

Ambleside Civic Trust
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting 21st November 2017

Present: Steve Dickinson (Chairman: SD), Mike Green (Treasurer: MG), Jane Beenstock (JB), Tim Brown (TB), Luke Steer (LS), David Stothard (DS), Terry Clark (TC).

Apologies for absence: received from Rose Lord.

1. Minutes of the meeting 17 October 2017

These were accepted with amendments under item 5 (Planning Applications; Ambleside Manor *for The Manor (Rothay Road)*) and under item 6 (Environmental Survey); paragraph 2 (text alteration). Proposed by TB, seconded by JB.

2. Matters arising from the 17 October meeting not on the 21 November agenda

TB raised a query regarding the conditions attached to planning applications.

It was agreed to include a discussion concerning plaques after item 9 (Planning Applications).

3. Treasurer's Report

- a) As of 21 November the Trust has a balance of £1133 in Barclays, £3019 (as ever) with the Skipton Building Society, cash of £10 and an uncleared cheque for £15.
- b) Membership income is £247, compared with £446 at the same day in 2016.
- c) I have received a letter from Barclays Bank changing terms and conditions. These include the ability to scan and send them an image of a cheque, and "Open Banking". There will also be changes to the structure of Barclays due to 'ring-fencing', about how personal information is used, and immigration-related checks.

4. The 44th AGM and the Executive Committee

It was agreed that the 44th AGM had been positive, with several good reports concerning the speaker (Andy Lowe) and the business conducted.

There followed a discussion about recruitment of people / members to help with various tasks and rôles (centred on a discussion paper tabled by JB). Rôles identified were: a membership secretary, a planning applications co-ordinator, a media co-ordinator, a plaques promoter, a meetings/minutes secretary. Terry Clark (TC) offered to be membership secretary, and David Stothard (DS) planning applications co-ordinator, and these members were duly co-opted onto the committee in these rôles (proposer: MG, seconder: JB). It was acknowledged that it is important to continue to seek additional support in the other task areas identified.

SD to write a piece for Jane Renouf's Ambleside column in the Westmorland Gazette regarding key outcomes from the 44th AGM (Environmental Survey and Stockghyll Park Report) and to highlight the outstanding help required as noted above. **Action: SD.**

5. Environmental Survey: Next Steps

TB noted items and spelling that required correction and/or addition in the ES report. It was noted that, in regard to certain metal street signs in the Conservation Area, the Trust had paid for these in the past, and one on Peggy Hill was currently missing. It was further noted that, despite copies of the ES report having been emailed to Steve Ratcliffe at the National Park, Michael Johnson at the Parish Council and Andrew Hewitt at Love Ambleside, no acknowledgements or responses from these individuals had been forthcoming.

Following a 9-point suggestion plan appended to the ES report, JB to meet with TB to identify prioritisation of targets and areas of responsibility, including lobbying for an Article 4 directive. **Action: JB +TB.**

6. Stockghyll Park Report and Project

SD stated that he would have a draft Stockghyll Park project submission for the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Sharing Heritage' fund (<https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/sharing-heritage>) ready by the next Exec Committee meeting. **Action: SD.**

SD has been invited by Michael Johnson of the Parish Council to give a presentation on the project at their January meeting. SLDC's chief executive, Giles Archibald, had also sent an encouraging text on receipt and reading of the SP report.

7. University of Cumbria Ambleside Community Liaison Group

SD gave a report on the meeting of the UoCACLG held on 30 October 2017 that he attended in MG's absence. This meeting covered certain key issues:

- 1) The football pitch that the University had donated to Ambleside.
- 2) The Ambleside Oral History Archive (part of the University's 10th anniversary exhibition in 2018).
- 3) The LDNPA/University having been awarded a 'Collaboration Category Award' by the NW Regional Town Planning Institute in regard to collaboration in sustainable development over the new student accommodation buildings.
- 4) Circa 500 students had registered for the academic year 2017-18, of which 190 were living in UoC owned or managed accommodation.
- 5) A new 'Residence Life Assistant' had been appointed and was expected to start mid-November. There was a detailed discussion at the Liaison Group meeting regarding late night noise and disturbance on Rydal Road, with a focus on University sanctions, on-campus security, and this appointment.
- 6) The UoC Ambleside Strategy, plans and the University Estate, including Scale How (no planned proposals at the time of the meeting), and Hill Top (still on the market at the time of the meeting).
- 7) Land between Stoney Lane and the University (planned as a conservation area?)
- 8) The Health Centre - at risk of closure due to a large increase in rent/lease of the buildings by the NHS leasing company.

8. Planning Applications

SD tabled 6 Ambleside applications covering November (up to the 21st), 3 of which he requested help with. **Action:** It was agreed that TC would assess 7/2017/5637 (UPVC windows - Flat 8, Gale Rigg House LA22 OBA) with assistance. TB, TC and DS would assess 7/2017/5780 (Demolition of garages/replacement with annexed accommodation - Loughrigg House, Smithy Brow), and MG would assess 7/2017/5710 (Land off Maclver Lane - development of 3 x 3 bed houses).

A member had submitted a query in respect of 7/2016/5674 (major residential development retention and proposal off Compston Street; initially withdrawn pending a decision in August 2017). It was understood that a LDNPA planning officer was due to meet the developers to discuss this.

SD had yet to inform LDNPA in regard to the Ambleside Manor new car park. **Action:SD.**

9. Plaques

The results of the vote on the 8 candidates for plaques had been collated (by member Mary Gabbat) and presented at the AGM. Subsequently, further votes had been received by SD. Top of the (newly revised) votes received list was Heaton Cooper, with 19 votes. John Lund, Harriet Martineau and Josefina de Vasconcellos all were tied with 18 votes each. It was decided to try and attract funding and/or sponsorship for three out of these four. SD to approach the Log House in regard to Heaton Cooper. **Action:SD.**

10. Any other business

MG offered to draft a set of 'Benefits of ACT membership'. **Action: MG.**

MG also tabled, for information, a piece that had appeared in the Westmorland Gazette regarding Nobles Rest Park in Kendal, which had received local community support, and finance from SLDC's 'Locally Important Projects' fund.

ACT Christmas Meal at the Regent Hotel, Friday December 8th. SD to send out a menu. **Action:** SD.

11. Next meeting date and time

Tuesday January 16th, 7.15pm. *Note: This meeting is currently scheduled to be held at Ambleside Library, subject to the successful completion of building work there in December.*