

AMBLESIDE CIVIC TRUST

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15th November 2016 at Ambleside Library

Present: Steve Dickinson (SD - Chair), Jane Beenstock (JB), Tim Brown (TB), Mike Green (MG)
Jonathan Moffett (JM), Luke Steer (LS).

Apologies: Rose Lord (RL).

1. Minutes of the last meeting:

The Minutes were approved as a true record after the following corrections:

- 2.5 For "Park Authority" read "County Council"
- At the end of 7.3 add "is subject to an appeal".

2. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting :

2.1. Blue Plaques

TB has discussed this with Deborah Walsh, who believes that there is no one suitable. It was agreed to take no further action.

2.2. Scale How

Action: TB to investigate its future.

2.3. Thirlmere Aqueduct Gate.

(9.1 of previous meeting's Minutes). Carried forward.

Action: RL to investigate

2.4. 50th Anniversary of Conservation Areas

(9.2 of previous meeting's Minutes). Carried forward.

Action: RL to suggest ways of participating

3. November 2016 AGM

3.1. Draft Minutes

These are to be put on the web site as tabled at this meeting, after minor alterations.

3.2. Changes to Account Signatories and Charity Commission Trusteeship Notification

It was resolved that:

- Steve Dickinson be added to the authorised signatories on the Barclays current account. The existing signatories to remain.
- Steve Dickinson to replace Jonathan Moffett as an authorised signatory on the Skipton BS account. This will involve closing the existing account and opening a new one.
- Steve Dickinson to be added to the Charity Commission Trustees for ACT. The existing trustees (MG & JM) to remain.

Action: MG to coordinate these changes

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1. Accounts for 2015/6

Accounts for 2015/6 were examined and approved by Saint & Co and presented to the AGM. The amounts given to the Armit Library and Museum in recent years were questioned at the AGM. The

questioner (and all) were invited to send the committee any proposals they had for ACT financial support.

4.2. Subscriptions & balances

To date we have received £446 in subscriptions.

As of 15 November we have a balance of £783 in Barclays, £3019 (as ever) with Skipton BS and £15 cash for sale of Heritage Trail leaflets to the Hub.

4.3. Bank Signatories and Trustees

Following the committee elections we need to review bank signatories and trustees. Currently they are:

- Barclays: Tim Brown, Mike Green, Jonathan Moffett
- Skipton: Mike Green, Jonathan Moffett
- Trustees: Mike Green, Jonathan Moffett

(See item 3.2, above).

4.4. Gift Aid

MG plans to make the request for return of Gift Aid from HMRC for which he needs the list of donations in 2015/6 (includes gift-aided subscriptions).

Action: SD & JM to provide this information

5. Correspondence

5.1. Plastic Windows

Betty Burton (Church St & IoM) has written about the planning authority's inconsistent policies about plastic windows in the Conservation Area.

Action: SD to follow up and possibly contact the planning authority

6. Membership Secretary Report

Action: SD to produce a summary of the situation

Action: SD to produce membership cards

7. Executive Committee Matters

7.1. Secretary and Membership Secretary Positions

SD will carry on until a new Membership Secretary is found. JM agreed to carry out Secretary's duties, at least for the moment.

7.2. Boosting Committee membership

It was suggested that the University and/or the Primary School might be a source of people who are interested in helping our work.

Action: MG to follow up

8. Proposed Projects

8.1. Membership Drive

Discussion of this was postponed.

8.2. Benches Survey

MG reported on his survey during this autumn. Full details are to be found in Appendix 1.

He identified 116 benches in the Ambleside area and classified them according to their condition:

- 11 in a Poor state;
- 41 in a Moderate state;
- 39 in a Good state;
- 25 new Grafton benches – the new standard of Ambleside Parish Council.

The following possible actions were identified:

- Pass this information to the Parish Council;
- Seek funds for new or repair of benches;
- Identify gaps in the coverage;
- Raise the profile of the benches to any relatives who have funded a bench.

Action: MG to give a draft proposal to SD

8.3. Environmental Survey

JB and RL were congratulated on their draft proposal for action. There was some discussion of it, with emphasis being placed on it being feasible and resulting in practical improvements.

Action: JB & RL to refine the proposal

8.4. Stockghyll Park

SD introduced the discussion, pointing out the very poor state of one of Ambleside's most attractive features. It was agreed that priority should be given to getting it improved. It was noted that the situation was complicated by the current vacuum of ownership, and the uncertainty over the Springbourne Properties proposals to develop the Kelsick Grammar School site.

Action: LS to prepare notes

9. Planning Matters

9.1. Strategy

SD proposed that there should be a strategy for assessing and responding to forthcoming planning matters and proposals, including any major hotel and other developments. It was agreed that ACT should have a policy on the future development of Ambleside.

Action: SD to draft a Policy

9.2. Planning Applications

No objection was made to:

- 7/2016/5709 Low Grove
- 7/2016/5703 Dunaluinn
- 7/2016/5671 The Retreat
- 7/2016/5716 Queen's Cottage: no objection ,but we would have preferred wooden frames

There were objections to:

- 7/2016/5662 Littlegarth: objection on the following grounds:
Excessive height
No enhancement to the present building.
- 7/2016/5674 Compston Street development. Objection on the following grounds:
Overdevelopment of the site
Harmful to neighbouring residents
Absence of parking provision in an already-crowded town centre.
Excessive height of the hostel.

The planning inspections rota runs out at the end of this year.

Action: JM to draft a new rota

10. Any Other Business

10.1. ACT online archive

JM suggested that an online archive would be a convenient way of preserving our records.

Action: JM to develop a proposal

10.2. Christmas meal - 9 Dec. 7.00pm, Regent Hotel, Waterhead

Action: MG to coordinate

10.3. Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed that there will be no committee meeting in December. Committee meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Action: SD to book next year's meeting rooms at Ambleside Library

It was agreed that the next AGM will be on Friday 3 November 2017 December.

Action: JM to book Kelsick Centre

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

7:15pm on Tuesday 17 January 2017 at Ambleside Library.

Appendix 1 Benches Survey

In autumn 2016 Ambleside Civic Trust carried out a survey of the benches in Ambleside, noting the position, condition and the person or body to whom each is commemorated.

The area covered is from Waterhead in the south to St Anne's church in the north, from Under Loughrigg in the west to the top of Stockghyll Falls in the east. We only included benches in areas open to the public.

We classified their condition as follows (the number in each category is given):

- Poor (P or purple symbol - 11) meaning in need of significant attention such as replacing rotting or broken wood or possibly complete replacement;
- Moderate (M or orange symbol - 41) meaning some attention is needed such as a clean down and retreatment of the wood;
- Good (G or green symbol – 39) meaning no attention is needed;
- New Grafton benches (N or blue symbol - 25) meaning this is the new, standard Ambleside Parish Council bench.

We found 116 benches in total. Each has been given an identifying number. A number of picnic benches/ tables have not been included; these are mostly found in White Platts, Rothay Park and Stockghyll Park.