

Lake Administration Committee 22.6.23.

Report by Michael Hanley

W AFC owns the bed of Lake Windermere. It inherited it from South Lakeland District Council (SLDC). The lake was purchased by Windermere Urban District Council on the 5th of April 1939 from Lowther Estates. In 2005, the SLDC registered the title to the lake bed with the Land Registry. In 1974 there was a dispute when some parish councils and Windermere Urban District Council objected to the transfer of the lake bed to SLDC. About that time SLDC came into being as part of local government re-organisation. The dispute was settled in 1975 when a Sub-Committee of the Tourism Recreation and Amenities Committee was set up to administer the lake. This sub-committee became the Lake Administration Committee (LAC) and would report to the SLDC. In 2006 the LAC was re-designated to be a full committee of council with responsibility for its own budgets and budgetary control.

LAC Powers

The LAC has responsibility for its own budget and fees. If there is a new policy, referral to full council would be needed. If a policy or budget change is contrary to the council's Medium Term Financial Plan, then it would have to be referred to full council. The committee is entitled to sufficient staff and money to manage the lake. In order to ensure there is sufficient money, the committee sets necessary fees and charges.

Any income derived from the lake goes into W AFC's general fund.

Staff: There are six full Lake Wardens. They operate 7 days per week (on a rota). They administer and market moorings and supervise public slipways. They maintain navigation markers and are involved in search and rescue.

Income comes from lake moorings (permanent and holiday), encroachments (where a lakeside property has a boathouse, jetty or slipway), commercial leases (outdoor activity firms, etc), dinghy and winter storage. There are 28 mooring areas with 873 lettable sites. 780 have been let. There is also income from car parks, boat and boatman's licences, tractor hoist and RYA instruction fees.

Income: The major sources of income are: encroachment rents: £641k, permanent moorings: £489k, jetty berths: £131k, dinghy park: £83k, annual car tickets (parking): £20k, car parking: £18k, rents: £15k, boat licences: £18k. Total gross income: £1.45 million. Operating costs reduces the net income by about 50%.

Meeting

1. Nomination of chair: Cllr Will Clark was nominated and voted in.
2. Nomination of Vice-Chair: Cllr Diana Jones was nominated and voted in.
3. Terms of Reference agreed.
4. Delegation Request: Cllr Wileman (? Windermere PC): Asked about several people, who owed money through encroachment. They had sold their properties and so should the debt be written off?

Julia Krier (legal officer): This does not come under delegation. This was discussed later in the meeting in the confidential part.

5. Encroachment Application: Demolish and replace boathouse at Bowness-on-Windermere.

A Jarvis (AJ, LD): Asked about the increase to length of the new jetty.

Frankie Flanagan (FF, Service Delivery Manager): It will be two metres longer.
Voted in favour.

The rest of the meeting was involved with discussion of money owed to LAC which is confidential, so I cannot report on this part of the meeting.