

Ambleside Civic Trust
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, 17th April 2018

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

1. Minutes of the meeting of 20th March 2018

Under Item 8 (Environmental Survey), there was an addition: 'RL and JB were tasked to produce a financial incentive scheme to encourage repairs to traditional features in Ambleside by owners of private or commercial properties.'

The minutes were then accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

1. TB reported that the North West Association of Civic Trusts (NWACTS) had not been proactive with engaging with ACT in the past. RL noted that some Cumbrian town and other heritage associations and groups (for example, one in Whitehaven), were not describing themselves as 'Civic Trusts'.
2. Plaques - JB had sourced and communicated her plaque production estimates, and DS had checked planning conditions for them.
3. TB raised the continued issue of night-time noise from University of Cumbria student halls of residence off Rydal Road.
4. DS has contacted LDNPA Planning in regard to issues with key locations of inappropriate signage in Ambleside.

3. Planning Matters - LDNPA PLanning Application 7/2018/5154. Impact International's proposals for the old Kelsick Grammar School site: head office accommodation and residential learning centre with extensions, alterations, landscaping and relocated equipment store.

DS and MG introduced and elaborated on their assessment of this application, followed by a general discussion. It was noted that:

- For an application detailing 25 staff (2 p/t), there seemed an excessive number of desks (74) in the building. There was no detail on support, training, technical, cleaning and maintenance staff numbers.
- The application text detailed 65 car parking spaces, however, 72 appeared on the drawings, and there was no provision for bicycles.
- There was no transport assessment included, nor any assessment of the effects of the proposal and its creation upon Stockghyll Lane, road safety and pedestrian traffic there.
- 32 bedrooms were included in the application. There was a discussion over the nature of this; course residential accommodation? Family accommodation where courses were not fully subscribed (as noted in the application)? An 'hotel' ? Insufficient evidence was given in the application to allow a determination on this point.
- LS noted that the tree report included in the application had not been written by a qualified arboriculturalist.

- RL noted that the application referred at several points to 'English Heritage'; a body which does not exist (now Historic England). There was no World Heritage Site checklist included in the application, and the heritage impact statement included did not give confidence that it was written by a suitably qualified heritage consultant.

The scale of the proposal was considered to be extremely large for the size and visually prominent location of the site. RL noted various deficiencies in regard to the scale, size and nature of proposed extensions/alterations. JB noted a lack of provision for people with disabilities, for example; there were no ceiling hoists.

- In conclusion, DS offered to use points raised, in particular by RL, as a starting point in a response to the LDNPA, to be circulated to Exec Committee members for alterations and amendments as appropriate, prior to sending. Both positive and negative aspects of the application were to be highlighted. **Action: DS.**

4. Treasurer's Report

MG reported that the Trust had £1082 in its Barclays account, and £3019 in the Skipton Building Society. A £25 subscription payment had been made to the Armitt Trust, and £69 had been received in subscriptions. £40 had been received in Heritage Trail sale receipts.

It was noted that ACT's insurance required renewal by 1 May. The renewal fee was £142. A couple of queries had been raised in relation to this; (1), the insurers regarded ACT's volunteers as 'employees', (though, on querying this, MG had been assured by the insurers that there was no contractual issue in the use of this term). (2) There were issues in regard to ACT running events at which alcohol was sold. MG was requested to go back to the insurers in respect of the latter, as restrictions here would affect some ACT events.

A query was raised by JB in regard to what was defined as an ACT project or event. It was decided that such a project or event was one agreed at an ACT meeting.

5. Membership and Fundraising, including the Ceilidh on 6 April

TC gave a report on the state of the Trust's membership. Corporate members had still be be approached, and the inclusion of the Trust's recruitment leaflet in the parish magazine had still to happen. The Ceilidh held on 6 April had been enjoyable, and covered its costs (NB: SD had funded the hall hire).

6. