

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BROAD STREET, WINDERMERE ON WEDNESDAY 8th JULY 2009

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Mr W Smith (Mayor) Mesdames J L Garlick, E Greasley, C Hallatsch, J Jewell, H Stephenson and J Stocker. Messrs D J Fawcett, L J Hallatsch, A B Legge, A Marsh, J H Morphet, M Stafford, J Walters and A Winrow

Also in attendance were County Councillor Mr J Bland and District Councillor Miss K Atkinson

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Williams and PCSO Sarah Blacow

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs J Jewell and Mrs J Stocker declared a personal interest in the grant application from South Lakes Youth for Christ. Mr A Legge declared a personal interest in the application from the Civic Society to the Char Boat Planter in Ellerthwaite Square.

61. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd June were approved as a correct record.

62. MATTERS ARISING

Footpath Survey

The Kendal Ramblers had considered the Council's request to survey the footpaths in the Council's area. The Group considered that the present system involving the National Park was working well and declined the request as they felt that there was no need for survey.

Mr J Walters was still concerned at the condition of urban footpaths particularly those for which the County had a responsibility and repeated his request that other members of the Council should join him in an inspection to prepare a condition report. He already notified the County Council of his concerns as to some footpaths.

Various Highway Issues

The County Council area engineer had responded to advise that Cumbria Highways were aware of the need to renew road markings in the Bowness and Windermere area and a works order will be placed which would also include markings at the mini-roundabout in Queens Square, Bowness. As regards the lay-by outside the Royal Hotel development, he had asked colleagues to assess the possibility of lengthening the layby. He advised that a shield had now been fitted to the light column outside the Elleray Hotel and the directional sign at Queens Square relating to the Steamboat Museum would be reviewed.

Thwaites Lane had recently undergone surface repair and will be monitored through programmed safety inspections. The street light on Thwaites Lane was maintained by the Town Council and it was obviously its responsibility to organise and pay for repairs. On this latter point, the Clerk advised that the plan belonging to the Town Council indicating Town Council owned street lights had been mislaid and he would ask the County Council to provide a new one.

The District Council had written to confirm that the Windermere Tourist Information Centre would be reduced by two days a week closing on Sunday and Thursday from the 1st October 2009 up to the 31st March 2010. From the District Council's records, these were the two quietest days.

Casual Vacancy for A Councillor

Following the retirement of Mr H E Hatley, the District Council had written to advise that no requests had been received for the vacancy to be filled by election and it was open to the Parish Council to co-opt. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy in the Westmorland Gazette.

The Clerk advised that he met with the Customer Services Manager of the District Council relating to a new, combined notice board outside the Council Chamber containing information for both the Town Council, District and County Council. Further information would be provided in due course.

Town Steward

The Clerk advised that the Town Steward was now in post and had commenced work in Elleray Woods alleviating drainage problems. He reminded Councillors that the Town Steward's priority was to do work on Town Council owned properties and that any work needed should be requested via the Clerk who could arrange priorities with the Town Steward.

63. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8 planning applications were considered by the Council and it was resolved to send the following comments to the Lake District National Park Authority:-

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| 7/09/5216 | 7 St Marys Park – Demolish Garage & Store – Erect Extension – Approve |
| 7/09/5254 | 5 South Crescent – Conservatory – Approve |
| 7/09/5270 | Adjacent to Orchard Cottages, Matson Ground – 4 dismountable lights to existing horse exercise area. – Approve |
| 7/09/5285 | Birch Howe, Ferney Green – Garage Extension – Approve |
| 7/09/5288 | Heaning Barn Cottages, The Heating – Vary condition to permit permanent occupation of 4 properties – Approve |
| 7/09/5294 | Carver Church – New link building between Church and Hall – Approve |
| 7/09/5297 | Tarn Hows, 12 South Craig – Erect Fence – Approve |
| 7/09/5312 | Reagill, Brantfell Road – Alterations, extensions & re-modelling (amendments to 7/07/5431) - Approve |

64. COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Miss K Atkinson reminded Councillors that there was to be a Street Safe Event next Monday.

Mrs H Stephenson reported that the District Council cabinet had considered options for public conveniences prepared by NPS. Six options were outlined in that study:-

1. Retain existing strategic sites
2. Transfer all conveniences to Town and Parish Councils
3. A 50/50 participation with Town and Parish Councils on strategic sites
4. A 50/50 participation on all sites
5. A Phased transfer to Town and Parish Councils
6. To retain and improve

The District Council had agreed to consult on Options 2 to 6 inclusive, the consultation taking place in September 2009 so as to provide information for budget planning for the year 2010/11.

The District Council were also to investigate whether concessions could be available on both business rates and water charges for public conveniences.

65. REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

Mr J Walters reported on a Neighbourhood Forum Meeting.

Mr J Morphet reported that vagrants were again sleeping in the closed Glebe Car Park toilets. He had informed SLDC and the Police were also aware.

Mrs E Greasley reminded Councillors that the Cumbria In Bloom judging was to take place the following day, the 9th July. The Council agreed to offer lunch to the Judges.

The Mayor reported on a reception given by the new High Sheriff at Rydal Hall, he had also been advised that on the 16th August, the Windermere Taverners were holding a Silver Jubilee event on Queens Park.

66. PLANNING APPEALS

The following appeal had been lodged:-

7/08/553 Holme Fell, Brantfell Road, Bowness – Increase in size of balcony. The appeal would be dealt with on the written representation procedure,

67. ELLERTHWAITE SQUARE – CHAR BOAT PLANTER

The Council had received a letter from the Civic Society who wished to enhance the island in the Square, by replacing the current concrete planters with a lake boat planter similar to the one at Longtail Hill. The Civic Society had found a suitable boat and was prepared to pay for purchasing and installation and would then ask that the Town Council takes over responsibility for planting and maintenance.

It was noted that consent would be required from both the County Council and District Council as Highways Authority and Landowners respectively. As an alternative, it was suggested that the boat could be sited at the entrance to Library Gardens where the Oak tree had recently been removed, or at Beresford Road Gardens.

It was agreed to enquire whether the Civic Society were prepared to consider alternative sites, and to investigate the cost implications if the existing planters were removed. It was also agreed that it may be preferable to consider improving the appearance of the present planters, perhaps by constructing a Lakeland stone wall around them. The District Council Ward Councillor could also be contacted for his input.

68. GRANT APPLICATION

South Lakes Youth for Christ were proposing to hold some summer activities based on Queens Park (with the option of using Heathwaite Mission if wet) for six sessions, one a week between 23rd July to 27th August. The activities would not have any religious overtone or input. A draft budget had been supplied.

It was agreed to make a donation of £130.00.

69. DIVERSION OF BRIDLEWAY 581004 LIMEFIT PARK

The National Park had requested comments on the above proposal. The official route had been obstructed by building works that had been in place for sometime. It was proposed to divert the route on to that which was used at present. It was agreed to make no objections.

70. TOWN COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT

The Council considered the notes made at the informal meeting held on the 19th February. It was noted that some of the key issues had been addressed, but it was felt that a further meeting should be arranged to review progress and identify further issues.

71. CORRESPONDENCE

It was agreed to make no objections to proposed works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order at land to the rear of Beechwood Close, Bowness. The Council received the Agenda for Lakes Parish Council and an invitation to a Climate Change Workshop in Staveley Village Hall on the 14th July.

Mrs J Stocker advised the meeting the Windermere Hydro had been booked for the 15th September at 7pm for the launch of the Windermere Action Plan.