

AMBLESIDE CIVIC TRUST

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th July 2017 at Ambleside Library

Present: Steve Dickinson (SD - Chair), Mike Green (MG - Treasurer), Tim Brown (TB), Luke Steer (LS).

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Jane Beenstock and Rose Lord.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (20 June)

These were accepted with a few amendments, to be circulated prior to the August meeting for a final check.

3. Matters arising from the 20th June meeting

Item 5: **Foliage.** The situation regarding landowners' responsibilities for foliage spilling out from gardens onto pavements/the roadway was clarified, and potential courses of action identified.

Item 5: **Rothay Park.** LS explained the history of recent issues with threats to specific trees and their root systems in the Park. SD to re-send Richard Leafe's letter to LS for comment before replying to Richard Leafe. **Action: SD.** LS offered to put a synopsis regarding the state of Rothay Park's trees together for the committee. **Action: LS.**

Item 12: **Ambleside Sports.** It was agreed, following interim acceptance at the 20 June meeting, that £50.00 be spent on an ACT stand at Ambleside Sports on July 27th (proposed TB, seconded LS).

4. Planning applications

Lendor (North Road) 7/2017/5352. The agreement of the committee (on June 20th) that the second Lendor application be objected to had been enacted by SD.

Land off Maclver Lane 4 House Development 7/2017/5414. It was agreed that this application be objected to, on the principal grounds that the outline decision in 2014 stated that the original submission and outline consent for 3 x 3 bedroom homes (7/2014/5432) met the local affordable housing need, and the 2017 application does not. It was also noted that a 4 x 4 bed development is an overdevelopment of the plot. **Action: SD.**

The old Kelsick Grammar School site, off Stock Lane. Although no planning application/s for this site had been registered by the LDNPA, the meeting noted that renovation work on the old school buildings was under way, and that some trees on the grounds to the west of the site had been felled. The active badger sett at the north end of the property was being monitored (SD). It was understood that a local educational and training company (Impact International), who also own two local hotels, were behind the works. It was agreed that the renovations and ground works be monitored, and that the LDNPA be alerted regarding the threat to the largest and oldest trees on site (possible TPO?)

Action: SD.

5. Correspondence

The meeting was updated in regard to the University of Cumbria's responses, (inc. a letter from the Vice Chancellor), to being alerted about Himalayan Balsam (HB) growing on University property, and in regard to Hayes Garden World's similar situation (with HB growth also on land owned by Sainsbury's adjacent to Hayes). The role of ACT in respect of action on local HB proliferation was queried. It was acknowledged that a local individual's action to try and raise awareness of this issue with landowners, and to deal with HB directly, was effective. The individual concerned would be contacted by the Chairman to ascertain how successful (or otherwise) he considered the 2017 'campaign' was, and how ACT

might help moving forward. It was also considered that a map showing HB in the town would be very useful **Action: SD.**

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer stated that ACT had £839.00 in Barclays and £3019 in Skipton BS. £47.00 had been received from the sale of Heritage Trail (HT) leaflets. 450 HT leaflets had been sold over the past 12 months, and there were 900 left.

7. Environmental Survey

It was understood, following the success of the two training/briefing events, that the survey was now progressing.

8. Stockghyll Park Census and the Stockghyll Park report

MG reported on the Census he had organised; carried out by ACT members and local residents on Sunday 2 July. The recording had occurred over a 10 hour (9am-7pm) period, with 479 people going up Stock Lane, and 397 coming down (it was acknowledged that the discrepancy (OED: 'difference, inconsistency') was down to the 'Wansfell Effect'). In total there were 876 pedestrian movements, with 424 people (90%) entering the Park at the lower gate (where the census was set up). In addition, there were 77 vehicles recorded going up, and 74 coming down, Stock Lane. MG offered to organise a second census on Monday 31st July. This was welcomed by the committee.

There followed a discussion about Stockghyll Park, its decayed infrastructure and tree issues, and the possibility of utilising LS's report, (re. 20 June meeting item 9), with additions regarding archaeological sites, (known and suspected), to enable the local community, institutions and organisations to collaborate on survey and/or remedial action. It was considered that this would be a suitable objective, should ACT progress it, for outside (e.g. Heritage Lottery) funding applications. **Action: SD.**

9. Plaques

MG outlined the suggestions for plaques that he had received. In regard to Loughrigg Cottage, (Woodrow Wilson visit 1906), it was noted that this was technically in Rydal parish, and thus outside ACT's operational area. However, it was further noted that this could be an opportunity for a jointly funded plaque (with the Rydal Society). **Action: SD.**

It was agreed that there should be an item about the plaque suggestions, (with supportive comments from their proposers for each), in the Autumn newsletter, and that members should be canvassed for their 'plaque priorities' prior to a vote at ACT's November AGM.

10. Any other business

There was a discussion about the recent inscription by UNESCO of the Lake District National Park as a World Heritage Site. TB suggested that Windermere and Bowness Civic Society (the only other Civic Society in the LDNP) be contacted in regard to the possibility of preparing a joint statement on this subject. **Action: SD.**

11. Next meeting

Tuesday 15th August, 7.15pm, Ambleside Library