

For Approval at the 2017 AGM

**Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of Ambleside Civic Trust
held on Friday 4th November 2016 at the Kelsick Centre, Ambleside**

Present: Jonathan Moffett (Chairman) and around 40 members.

1. Apologies

Andy Carling, Mike Green, Maureen Watson.

2. Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting

The minutes were approved as a true record by Leslie Johnson (proposed) and Tim Brown (seconded).

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman was pleased to welcome new members to the Trust but expressed sadness at losing two members. Andy Carling has resigned as he does not feel able to continue due to ill health and Maureen Watson has resigned following service lasting more than 20 years. Membership has declined a little but it is hoped that it will improve as we become more active again.

We have made substantial contributions towards the environment of Ambleside. We have contributed towards the improvement of the footpath from Waterhead to Skelghyll Woods and the panorama plaque of the fells at Waterhead. We have also made a financial contribution of £1,000 to the Armitage Museum towards flood protection.

Other activities include:

- Encouraging the Highways Department to conserve the cobbles in the Conservation area.
- Surveying the provision of benches
- Looking at the possibility of Blue Plaques
- Tidying the steps above Lake Road and between Nook Lane and Belle Vue Lane; and controlling the invasive Japanese Knotweed in Clappersgate.
- For the future, we have noted the need to strengthen the resolve of Hayes and SLDC in dealing with Himalayan Balsam when the season starts next June.

We have continued to consider planning applications.

There has been no further news about three potential planning applications. :

- A formal application to convert the old Kelsick Grammar School into a hotel has not yet been submitted.
- There has been no further news regarding the Premier Inn proposal to build on the flood plain on Borrans Road.
- We are awaiting information on a Windermere Aquatic proposal to develop their underused site south of Waterhead.

There is likely to be further news or progress on these over the coming year.

4. Financial Report

The Treasurer, Mike Green, presented the accounts for the year ending 30 September 2016 as examined and approved by Saint & Co. In line with the committee's policy to avoid building a large balance but rather to use funds for the benefit of Ambleside, three payments were made during the year: £912 for a slate panorama at Waterhead, a contribution of £500 towards

improvement of the path from Waterhead to Skelghyll Woods and a grant of £1,000 to the Armitt Museum to increase resilience to flooding.

Regular income (mainly subscriptions, donations, sales of Heritage Trail leaflets and Gift Aid refund) shows a surplus of £217 over regular expenditure (mainly meeting expenses, newsletters and insurance). Both income and expenditure decreased a little on the previous year. The net effect has been to reduce our balance at the end of the year by £2,195 to £3,388.

Following a brief discussion about discretionary payments, the Chairman invited members to put forward suggestions to the committee at any time.

The meeting unanimously agreed to approve the accounts.

5. Election of Officers & Committee

The Chairman confirmed the nominations which had been received as follows.

- **Chairman.** Nomination: Steve Dickinson
- **Vice-chairman.** No nominations
- **Honorary Secretary.** No nominations
- **Honorary Treasurer.** Nomination: Mike Green
- **Committee Members** (up to 12). Nominations: Jane Beenstock, Tim Brown, Rose Lord, Jonathan Moffett, Luke Steer.

There were no further nominations received from the floor. As there were no further nominations and the nominations above were not contested, the meeting unanimously agreed to approve the nominations. Proposed by Tony Heywood. Seconded by Brian James.

6. New Chairman's Remarks

Steve Dickinson expressed his thanks to all for their support. He talked about the momentum of the Trust and about the meaning of the word "civic" being about community, commenting that the Ambleside community is passionate about what happens here.

7. Ambleside Civic Trust Awards

The Leslie Johnson Trophy was awarded to Mark Pickersgill for his floral wall. The trophy was presented by Leslie Johnson.

A certificate of commendation was awarded to Thomas Bell Pharmacy for their traditional apothecary's window display. The certificate was presented by the Chairman, Steve Dickinson.

8. Any other business

One member expressed their view that Ambleside be referred to as a town, rather than a village.

The same member expressed concern about the amount of litter in Ambleside and asked that consideration be given to Trust funds being put towards additional litter cleaning.

There being no further business, the formal meeting closed at 8.10pm.

After a short break for refreshments, the Chairman introduced the speaker, Steve Ratcliffe, Director of Sustainable Development at the Lake District National Park Authority. Steve gave an interesting and informative talk about the bid for World Heritage Status for the Lake District. Several questions were asked and various issues were raised.

The Chairman thanked Steve Ratcliffe for his interesting and informative talk.