

## AMBLESIDE CIVIC TRUST

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Ambleside Library

**Present:** Steve Dickinson (SD – Chair), Jane Beenstock (JB), Mike Green (MG), Rose Lord (RL), Vicky Bracegirdle (VB)

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Luke Steer (LS)

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The draft minutes were approved as a true record. SD expressed thanks to MG for having taken the minutes.

### **3. Matters arising from 16<sup>th</sup> May meeting**

2.1 Plaques (item 12)

2.2 Email received by JB (item 5)

2.3 Ambleside Sports

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

3.1 Subscriptions & Balances - as of 20<sup>th</sup> June we have a balance of £903 in Barclays, £3,019 with Skipton BS and £22 in cash (from sale of heritage trail leaflets). MG reported that various cheques presented by SD have cleared.

3.2 Signatories for the Barclays account – MG confirmed that SD is now an account signatory.

SD has some claims to submit to MG later.

### **5. Correspondence received**

Communication from University of Cumbria – SD had received a response to ACT's letter from the Vice Chancellor regarding Scale How. Although the letter does not address all of the Trust's concerns, the letter agrees that the building is significant, advises that the university is exploring opportunities to refurbish the building and that the campus will feature strongly in the University's new strategic plan which is to be formally launched in September 2017. All agreed that it is important to obtain a copy of the strategic plan once available.

Communication from Richard Leafe of the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) regarding Rothay Park – letter was in response to Trust's letter regarding trees within the Park and the need for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on certain

trees. The LDNPA letter acknowledged that construction of the playground had resulted in development within the root protection area of mature trees however no further action was to be taken against SLDC for reasons as set out in the letter. All agreed that SD pass copy of letter to LS and that further action be discussed at next ACT meeting. **Action: SD.**

JB reported on item of correspondence received from a resident in response to an ACT article which appeared in the parish magazine. The letter raised an issue regarding foliage spilling out from garden onto pavement in area referenced in letter. Discussion took place about the area referenced in the letter with JB commenting that the area is of pleasing appearance but that additional foliage could potentially obstruct some movement, such as buggies. All agreed that JB send copy of letter to MG. **MG to visit said area.**

## **6. Environmental Survey**

RK and JB are gearing up for the next briefing session this coming Thursday evening, 22<sup>nd</sup> June. St Mary's Lane will be used as the test/example area for the briefing session. All agreed that the first briefing session had gone well with positive feedback received by MG regarding RL's presentation.

JB confirmed that a piece regarding the survey will feature in this Thursday's Westmorland Gazette. Articles had featured in Ambleside Life and in the Parish Magazine.

JB advised that with regard to the volume of survey locations just under a half are already covered. RL advised that some of the remaining locations could be grouped together to make fewer, combined areas. SD suggested that a review of locations be undertaken in July and if need be a final call for volunteers be undertaken then.

JB has started drafting the report template for findings to be slotted into. JB and RL advised that they are both happy with progress so far. SD advised that he has published information regarding the survey via ACT's twitter feed. RL will publish information via Love Ambleside too.

## **7. Planning Applications**

Lendor on North Road, in heart of conservation area – SD reported that an application had been submitted earlier this year re. this property. There had been objections to this, including from ACT. SD circulated copies of site photos and elevations to committee members which have been submitted for this second application, which is for a dormer extension. It was agreed that the plans for development are out of scale against the existing building. The committee were concerned about the window lines, the need to take account of neighbouring listed buildings and the location within the conservation area.

SD and RL to put together some wording for this. The will of the meeting is that the plans be objected to. **Action: SD/RL.**

Planning rota – SD confirmed that Maureen will be able to work on applications with SD up to 28<sup>th</sup> June. SD will rejig the rest of the rota on a Monday to Monday basis. JB and MG asked it be noted when they will be unavailable.

## **8. The Armitt Trust and ACT**

SD reported on conversation with Deborah Walsh of the Armitt Trust regarding future joint working of the Armitt and ACT, including the idea of a touring exhibition about Ambleside to inform people about the work of both organisations. Discussion took place about who such an exhibition would be aimed at, e.g. visitors, local people, as well as how it could be extended to build in or highlight local partnerships, and potentially incorporate aspects from the environmental survey. (RL mentioned very good website Ambleside-history – RL to send hyperlink to committee members.)

