

LAKE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of the Lake Administration Committee held in the District Council Chamber, South Lakeland House, Kendal, on Friday, 26 January 2018, at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Councillors

Sue Sanderson (Chairman)

Andrew Butcher
David Evans
Gill Gardner

John Holmes
Dyan Jones
Vivienne Rees

Graham Vincent
David Williams
Mark Wilson

Representing Lakes Parish Council

Leslie Johnson

Representing Windermere Town Council

Kathleen Atkinson

Jennifer Borer

Leith Hallatsch

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors Stan Collins, Brenda Gray (Vice-Chairman) and Annie Rawlinson, Lakes Parish Councillors Fiona Sparrow and Philip Thompson and Windermere Town Councillor Adrian Legge.

Officers

Una Bell	Assistant Committee Services Officer
Frankie Flannigan	Lake and Parking Services Officer
Julia Krier	Solicitor (Property and Contracts)
Anthea Lowe	Solicitor to the Council
Abigail Mann	Support Assistant
Dan Millican	Solicitor
Simon Rowley	Assistant Director Neighbourhood Services
Helen Smith	Financial Services Manager
David Sykes	Director People and Places

Also in attendance at the meeting were David Haughian (Programme Lead Cumbria County Council) and Steve Gaskell (Lake District National Park Authority Park Management Leader).

LA/26

MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Chairman be authorised to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 October 2017.

LA/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no declarations of interest were raised.

LA/28 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUDED ITEMS

RESOLVED – That the item in Part II of the agenda be dealt with following the exclusion of the press and public.

LA/29 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no questions, representations, deputations or petitions have been received in respect of this meeting.

LA/30 PROGRESS REPORT

The Director People and Places presented a report updating Members on progress made on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Committee. He advised the Committee that as part of the delivery of the new Windermere Lake Action Plan there would be revision of the stakeholder engagement arrangements.

The Director People and Places informed the Committee that the Lakes User Forum was likely to become an independent body and would seek recognition in the Windermere Lake Action Plan. A revised engagement protocol was to be developed between the Lake District National Park Authority, South Lakeland District Council and the Lake Users Forum which would be informed by the Forum's revised terms of reference and constitution.

With regard to the works at Ferry Nab Boathouse, the Committee was advised that the final stage of remedial works to the floor gradients was due to be completed, and the shower block fully operational by the end of February. Members requested further details regarding the timescale of the remedial work and the cost to South Lakeland District Council. The Director People and Places agreed to review the report, which had previously been brought to Committee, to liaise with the Chairman and, if there was additional relevant information, to provide a summation to all Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

LA/31 2018/19 TO 2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET

The Financial Services Manager presented the latest draft Lake Windermere revenue budgets for 2018/19. These would form part of the overall Draft Revenue Budget which was due to be presented to Council for consideration and approval on 27 February 2018.

In response to a question regarding the increase in the 2017/18 approved premises budget and the current 2017/18 premises budget, the Financial Services Manager agreed to provide a written answer to all Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

LA/32 WINDERMERE FERRY TICKET SALES SYSTEM

The Director People and Places presented a report from Cumbria County Council (CCC) detailing the proposals of its Cabinet-led review of the ticket sales system at Windermere Ferry in order to enable the Lake Administration Committee to submit a response.

David Haughian, Programme Lead Cumbria County Council, addressed the Committee and explained that, in December 2017, Cumbria County Council had published the report which outlined the findings and recommendations of the Cabinet-led review. Mr Haughian highlighted the key considerations of the review and provided a summary of the proposals. He confirmed that CCC was keen to engage with all stakeholders and to understand their views prior to implementing any further changes.

Mr Haughian provided clarification on a number of issues which included details on the pre-purchasing of tickets and the reliability of the network signal on the Lake, a clear explanation of the payment options on the ferry and information relating to the testing of the proposed technology. He confirmed that CCC had consulted with other ferry providers to learn from their experiences. Further information regarding a documented risk assessment was requested.

RESOLVED – That

(1) the Director People and Places, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to submit a response to Cumbria County Council, taking into account the comments raised by the Committee; and

(2) Councillor Dyan Jones be nominated to represent the Lake Administration Committee at the County Council's engagement session on Friday 9 February 2018.

LA/33

WINDERMERE LAKE WARDENS AND RANGERS ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

The Lake and Parking Services Officer presented the Windermere Lake Wardens and Rangers Annual Report 2016/17. He stated that the Wardens and Rangers continued to work together successfully from the joint base at Ferry Nab. He highlighted the mooring statistics as outlined in the report and the success of the water safety talks which had been given to 14 primary schools in the South Lakeland area.

Steve Gaskell, Lake District National Park Authority Park Management Leader, explained that the Team continued to record all interactions with Lake users. The number of navigation offences had increased slightly, however, there had been a decrease in the number of registration offences recorded.

The Lake and Parking Services Officer responded to questions regarding the Incident Analysis statistics relating to sink/sunk and adrift/ashore vessels.

In response to a question regarding the decline in mooring and slipway usage, the Lake and Parking Services Officer explained that the use of the Lake was changing, boats were getting bigger and that Lake users preferred berths and services.

The Lake and Parking Services Officer advised that the unlettable mooring figures would be removed from the 2017/18 report and this would provide the Committee with a more realistic letting statistics.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

LA/34 APPLICATION TO DREDGE IN THE AREA OF PLOT 1, SOUTH OF GREY GABLES, STORRS

The Lake and Parking Services Officer presented a report which requested the Committee to consider an application to dredge an area of 200m² to a depth of 1.5m in the area of Plot 1 south of Grey Gables, Storrs. He explained that planning permission had been granted and Environment Agency approval had also been received. The Committee was also informed that the material removed from the Lake bed would be checked for fish and other aquatic species and they would be returned to the water immediately.

RESOLVED – That the application for permission to dredge an area of 200m² to a depth of 1.5m at Plot 1 south of Grey Gables, Storrs, be approved.

LA/35 PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Act as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 by virtue of the paragraphs indicated.

LA/36 UPDATE ON COMMERCIAL LEASES AND ENCROACHMENTS

- *Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)*
- *Paragraph 5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.*

The Solicitor to the Council presented a report which provided Members with an update regarding commercial leases and annual encroachments around the Lake and the current position in relation to debt recovery actions. Progress on debt recovery had been maintained and significant reductions had been made since the previous report. The Committee was informed that a report would be presented at the next Committee meeting regarding proposals for longer term encroachment agreements.

Members expressed their thanks to the Legal Team and the former Task and Finish Group for their work in achieving the continued reduction in outstanding debts.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

LA/37 RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.42 a.m.