



**Ulverston BID Meeting AGM 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 2021 ~ Via Video Conference**

**Attending:**

**Board**

Jan Hancock	Town House
Gavin Knott	Appleseeds
Judith Pickthall	Town Council
Janet Heffernan	SJB School
Justin Wales	Project Manager
Richard Butler	Victoria High
Jacqui McCloy	Tritech
Michelle Scrogham	Pure
Dennis Round	Siemens
Janette Jenknison	SLDC

**Other Attendees**

Karl Hannah	Furness 360 Media
David Webster	Town Council
Mark Wilson	Cumbria County Council
Anita Garnett	Ulverston Brewing Co.
Trevor Ronson	Tritech
Charlotte Hagen	Lakeland Inns
Julie Barton	High Sheriff of Cumbria

**Apologies:-**

Wendy Barry	Avanti Capitola
Beth Kennedy	UCE

**Not Attended:-**

Tony Martinez	Cumbria Teaching Agency
Suzanne Edgley	The Best Of
Sarah Mammett	The Northern Line

**Items for discussion:-**

Item	Meeting Note	Action
1	<p><b>Previous minutes approval</b></p> <p>The minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021 were approved.</p>	

2 **Chair's Report**

Welcome to the sixth and final AGM of the present administration.

Five and a half years ago the business community of Ulverston voted to establish a Business Improvement District in the town. Business rate payers began to invest collectively to improve facilities and services within the town.

There is a considerable potential for growth and opportunities within the local economy which can be released by businesses acting together in partnership with our communities and local authorities and we believe that Ulverston BID has harnessed these potentials and delivered a number of fantastic initiatives which have enhanced the town centre, boosted the local economy and supported businesses.

Christmas lights and the illumination of Hoad monument were two of our first successes which continue to enliven the town as do the wonderful hanging baskets and planters which adorn the town each summer. Most recently we have responded to concerns about the cost of car parking and brokered a deal with SLDC and the Town Council to provide cheap parking alternatives in Buxton Place. We also stepped up to the mark to help businesses reopen after the first lockdown and will be there to help businesses recover after these latest closures. The provision of Free WiFi is garnering a huge database for promotion through linking this to Choose Ulverston website an interactive information tool for all to use which is yet another successful BID sponsored project.

Looking forward (and aren't we all) to June 21st when potentially all restrictions have been lifted, Ulverston BID will be on hand to help, advise, develop and support all businesses, communities and festivals which are so essential if the town is to flourish and thrive as we emerge from this disastrous period of the pandemic countryside shut-down.

The prospect of a possible "No" vote made it imperative that finances were put in place to ensure continuance of ongoing commitments so we ring-fenced funds to ensure that we could sustain our payments to subsidise the car park in Buxton Place for three years so this will continue until at least 2022.

Although Britain in Bloom competition has once again been postponed until 2022 orders for planting up the hanging baskets for this year needed to be placed in advance so we took the decision to invest the money to ensure the town will be alive with vibrant colour to welcome the post-Covid shopper as we did in June 2020 enhancing the visitor experience in the town centre.

The continuation of Free Town WiFi is also assured. Furthermore, there is the opportunity to widen to scope of the WiFi this term to support the development of levy paying businesses outside of the town centre.

Ulverston BID is also excited to have been invited to be part of the Borderlands project, a government initiative which has made £3 million pounds available to be spent in Ulverston. This is a multi-partnership venture including local authorities, businesses, local community groups and schools. The project will focus on making Ulverston a place which is attractive for enterprise and business to invest and where people of working age choose to live. This includes strengthening our appeal as a

