

For approval at the 2018 AGM

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of Ambleside Civic Trust held
on Friday 10th November at The Percival Lecture Theatre,
University of Cumbria Ambleside Campus

Present: The Chairman, Steve Dickinson, current Committee members and around 35 members

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and gave a brief introduction.

1.1 Apologies for absence

Tim Brown

1.2 Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting

The minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed by Mike Green.
Seconded by Tony Heywood.

1.3 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report covered the following:

- Acknowledgement of the date clash of this meeting with that of the AGM of the Oral History Society.
- Although no refreshments are being provided at this AGM, there are plans for a Ceilidh in the early part of 2018.
- Thanks were expressed to the Committee for their work over the past year and to the membership and to the town for their ongoing support.
- The taking on of the old Kelsick Grammar School by Impact International. Building work is ongoing, using local tradespeople.
- The opening of William Hill - objection to the planning application had been made by the Trust.
- Production of the Trust's Guiding Principles for Development – anticipation that these will feature heavily over the coming year.
- Ambleside benches – thanks were expressed to Mike Green for production of online map.
- Work undertaken during the past year on the Environmental Survey and Stockghyll Park report – both covered in detail later in the meeting.

1.4 Financial Report

The Treasurer, Mike Green, presented the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2017 as examined and approved by Saint & Co. The Treasurer commented on the following:

- No major expenditure took place in 2016/17 compared with 2015/16. The net result is a surplus of £517.50 compared with deficit in 2015/16.
- 2016/17 income in the form of membership has reduced a little. A request was made for any members who have yet to renew to please see the Treasurer.
- The shortage of Committee members has been felt, with the Chairman having undertaken the roles of both Chairman and Membership Secretary over the past year. Having a Membership Secretary and a membership drive over the coming year would be of benefit.
- Gift Aid – some Gift Aid forms may have gone astray therefore the Trust may contact members asking for re-completion of Gift Aid forms.
- Income from the sale of Heritage Trail leaflets has increased following a significant push in sales over the past year.
- Interest received has reduced as anticipated.
- Increases have been seen in some areas of expenditure such as printing.
- The year ended with a balance of £3,905.29 including £3,029.31 with Skipton Building Society and £875.98 in the current account.
- Once again, Saint & Co had kindly examined the account gratis. The Treasurer had expressed grateful thanks on behalf of the Trust for this.

The accounts were approved – proposed by Christine Riley, seconded by Nigel Riley.

1.5 Election of Officers

As no nominations for posts, including any vacant posts, were received, the approval of the current Committee members to continue in post was proposed by Tony Heywood and seconded by Peter Evans.

The Treasurer thanked the Chairman for his work over the coming year. The meeting agreed to approve Steve Dickinson to continue in post, proposed by Tony Heywood and seconded by Jonathan Moffett.

2.1 Civic Trust Awards and Plaques

Awards - Certificates of Commendation are to be awarded to the following for consistently high quality standards in shopfront/fittings:

- J. F. Martin & Co - hardware store
- The Apple Pie Café and Bakery
- Golden Rule - public house
- The Ambleside Toy Shop

Plaques – 34 voting forms had been received at the time of the vote count with the following receiving the most votes: The artist **Alfred Heaton Cooper** and the artist **Josafina de Vasconcellos** – 16 votes each. **Dr John Lund C.B.E.** and **Harriet Martineau** - 15 votes each.

As voting has indicated joint tied place for the third plaque, it was agreed that the Committee will review the results at the next meeting.

A query was raised about the costs of plaques and whether the cost factors in possible planning permission required. It was agreed that these issues will be reviewed and addressed by the Committee.

2.2 Civic Trust 2017 Ambleside Environmental Survey

A presentation was given by Rose Lord and Jane Beenstock. This included the following:

- An overview of the survey carried out in Summer 2017
- Thanks expressed to those who took part in the survey.
- An overview of the results including the top 10 positive features and top 10 negative features identified through the survey.
- Discussion around next steps including proposal to lobby for an article 4 directive in the conservation area, further detailed survey work to be undertaken, self-guided tours and interpretation boards.

Following the presentation discussion took place around the following:

- Fabric of windows (wood versus plastic) including the costs and upkeep involved.
- The lack of or limits to grants which are available for people to apply for to enable traditional materials/methods to be used.

- Proposal for an incentive schemes to encourage and support use of traditional materials/methods.
- The importance of confirming which body is responsible for particular items or areas, e.g. potholes.

2.3 Civic Trust 2017 Stockghyll Park Report and Project

The Chairman gave an overview of the full report (which runs to 24 pages). Requests for a full copy of the report can be made to the Chairman or to other Committee members.

The report contains sections covering the following:

- The condition of the Park entrances
- The condition of the woodland
- The condition of the paths
- The archaeology contained within the park
- The condition of seating and picnic tables
- The condition of viewing platforms and access to them

The report concludes with 4 short term ambitions.

Following the presentation, discussion took place about the following:

- The laying aside of £2,000 per year by the Parish Council each year – funds are building up year by year but moving things forward has been problematic. The Parish Councillors present at this meeting welcomed the report.
- South Lakeland District Council have responded positively to this report and it is therefore hoped that a way forward can be found to resolve issues identified through the report.

2.4 Any other business/questions

There being no other business, following a short break the Chairman welcomed the guest speaker Andy Lowe.

3 Guest Speaker: Andy Lowe

Andy Lowe gave an interesting and informative talk about 500 years of architecture in the Lakes.