

CUMBRIA IN BLOOM
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Tuesday, 25th November, 2008, at
Holehird Gardens, Holehird, Windermere.

MEMBERS PRESENT: - See attached list

1. PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION: - In the absence of the CiB President Stuart Fraser introduced himself as the Chairman of CiB and welcomed every one to the meeting, he informed those present that a Seminar would follow the meeting, the Seminar would be delivered by Roger Burnett a BiB judge who would be giving a talk and slide presentation about the new RHS criteria for the BiB competition.

2. APOLOGIES: - Peter Howarth, Lee Hodgson, Jean Airey, Ruth Walsh, Russell Maddams, Paul Emmerson, Vera Turnbull, Shelagh Todd, David Haigh.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: - Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2007 were agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING: - There was an open discussion concerning the funding offered by the local authorities and the meeting was informed that no funding would be forthcoming from Eden District Council for the year 2008.

5. PATRON'S ADDRESS: - Mrs Olive Clark gave the Patrons address and informed the meeting that she had turned up for the meeting unaware that she would be making an address, however she went on to tell everyone that seventy five percent of a good speech is in the preparation and she had therefore had to prepare her speech very quickly. Mrs Clark went on to say that the years of experience of judging of CiB had made her very much aware of the importance of the competition and how when passing through towns and villages it was noticeable that that town or village would be in the CiB competition, the competition raises the spirits, the improvements are now sustainable. Mrs Clark thanked all present for the work they do, but not to forget that they have an object – CiB and the love of Britain's green and pleasant land which would be a lot poorer without CiB, she urged all those present to consider themselves important because of the work they do for CiB which was her priority. Mrs Clark concluded by offering her congratulations and thanks to all present and to carry on with what they were doing and doing so very well.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: - Stuart Fraser opened his report by informing the meeting of the partnership that had been forged with Newton Rigg and by working together Horticultural Courses for teaching staff would be staged in East and West Cumbria.

Cumbria County Council had made a financial contribution and would feature CiB on the Counties web site and magazine.

The Chair urged those present to invite more people into CiB and to involve more people in the work that they were doing, involvement with CiB brings communities together, brings out local expertise and improves lifestyles and the street environment.

The chair suggested that to go forward CiB needed more funding and that there were no large industries to within Cumbria to approach for sponsorship and all suggestions of financing would be most welcome. The RHS were about to deliver some educational events that would involve participation of children in the growing of flowers, vegetables and fruit and therefore all contributions of help would be gratefully received.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: - Chris circulated copies of his report and informed the meeting that regrettably, due to increased commitments elsewhere he was resigning from the position at this meeting, and it was, therefore his last report.

Income for the year was £4,889.64, and expenditure totalled £4,126.28, resulting in a surplus of £763.36. This amount added to the balance carried forward from 2006 / 2007 meant that CiB started the current year with a balance on hand of £5,608.02. Whilst that was clearly good news, some analysis was required.

61% of CiB income came from the Councils and CiB was grateful for their ongoing support.

24% CiB income was derived from donations, and thanks were due to the RHS, Cumberland Building Society, United Utilities and Bromfield Horticultural Society for their support.

The majority of CiB expenses – 75% - were on the secretarial and administrative support from Julia, for which CiB were truly grateful. Judges expenses accounted for nearly 11% of the total, he was pleased to report that the Executive Committee agreed to a 33% increase in the mileage allowance to reflect the increased costs of motoring for 2008/2009.

Chris informed the meeting that £5.49 on marketing last year - that being the cost of the website hosting.

Chris was pleased to report that Copeland Council had renewed its support and had contributed £1,000, all of the other councils have also contributed, and the chairman also negotiated additional support from the County Council linked to a county wide promotion that brought in an additional £2,000 but entrance fees were slightly down on last year at £385.

CiB also received £960.65 from the LDNPA Sustainable Development Fund, specifically for bringing the website up to date, a service provided by KCS in Keswick. Added to this had been a contribution from the RHS, an invoice to Civic Trust, a private company who took a stand at the Award Ceremony, and bank interest, which has resulted in total income the current financial year of £9,085.23.

Consequently CiB have been able to spend more on marketing, a total to date of £1,811.76.

CiB have also bought new frames for the Award Ceremony Certificates this year, and judging costs have increased from £446 to £663.

The current balance on hand is £9,107.81, which ensures the viability of the charity for at least another year.

Chris concluded his final report by thanking all members of the committee for their support and assistance during his time as Treasurer and that he would continue to be involved with "in Bloom" as secretary of Keswick in Bloom, and that he is happy to continue as an assistant judge.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS - 2008/2009

The following nominations were unanimously agreed by the members present:-

Chairman	Stuart Fraser	Nominated by Chris Knowles Seconded by Brian Hill
Vice Chairman	David Haigh	Nominated by Stuart Fraser Seconded by Chris Knowles
Treasurer	– there were no nominations for this post	
Minute Secretary	Bill Hoodless	Nominated by Stuart Fraser Seconded by Henry Wormstrup

The position of President is to remain open.

Election of Executive Committee

The following nominations were unanimously agreed by the Members present:-

Local Authority representatives

Russell Madams	Carlisle City Council
Paul Emmerson	Eden District Council
Tony Naylor	South Lakeland District Council
Nomination to follow	Allerdale District Council
Nomination to follow	Copeland Borough Council
Alan Barker	Barrow Borough Council

Other Members

Leslie Johnson	Lakes P.C.
Eileen Kirby	Judge
Henry Wormstrup	Whitehaven
Lee Hodgson	Whitehaven
Colin Cheyne	Judge
Alan Heath	Judge
Brian Hill	Judge
Mike Thornton	S.L.D.C.
Shelagh Todd	Newton Rigg
Adrian Faulkner	Bowness-on-Windermere
Kay Earp	Wetherall

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: - Alan Heath informed the meeting that the CiB stand at the Carlisle Spring Show had been a success.

It was also suggested that the Parish Councils be approached for funding.

Windermere Air Show and Windermere-on-Water could be venues for a CiB stand.

In answer to a question on provision of signs for winners – all signage had to be approved by the Highway Authority and it might be an area for development.

That Chris be given a vote of thanks and would be sent a letter of thanks for all his work as Treasurer. The Minute Secretary was also given a vote of thanks.

The nomination of new judges was to be taken up by the Executive committee and the Competition- Sub committee.

A vote of thanks was given to Peter Howarth for who was standing down as the CiB President and committee member in recognition to Peter for his years of dedication and commitment to CiB and all the hard work with school gardens, the school painting competition. The Chair offered his heartfelt thanks to Peter and wished him well for the future.

A vote of thanks was given to June and Donald Walker for years of dedication and commitment the school painting competition.

A proposal from Colin Cheyne that Peter Howarth be elected as Patron was carried.

CiB Patron Olive Clark proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Knowles and Stuart Fraser in recognition of their hard work and commitment to CiB.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm