



Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade

The minutes of a General Members Meeting held on the 5th February 2008 at the Burnside Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present:

Liz & Tony Blaney	Fairfield Garden Guest House	Bill McMillan	Simpsons Newsagents
Eve Blatchley	Honorary Member	Steve Marston	Cook House
Victoria Blanco	Dressing Room Boutique	Jonty Mayo	Musgraves
Barry Butler	Butler Thompson Associates	Andrew Maelland	Brandon James
Naomi Darbishire	W McClures Ltd	M Pares	Little Chippy
Fran Donaldson	Francine's Restaurant	Plumbtrees	
Simon Everett	Simon Everett Opticians	Cllr Joan Stocker	WTC
Adrian Faulkner	AGF Business Services Ltd	Sue Tasker	Oakthorpe Hotel
Diana Gabriel	The Queens Hotel	Mr Vine	Threshers
Jo Harris	Windermere Wine Stores	Kay Kennedy-Hardy	Galactic Emporium
Bill Johnson	Honorary Member		

Apologies:

Liz Chamberlain	Things	Carole Scott	Things
Tim Farron	MP	Penny Seeds	Manuka
Jill	Galerie D'art		

Opening Remarks:

Barry Butler (the Chair), welcomed and thanked all those present for attending such an important meeting.

Traffic Problems in Windermere

The Chair suggested going round the room for comments/issues/problems. This was agreed to:

The Queens Hotel: concerned over the lack of signing and the maze of barriers at the top of Crescent Road and Victoria Street. Also pointed out that trade was down.

Brandon James: McAlpines appeared to be uncooperative in the information being given out and trying to meet the needs of the traders. He has had to rent another building due to delivery drivers being refused access. Concrete being 'splashed' on shop railings and not be washed off.

Lamplighter Bar: Observation is that the people are 'bye-passing Windermere and going straight onto Ambleside due to bad signing.

Plumbtrees: Business being effected because people going elsewhere due to the place "looking a mess" and lack of good signing to say "Businesses are open" etc. Also thought that Bowness would be feeling the downturn in business as well. Went round the one way system 5 times at 4:15pm to find a parking space, could not due to digger blocking access. There was a perception with the public that Crescent Road was to be pedestrianised.

Renoirs: Serious downturn in trade – going to get worse as the road works work down Crescent Road. Serious problems with the signing to the FREE car parking spaces in Broad Street. The larger companies had reported they were finding it difficult and they also were experiencing a downturn in trade.

W McClures Ltd: Experiencing problems with deliveries due to the traffic system in place.

Simpson Newsagents: signs are mis-leading, eg. "Crescent Road Closed" which is untrue. Must try to get the public back into Windermere which is going to be very difficult.

Little Chippy: The "mess" at the top of Crescent Road/Victoria Street, will continue down into the village as the road works progress making it even more unsightly. Nobody had been into the shop to explain what was going on. Contractors laid 'sets' then had to take them up because they were needed elsewhere. Total chaos!

Problems: Barry Butler suggested that photographs be taken of the “mess” for future reference. The cleaning of shop fronts was imperative.

Barry would have words with the Contractors to see if the overall signaging could be made clearer.

Press Release: The Chamber of Trade, on behalf of the businesses, would issue Press Releases to Lake Radio/The Bay; The Westmorland Gazette; Radio Cumbria stating in essence, that “Windermere is open for business.” This would also be put onto the Chambers’ website.

Possible Rate Reduction: Barry outlined the procedure to follow to apply for Business Rate Reduction:

1. Must show what loss has been incurred during the time of the road works by keeping accurate records together with when/where;
2. Compare these with the last 2 years trading for the same period.
3. If been trading for less then 2 years, then there maybe complication in applying.
4. NO guarantee of a reduction.

The Secretary was asked to approach SLDC to ascertain if they were prepared to ‘suspend’ payment of Non-domestic Rates until the work had been completed.

The over-riding call was “We need HELP now!”

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting's held on the 8th January 2008, 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:

The Membership Secretaries had nothing to report.

2. Windermere Community Safety Partnership:

Bill Johnson reported that there had been a meeting of the above and that the following were discussed:

- Youth Shelter lighting,
- Policing – community issues with the youth and that a “surgery” was being set up at the schools.
- CCTV – no funding available for the cameras although there maybe funding for retailers with up to £200 match funding. There would have to be a minimum of 12 retailers signing up.
- Lot less problems at the Library now that the site had been open up.
- The various business “watches” were going strong.

3. Winter Lights:

The Chambers two representatives, had nothing to report.

4. Town Twinning 10th Anniversary Celebrations:

Eve Blatchley, gave n update on the progress of the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of the Town Twinning Association. She also outlined the ethos behind Town Twinning.

Any Other Business:

The Secretary was asked to write to Hayton Winkley to ascertain if they had someone who could attend the April meeting to give a presentation on the updated Employment Law. (Secretary’s Note: See below)

Dates of Future Meetings:

2008

4th March – Paul Holdsworth, Town Centres Manager

1st April – Gail Escolme, Employment Law Practitioner.

6th May

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