

AMBLESIDE CIVIC TRUST

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on
Tuesday 17th October 2017 at the Kelswick Centre

Present: Steve Dickinson (SD – Chair), Jane Beenstock (JB), Tim Brown (TB), Rose Lord (RL), Vicky Bracegirdle (VB - minutes).

1. Apologies for absence

Luke Steer (LS), Mike Green (MG)

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of the 15th August meeting were approved as a true record.

The draft minutes of the 19th September meeting were approved as a true record following agreement to one amendment – the adding of JB's apologies.

3. Matters arising from 19 Sept not on the agenda

Closure of North Road is causing major access problems and impacting on local business. Nightly road closures on the Coniston road were also noted.

On Kirkstone Road, road access has been impacted by building work and there have recently been two accidents in this location. Permission had not been granted for areas of the road to be roped off. The issue has been raised with Jackie Ratcliffe and a response is awaited.

The Committee noted that at least 4 major building works are taking place within the conservation area at present. It was noted that once planning permission is given, the planners are limited as regards any action that can be taken around timings of building work

4. Treasurer's Report

SD had circulated the report from MG.

2016/17 accounts - the accounts had been examined and agreed by Saint & Co. The quick turnaround was noted and thanks had been expressed to Saint & Co for this.

Gift Aid – Gift Aid income is a little lower due to lack of valid Gift Aid forms for all members. MG and SD are undertaking an exercise to address this ahead of submission of the 2016/17 Gift Aid request.

University Liaison Committee – proposal by MG that thanks be expressed on behalf of ACT at UoC's next meeting for their efforts regarding Himalayan Balsam and encouragement to be given regarding scheduling of work by their Estates team in

Summer 2018. At the last ACT meeting a suggestion that UoC be invited to join ACT had been discussed. The lack of a statement about motivation for people to join ACT had been noted. The Committee proposes that once a new membership secretary is appointed, the production of such a statement be developed.

5. Planning Applications

Ambleside C of E Primary School – application for installation of composting toilet has been submitted.

University of Cumbria – planning conditions had included the requirement for a warden. There has been no sign of a warden, meaning a breach of planning conditions. The Westmorland Gazette recently reported much noise and disturbance. It was noted that the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) are aware of the issues.

The Manor (Rothay Road) – a query was raised about whether planning permission had been granted for the amount of hard standing which has been installed.

Action: SD to check the planning permission in relation to the hard standing at The Manor.

Action: SD to timetable review of the planning application rota to take place following AGM

6. Environmental Survey

TB congratulated JB and RL for their work on the survey. SD expressed his thanks to JB and RL for their work.

JB and RL have produced a draft report. The first section sets out why and how the survey was undertaken. The report picks out the “top ten” positive and “top ten” negative features arising from the survey, however all the data is there for viewing.

A time slot of 15 minutes at AGM was agreed for JB and RL to present the report at AGM, including a call to action based on the full list of proposed actions and highlight that action can only be taken with involvement from others. A presentation will be made on Powerpoint and handouts will be provided also. Copies of the full report to also be made available at the meeting, potentially with tear off slips to enable people to add any other points not already included on the list.

It was proposed that following on from the AGM, an issue of the ACT newsletter be issued early next year, alongside articles in publications such as the Parish Magazine, to set out ACT's proposed actions and ask people to sign up to assist.

7. Plaques

ACT plaque candidates are as follows:

- The artist **Kurt Schwitters** – recognition of his first Ambleside home at 2 Gale Park
- The artist **Alfred Heaton Cooper** – the studio of this influential local artist – now The Log House
- Buildings associated with **evacuations during World War II**
- The artist **Josafina de Vasconcellos** - major sculptor and benefactor – workshop on Peggy Hill
- **Woodrow Wilson** – to mark his 4 month stay at Loughrigg Cottage prior to becoming US President
- **Dr John Lund C.B.E.** – internationally renowned psychologist who lived in Ambleside
- **Harriet Martineau** – Ellerigg Cottages – recognition of her work in setting up one of the first building societies in the country to allow local people to buy their homes.
- **Hill Top** – the school for some of Wordsworth's and Coleridge's children

It was agreed that a vote be taken at AGM. Brief wording about each proposed plaque to be provided. Voting slips to include a disclaimer about placing of a plaque being subject to agreement as permission from a property owner would, for example, need to be given for a plaque to be fitted.