	<p>visitor destination which may ultimately involve plans to repurpose and reinvent our town centre – exciting times!</p> <p>It has been a difficult year especially as the vote to continue Ulverston BID fell during the pandemic and made canvassing and contact with stakeholders difficult. However, the re-vote was successful presenting us with an exciting opportunity to continue the work we started all those years ago. Due to the timing of the revote, the government ruled that our next term would begin on April 1st which is six months later than it would otherwise have started, consequently the new BID term will be for four and a half years to bring it back in line with the original BID term which will end on August 31st 2025.</p> <p>When the new term begins on April 1st, we are obliged to have in place a new board of directors. During the next part of the meeting, we will be hearing from those who have put themselves forward to serve on the new board and those attending this AGM will have the opportunity to vote for those they would like to entrust with the responsibility of administering the money collected from the BID levy.</p> <p>However, before we do that, I would like to say a huge Thank You, to Jacqui our outgoing treasurer. She has been an enormous asset to the board since its inception in 2015, reliably keeping the finances in order and reporting back with clarity and patience. Despite holding down a high profile, position at Tritech she has kept on top of BID affairs at all times and has always been there to guide me through any problems I might have had regarding protocols and procedures. Jacqui is retiring from Tritech later this year and consequently is standing down from the BID board and her position of treasurer – we wish her well in her retirement, though knowing Jacqui, I guess it will not be a restful one, it is more likely she will find different challenges and other causes to which to bend her talents.</p> <p>Jacqui will be a difficult act to follow and if any of you know of an accountant who would step into her shoes, she has promised to give them a thorough hand over to ensure the continued smooth running of BID finances.</p>	
3	<p><b>Election of Officials</b></p> <p>The Chair asked each candidate to say a couple of words outlining their reasons to be a board member. Members not present who had made an application to be part of the board had sent in prepared statements which was read to the meeting.</p> <p>After each presentation Justin conducted a confidential vote by asking all to indicate their preference on a voting screen which will be seen only by each participant then presented to confirm the result for each candidate. The proceedings were recorded and will be open to scrutiny.</p>	

The results are as follows:-

Name	Sector Represented	Vote Y/N
Jan Hancock	Hospitality	Y
Wendy Barry	Hospitality	Y
Charlotte Hagen	Hospitality	Y
Toni Martinez	Small Business	Y
Sarah Mammatt	Small Business	Y
Anita Garnett	Small Business	Y
Michelle Scrogham	Retail	Y
Gavin Knott	Retail	Y
Beth Kennedy	Charity	Y
Jan Hefferman	Schools/ Charity	Y
Richard Butler	Schools/ Charity	Y
Dennis Round	Large Business	Y
Trevor Ronson	Large Business	Y

**In addition.**

Judith Pickthall as Town Council and Janet Jenkinson as SLDC were both invited to the Board as representatives and have accepted.

All the above persons were duly elected to represent the Ulverston BID as Board members. Two additional spaces are still available in Retail & Large Business for the future.

**Comments.**

Jan Hancock expressed her desire to step down from the Cahir position.

Judith & Janet being part of the original BID formation expressed their full support for the BID and congratulated the Board on their achievements and are delighted to be involved.

Julie Barton, Dave Watson & Mark Wilson each also expressed their full support for the BID and looked forward to close working partnerships.

The new Directors will need to register at Companies House & Jacqui volunteered to complete this process. Justin to pass on complete e mail lists for new members to Jacqui & Gavin.

Jacqui expressed a big thank you to the current Board members during her term and work for the BID and wished the new Board well.

Jacqui  
Justin

	The election of officers for:- Chair, Treasurer, Minutes Secretary will take place on the next meeting scheduled for 21 April 2021.	
4	<p><b>Other</b></p> <p>Julie Barton noted the High Sheriff of Cumbria Special Recognition Award to honour volunteers and individuals across Cumbria going above and beyond in their work, who give outstanding support to others during the current pandemic. This to be announced 24th March.</p>	
5	<p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <p>Jacqui presented her last BID report to the meeting and in summary :-</p> <p>The end of term surplus is £79k rolled into the next BID term with the following commitments made</p> <p>Due allowance has been made for the continuation of Town Wi-Fi, Ulverston in Bloom and Buxton Place car park initiative. This would leave a net balance of £37.7k going forward for new initiatives.</p> <p>Cash in bank amounted to £85k</p> <p>Again a BIG thanks to Jacqui for maintain our accurate and easy to understand accounts during this 5 + years journey.</p>	
6	<p><b>Next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 @ 6.00pm.</b></p> <p>Jan to send out invites.</p>	Jan Hancock