

**Ambleside Civic Trust**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, 21st February 2018**

Present: Steve Dickinson (Chairman, SD), Mike Green (Treasurer, MG), David Stothard (DS), Terry Clark (TC), Jane Beenstock (JB), Luke Steer (LS).

Apologies for absence: Received from Tim Brown and Rose Lord.

### **1. Minutes of the meeting of 16th January 2018**

These were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

MG noted that ACT was currently a member of three organisations with annual renewals due; *Friends of the Lake District* (£30 p.a.), the *Armitt Trust* (£25 p.a.; giving ACT members free access to the Museum and its library), and the *North-West Association of Civic Trusts* (£25 p.a.) There was a discussion about these, in particular regard to renewing membership of the NWACT, in respect of correspondence received by SD from Cockermouth and District Civic Trust proposing an association of Civic Trusts in Cumbria. It was decided to defer further discussion about this to a later point (**Action:SD**).

MG reported that ACT had received £393 in memberships compared with £723 at a similar point in 2017. TC noted action in regard to membership reminders (see item 8, below).

### **3. Trusteeship**

A copy of ACT's current Constitution and Rules had been circulated to all Exec. Committee members prior to the meeting, and SD reminded those present that, according to the Charity Commission, all Exec. Committee members were regarded as Charitable Trustees. There was a discussion about this, in particular regard to ACT's unincorporated charitable association status, making Trustees individually liable in respect to decisions taken over ACT's finances.

SD noted that, in regard to future projects where it might wish to employ consultants, or manage large sums of funding, it might be considered advantageous for ACT to consider changing its status to that of a charitable incorporated association, to give (for example), its Trustees more protection. He emphasised that it would be vital to consult ACT's membership, and, if necessary, hold a Special General Meeting, if this course of action was considered appropriate. There was a discussion about this, with reference to comparable organisations (LS noted, for example, The Ancient Tree Forum), and the importance of gaining independent advice.

### **4. Planning Matters**

DS tabled a list of applications to date. There was a discussion about application 7/2018/5075 (Barn at Grove Farm, Stockghyll Lane); a proposal to change an agricultural building to a walkers' café. DS noted that this was in an area of permitted development. The discussion about this centred on grounds that would be relevant for refusal, such as traffic issues.

There were queries about the planning rota and dates for ACT application checkers synced with the LDNPA applications website. DS to provide a new rota with synchronisation. (**Action: DS**).

### **5. Environmental Survey**

JB reported on a response to the survey that she had received from Andrew Hewitt of Ambleside Together. AT were having difficulty attracting new members, and were not running a Festival of the Fells in 2018. Andrew was to pass on the ACT ES report to the existing Ambleside Together members, and to get back to JB about a meeting. In regard to the Article 4 Direction, LS suggested writing to the Chairman of the LDNPA.

There would be a report on further progress at the next meeting (**Action: JB/RL**).

## 6. Stockghyll Park Project

SD outlined how he envisaged the SPP progressing, in accordance with the SP Report short-term objectives and recommendations tabled at the 2017 ACT AGM.

He emphasised that there should be, according to that report; (1), a Feasibility Study, (to include a comprehensive Park survey and future management recommendations), and (2), a public outreach, exhibition and media project. It was considered, (in accordance with Exec. Committee minutes 18 July 2017, item 8), that these could form suitable objectives for Heritage Lottery and other funding. SD noted that completion of the feasibility study was the necessary precursor to future management, renovation and conservation work in the Park. SD had requested quotations from five firms for the baseline topographic/infrastructure and tree survey.

There was a discussion about how to progress the SP public outreach project. Suggestions had been received that included collating and presenting memories of local use of the Park, and linking the community heritage of mills along the banks of Stock Beck into the 'missing links' of mill sites further up the Beck and Ghyll in the Park.

It was agreed, (proposed by MG, seconded by DS), that a working group be set up to consider and facilitate further SPP work and fundraising for it (**Action: SD**).

There was a query in regard to Impact International, (owners and renovators of the Kelsick Grammar School site), and a report that had appeared in the Westmorland Gazette about their wanting to help with the Parish Council's ambitions for work in SP. It was noted that this was in the context, (as reported in the local press), of Impact wishing to propose alterations to their Kelsick site, including extensions and the provision of a walkers' café.

## 7. Ceilidh

SD noted that he had booked the Parish Centre for the evening of Friday April 6th for the ceilidh promised in ACT's November 2017 newsletter, and at the ACT 2017 AGM. He was to prepare a programme, including hiring a band and the provision of refreshments, and a budget for this, in accordance with his 2007-16 experience of event management (**Action: SD**). JB queried whether this was in accordance with ACT's charitable objectives. SD noted the Trust's Constitution Item 3 (Powers), c ; *'To promote and assist activities throughout the area of benefit in furtherance of the cultural and artistic life of the inhabitants thereof'*.

## 8. Membership

TC reported on her activities to date, including sending a reminder letter out to members who had not yet renewed their memberships. MG noted that, rather than reminding people who had not renewed on a monthly basis, as ACT memberships were renewed on an annual basis, reminders needed to go out to all who had not yet renewed (**Action: TC**).

TC also noted that she was to begin to approach potential and actual corporate (business) members for renewal and support.

It was also suggested that general membership promotion leaflets be produced, and that the tradition of having ACT Area Representatives be revived (these were members who volunteered to go around specific area of Ambleside to collect memberships and deliver newsletters).

TC suggested that a childrens' Heritage Trail was a good project for consideration.

### **9. Plaques**

Action was being taken on the plaques in accordance with Exec. Committee November 21 2017 item 9.

### **10. AOB / Next meeting**

Tuesday 20th March, 7.15pm, Community Room downstairs at Ambleside Library.