All agreed that SD to continue discussions with Deborah Walsh regarding future working of the Armitt and ACT, with potential for Deborah to be invited to a future committee meeting. **Action: SD.**

SD reported on the Low Nook building that Deborah had mentioned during their discussion, which is currently used a business hub. The building contains a 17<sup>th</sup> century staircase and Arts and Crafts Movement features. SD/DW discussion had covered ideas on the part of the Armitt of moving some operations from Low Nook to Scale How which would free up Low Nook. MG will investigate whether the Armitt have previously looked into this. SD to ascertain further detail around current thinking on this from Deborah. **Action: SD/MG.**

Land on Nook Lane - MG reported that the grass on the section of Nook Lane between the cottages and the Charlotte Mason building is beginning to recover. The University had agreed to prevent further parking on this land and had advised that they would erect a barrier of stones. MG had suggested that the University clean up the area. So far no work has been undertaken but progress has at least been made with regard to no car parking on this section of land.

## **9. Stockghyll Park – plan, census**

Stockghyll Park Plan - LS had put together a summary document regarding the woodland and trees. SD expressed his thanks for the document which he had confirmed to LS would be tabled at this meeting.

All agreed that the document is an excellent starting point. SD would like to add some archaeological detail to the document. MG reported on conversation he had had with Eleanor Kingston (LDNPA archaeologist) regarding historical records referencing mills in the area. It was noted that such records need to be treated with some caution due to the level of detail (or the lack of this) contained within them. In light of

this, it was agreed a new survey be carried out of the Park to include a physical survey, alongside desktop survey using historical records. RL – as forestry courses are run here could this be an opportunity for work with the university to arrange student placements, which in turn would tie in with ACT's objectives. Timing would be crucial due to academic year timings.

All agreed that we produce a brief report with clear objectives for ACT but also with a clear view to promoting collaborative working with SLDC and others.

SD to provide some additional archaeological detail to go into the report for presentation and sign off at the next meeting. **Action: SD.**

Stockghyll Census - With regard to wider work in this field, MG reported on the idea of undertaking a census. Proposed that for one Sunday in July a census be undertaken to capture data around people walking up Stockghyll Lane. Census to be undertaken by people taking it in turns in pairs between 9am and 6-7pm. MG to circulate his proposal to the group and group will agree on an uncomplicated form for completion. **Action: MG.**

## **10. Himalayan balsam**

MG reported on ongoing extensive work by Nigel Riley with regard to this. Himalayan Balsam on University land had been reported to the Estates department but to date no action has been taken. There are also areas of concern near Hayes. Discussion took place about the extent to which ACT be involved in this area. MG to write to University again regarding growth on their land. This to take place before any communication be sent by SD to the University and Hayes. **Action: MG/SD.**

## **11. Committee membership**

SD expressed thanks to VB for taking today's minutes. All to continue to promote work of ACT with a view to increasing growth of the committee.

## **12. Any other business**

Plaques – proposal for plaque for the artist Josefina de Vasconcellos. MG had also received a suggestion for a plaque for Woodrow Wilson who had reportedly stayed at a property under Loughrigg for a period of 4 months. MG to respond to letter to request proof/authentication of this stay and ask them to confirm which parish the property is located within. MG to present list of proposed plaques at next ACT meeting. SD proposed that ACT fund one plaque and sponsorship be sought for others. **Action: MG.**

Ambleside Sports Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July – last year SD and RL had spent the day there promoting the work of ACT. Despite the trials of the weather at least year's event it was felt the fee of £50 to attend this year's event would be funds well spent in continued promotion of the work of ACT. SD is happy to look after the stand. **Action:SD.**

ACT website – RL reported on issues with broken hyperlinks which need to be addressed. RL and JB to put together a communication containing details of the updates required to the website and send to Paul for action. RL suggested that having photographs of committee members could be beneficial to promote positive, non-faceless image of the group. **Action: RL/JB.**

### **13. Date and time of next meeting**

7.15pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at Ambleside Library.