

AMBLESIDE CIVIC TRUST

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2017 at Ambleside Library

Present: Steve Dickinson (SD - Chair), Jane Beenstock (JB), Mike Green (MG), Luke Steer (LS).

Apologies: Tim Brown (TB), Jonathan Moffett (JM), Rose Lord (RL). All sent in email comments that are included as appropriate.

1. Minutes of the last meeting:

The Minutes were approved as a true record after correction of 8.2 (Action: SD) and 12.1 (deletion of "was").

2. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting :

2.1. Scale How

Carried forward

Action: TB to investigate its future

2.2. Thirlmere Aqueduct Gate

RL reported that Ellergreen Hydro said that the sandstone gatepost was broken before they started work. She is investigating further.

Action: RL to continue to investigate

2.3. Changes to Bank Account Signatories

In progress.

Action: SD to continue

2.4. Boosting Committee membership

JM has put up a poster in the Parish Centre and has also spoken with the Presidents of Ambleside and Ambleside Kirkstone Rotary Clubs. The latter has suggested a presentation at one of their meetings. The environmental audit and Himalayan Balsam bashing time will also be used as recruitment opportunities.

Action: JM to continue contacts with Rotary Clubs

2.5. Stockghyll Park

Carried forward.

Action: LS to prepare notes

2.6. ACT online archive

Complete.

2.7. Dog Excrement bags

Deferred.

Action: SD to take up with SDLC

2.8. Strategic Statement

Deferred.

Action: SD to redraft

3. Secretary's Report

3.1. The Secretary reported by email that Staveley Historical Society have asked if they can have a tour of Ambleside at 7pm on Tuesday 7 May. JM, Jennifer M and MG agreed to be guides and £1 will be charged per person for a copy of the ACT Guide.

Action: JM to organise

3.2. Simon Moorhead, Treasurer NWACTS has emailed to make contact with our Chairman.

Action: SD to make contact

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1. Subscriptions & balances

As of 21 February we have a balance of £938 in Barclays and £3019 with Skipton BS.

4.2. Gift Aid

The Gift Aid claim for 2015/6 has now been resubmitted.

4.3. Annual Subscriptions

The committee approved payment of annual subscriptions to Friends of the Armit (€25), Friends of the Lake District (€30) and NW Association of Civic Trusts (€25).

5. Membership Secretary's Report

SD reported more membership fees have been received but few from corporate members. He will make further contact. Membership cards are now available and are being distributed.

6. Planning Applications

JM has produced an updated version of the rota.

Several committee members have reported that the present system of collecting applications from the Parish Office does not work well. In particular the process can leave little time for formulating responses and collecting opinions of other members. Yet the applications are on the LDNPA web site for several weeks before we receive paper copies. MG (with SD as deputy) agreed to prepare a weekly electronic list of applications and distribute them to members on a trial basis. It was recognised that not all members would be able to use this approach.

Action: MG

7. Cobbles

SD reported that has contacted the Westmorland Gazette and that it will be publishing a letter from SD on behalf of ACT about the recent planning application for a betting shop in the conservation area. He will follow up on the issue of cobbles for a later issue of the Gazette.

Action: SD

8. Blue Plaques

MG has started to make a record of these, with photos, on Google Maps. It is not clear exactly how to define a plaque and not all of those being included are "blue". JB and RL have details on applying for Blue Plaques and there will be a further discussion at the next meeting.

9. Environmental Survey

It was agreed that this should be launched in conjunction with the 50th anniversary Conservation Area celebrations.

There was a wide ranging discussion of items that might be included such as notable trees, views, buildings for future plaques, etc, that could be the subject of future leaflets or apps for visitors. The

condition of Stockghyll Park was also discussed and the inadequate number of litter bins and dog excrement bins in the village.

Action: JB and RL to report back at next meeting

10. Country Life / Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean

It was agreed that we do not currently have enough effort to take part in this activity.

11. University of Cumbria Liaison Committee meeting 6 March

MG will attend and will ask for an update on the sale of Hilltop and the future of Scale How.

There has been a report that students continue to climb over the private wall between Millan's Park and Rydal Road Car Park, causing damage.

Action: MG

12. Any Other Business

12.1. Rothay Park

It was noted that work is in progress to create a new play area. LS has asked LDNPA for information on the tree work that is part of this activity.

Action: LS to report back

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

7:15pm on Tuesday 21 March 2017 at Ambleside Library.