible consultees: toddler groups, Scouts/Guides and Phoenix Youth groups.</p> <p><u>Langstone House/New council office:</u> No developments.</p> <p><u>Finance:</u> The 2022-23 Audit is now complete with no recommendations by the auditors. Email for W&amp;FC apologising for forgetting to pay the former SLDC parishes the second half of the precept and assuring us it was underway and would not happen in future.</p> <p><u>W&amp;FC Liaison Group:</u> Septembers Liaison group meeting was very well attended and covered a wide range of topics including key issues of concerns to residents reported to W&amp;BTC Councillors and via Facebook such as litter. Next Liaison group meeting 17.11.23. Items for discussion can be passed to clerk</p> <p><u>Langrigge Play Area:</u> The basketball post is with the galvaniser. The clerk has spoken to Windermere Endowed about the proposed amendments to the lease and is waiting for a reply.</p> <p><u>Parking:</u> Still waiting for response to letter asking for clarification on Rectory Fields car parking has been sent to the National Trust. Tony Watson from LDNPA has agreed to come to</p>

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	<p>the January meeting to speak about their work over this summer and answer questions from Councillors.</p> <p><u>Planning &amp; Licensing:</u> Three Council representatives (Cllrs C Cook and Davis and the Clerk) have been asked to attend a meeting at Kendal town hall regarding the marshalls and CIA on 27.10.23. No W&amp;FC officers have currently been asked to write a report on the CIA to present to the W&amp;FC Licensing Committee so it is unlikely it will be on the agenda for their next meeting on 7.11.23.</p> <p><u>Town Steward (TS):</u> The Autumn storms have caused some damage to footpath surfaces in Elleray Woods and a huge tree came down in the new compartment and over into neighbours garden wall. Gary is working to repair these. He has lagged the pipes at Rayrigg Meadow to prevent a repeat of last year. He is starting the road sign cleaning this month. The coronation trees are now ready to be planted with the necessary conditions and permissions.</p> <p><u>Elleray Woods:</u> The clerk has escorted two tree surgeons and a chainsaw artist through the woods. Chaplows have been paid for the tarmac work and invoices sent out to the people who agreed to contribute. Two people have requested memorial benches and the Advisory Group have selected a suitable bench type and location.</p> <p><u>Website:</u> The Grant application procedure has been made more prominent. It has also been promoted on Facebook and at Windermere Library.</p> <p><u>Emails and phone calls:</u> Ongoing at 50 a day.</p>
93.	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>a) Council approved those items included on the Orders for Payment list which had been circulated with the agenda and in addition approved the following: Waterplus - Pin Fold September 23 £51.04, Rayrigg Road August &amp; September 23 £474.82, N Power for September 23 -Braithwaite Fold £157.51, Broad Street £54.88, Bowness Bay £122.88, Pinfold £108.92, Rayrigg Meadow £58.96, Rayrigg Road £98.53.</p> <p>b) The Council authorised the payment to SLCC of £450 for the clerk's registration for CiLCA qualification.</p> <p>c) The Council authorised the purchase of two memorial benches to be placed in the new compartment in Elleray Woods. The purchase price is to be repaid by the donors.</p> <p>d) The Council viewed the end of month 6 general and toilet accounts budget monitoring reports which were approved.</p>
94.	<p><b>Grant Applications:</b></p> <p>a. <b>Band Grant - Blast Furness</b> The Council approved the grant of £100 to Blast Furness on completion of a performance at the Glebe Bandstand on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>b. <b>Bowness Christmas Market</b> At this time the Town Council were unable to approve the application for a grant of £1400 towards the Bowness Christmas Market to be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. They</p>

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	have agreed to invite a representative of the market to attend the next Council meeting to give more information and answer questions after which the application will be reconsidered.
95.	<b>Public Drop-in Session:</b> The Council approved the trial of a bi-annual public drop-in session to which the residents and representatives of other organisations will be invited to discuss their concerns and enable public consultation on issues W&BTC are seeking feedback on. Cllr Caroline Kearney has offered to lead this project.
96.	<b>Review Standing Orders:</b> The Council carried out the required annual review of the Town Council's standing orders. These were adopted with no changes.
97.	<b>Dates of Next Meetings:</b> Forthcoming meetings as follows, starting at 7pm, unless otherwise shown: Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2023: Planning sub-committee: Langstone House. Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023: Policy & Finance Advisory Group: Langstone House. Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2023: Full Council: Langstone House
	<b>The Mayor then closed the meeting in public at 8:55pm and convened in private session to discuss the following four items:</b>
98.	<b>Co-option of Town Councillor(s):</b> It was agreed that Jackie Cooper be co-opted as Councillor for Applethwaite and Beverley Cullen and Kevin Heffernan be co-opted as Councillors for Windermere Town.
99.	<b>Elleray Woods Tree management work:</b> The decision to appoint Will Hicks to carry out the tree work specified in Elleray Woods was agreed.
100.	<b>Orrest Head Leaflet Printing:</b> The decision to use Trade Print to supply the Orrest Head leaflets was agreed.
101..	<b>Broadband Provider:</b> The decision to appoint BT as the new broadband provider following the decision by Plusnet to cease providing business broadband facilities was agreed.

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