

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BROAD STREET, WINDERMERE ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2009

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Mr W Smith (Mayor) Mesdames J S Borer, J L Garlick, E Greasley, C Houlihan, J, Jewell, D Jones, H J Sowerby, H Stephenson and J Stocker. Messrs D J Fawcett, L J Halatsch, H E Hatley, A B Legge, A Marsh and J Walters.

Also in attendance was Police Community Support Officer Rebecca Hunter

274. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs C Hallatsch and Messrs J H Morphet, M Stafford and A Winrow together with District Councillors Mr D Williams

275. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs J Borer declared a non-pecuniary interest in connection with the footpath gate referred to in the Policy and Finance Minutes. Mrs J Stocker and Mr W Smith declared non-pecuniary interests in the application for grant assistance from South Lakes Development Trust and Mrs Stocker in connection with Cumbria Rural CAB and Rotary Club Air Show Grant Application.

276. MINUTES

With minor amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th February 2009 were approved as a correct record.

277. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported on work done by the County Council Highway Steward. A reply had been received in connection with the Council's letter to the County Council relating to flooding of the Highway at Bannerigg and Thwaites Lane. This had been passed on to the Highways Maintenance Section.

278. POLICE

Rebecca Hunter updated the Council on crime figures. She advised that the Cumbria Police web-site has a Crime Mapper showing monthly crime figures for various locations throughout the County. The Police were carrying out an Environmental Visual Audit in various locations. She reported on the recent visit by local youths to an army camp in Preston that the Town Council has supported financially. She then answered questions.

279. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 7/08/5525 | - | Claife Howe, Old Hall Road – Extend dwelling, new garage with family room over – alter access – As before |
| 7/09/5019 | - | Hawksmoor Guest House – Extension to provide entrance lobby and seating area - Approve |
| 7/09/5048 | - | Cleabarrow – Remove and replace stable and field shelters – Approve |

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

Mrs J Stocker reported on a recent meeting relating to the Troutbeck and Troutbeck Bridge Community Travel Plan. She had also attended an Economic Summit held at Sellafield.

Mrs H Stephenson confirmed that South Lakeland District Council were re-considering the proposed implementation of evening car park charges. The District Council were working towards better liaison with other tiers of local government and electors, part of which will involve ward walks.

281. REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

Mrs J S Borer also reported on the Troutbeck Bridge Community Travel Plan and the Windermere Diessen Twinning Association Meeting.

Mrs Greasley reminded Councillors that there was to be a meeting at the Marchesi Centre to gauge interest in provision of allotments.

The Mayor reported on a recent meeting at Rheghed relating to Rural Workspace Funding, and the recent Public Inquiry relating to the Public Footpath in Elleray Wood.

282. POLICY & FINANCE ADVISORY GROUP

The Council considered the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Advisory Group held on the 10th February. The following applications for grants were approved:-

- a) South Lakes Development Trust £2,500
- b) North West Air Ambulance £350.00
- c) Cumbria Rural CAB £2,000
- d) MENCAP - No Grant
- e) Rotary Club Airshow £2,000

Gateway off Rayrigg Road

Members were aware of the damaged gate where Footpath 581041 meets Rayrigg Road. South Lakes Development Trust has been discussing this matter with the Landowner. The County Council is the relevant authority for the footpath at this point thought that was no requirement to reinstate the gate or install a safety barrier at this location. The owner was minded to reinstate the wall without the gate but was offering to donate the gate to the Parish at which the Town Centre Manager would seek funding to get the gate repaired and reinstalled at a total cost of £400.00 plus VAT. If the Council were prepared to fund a proportion of that sum, match funding may be available. Section 139 of the Local Government Act 1974 gave the Council the power to accept gifts. Section 137 of the Act gave the Council the power to incur expenditure not otherwise authorised and anything which is in the Council's opinion in the interests of the area or part of it or all or some of the inhabitants. The Clerk was concerned as to the precedent that could be set if the Council accepted the gift of the gate and contributed towards its repair and reinstatement.

It was resolved by a vote 9 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions to accept the offer to assume responsibility for the gate. The Council felt that the safety issues to footpath users at this point overrode other considerations.

Town Steward

It was agreed that the post should be advertised as soon as possible with a view for the position being filled at the start of the next financial year.

Deputy Clerk to Council

It was agreed this position should again be advertised on the timescale as for the Town Steward.

283. ACCOUNTS

The Council approved and passed for payment the accounts listed hereunder:-

		£
Badger Press	Letterheads	159.85
E-On	St Martins Christmas Tree Lights	42.96
Windermere Youth Project	Grant	2,000.00
B G Whittaker	Salary	654.58
HMRC	PAYE	276.16
Thomson Wilson Pattinson	Postage & Photocopying	136.28

284 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a) The Council received notification of a temporary closure of Bowness Bay Tourist Information Centre for three weeks from the 21st February for refurbishment
- b) A letter was received from Digital UK reminding the public that the BBC 2 Analogue Signals would be switched on the 24th June and the rest of the signals on the 22nd July. It was also noted that everyone would need to re-tune their digital tv or digital box at each of the switchover dates in order to pick up the new higher powered digital signals which will be switched on for the first time.
- c) The Council received notification of works to be done a tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order at 30 St Marys Park and resolved to make no objections.
- d) The Council received the Agenda for Lakes Parish Council and the Windermere & Staveley District Neighbourhood Forum together with further information on the proposals for locality working in South Lakeland.

It was agreed to invite the Program Director for the re-development of Brockhole to address the Council.

The Mayor reported on a major conference to be held in May entitled "Lakes for Living". This would also link the usage and ecology of Windermere with Lake Windermere and British Columbia. The Mayor had been invited to attend as Mayor of Windermere Town Council. Obviously, until the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council had been held in May, it was not known whether Mr Smith would continue as Mayor.

It was resolved that Mr Smith be authorised to attend the Conference as representative of Windermere Town Council in whichever capacity he would be at the date of the Conference.