It was proposed that Mary Gabbat be approached to coordinate the vote at the AGM. The committee will prepare the voting slips and any other related documentation ahead of the AGM

8. Stockghyll Park Report

Following on from LS's excellent work, SD has produced a draft report.

The introduction focuses on the remit of ACT, followed by sections including:

- The condition of the Park entrances
- The condition of the woodland
- The condition of the paths
- The archaeology contained within the park
- The condition of seating and picnic tables

- The condition of viewing platforms and access to them

The report concludes with a number of recommendations.

TB enquired about the responsibility of the Environment Agency. (Tim has recently contacted the Environment Agency about sewage flowing into the river below Rattle Gill and was pleased to report that rapid action to address the issue had been taken.) Committee members understand that as regards Stockghyll Park, the Environment Agency has responsibility for water quality.

TB recommended SD speaking with Mr Horrax whose family owned the mills in the Park.

It was agreed that the draft report be updated as follows:

Inclusion of a recommendation that work on a Statement of Significance be undertaken prior to a feasibility study.

The recommendation regarding bridges be replaced by recommendation for review of access to and within the park.

Action: SD to check the date when the park was conveyed to South Lakeland District Council (SLDC).

Action: SD to update the draft report and circulate a pdf copy to the Committee.

Action: SD to contact Mr Horrax regarding the mills within the Park.

9. Newsletter

At the last meeting it had been agreed that a colour newsletter be produced and circulated to as many people in the locality as possible as a way to promote the work of ACT and encourage attendance at AGM. SD has produced a draft for circulation to the Committee for comment.

Action: SD to circulate newsletter draft to Committee members.

10. AGM

Agenda - AGM is taking place on Friday 10th November with an arrival time of 7 for 7.30pm. 30 mins to be allowed for Committee business, 15 mins for environmental survey presentation and 15 mins for Stockghyll Park presentation, and remainder of meeting allocated for talk by Andy Lowe.

ACT Awards – Proposals for awards for consistently high quality shopfront/fittings are as follows:

- J. F. Martin & Co - hardware store
- The Apple Pie Café and Bakery

- Golden Rule - public house
- The Ambleside Toy Shop

Promotion of AGM – written notification of the event has been sent to all members and there is an article in the parish magazine. SD will look into attendance by Clive Hutchby from Windermere Now. RL will arrange for the ACT website to be updated with notification of the meeting.

Action: RL to arrange for ACT website to be updated with details of the AGM.

Action: SD to contact Clive Hutchby.

As no refreshments are to be provided at the AGM, the Committee agreed to arrange a celebratory and fundraising Ceilidh to take place in the early part of 2018.

11. Any other business

TB recently attended a meeting in Windermere at which Ian Jones gave a presentation of slides showing views and scenes along the lake. As Ian has more slides specifically of Ambleside TB proposed that Ian be invited to give a presentation at a future meeting. It was agreed that this form part of an open meeting at which updates on ACT work be presented.

Silver Birch tree at How Head – ACT had gifted a silver birch tree planted at How Head and TB has been asked if ACT is responsible for the tree after planting. All were in agreement that once a gift has been made responsibility transfers away from ACT. Responsibility may lie with the County Council.

Action: TB to report to Committee if he learns more regarding the tree at How Head.

Christmas Meal - SD proposed an ACT Christmas meal take place in December.

Action: SD will be in touch regarding suggested dates.

12. Date and time of next meeting

7.45pm on Tuesday 21st November at the Kelsick Centre.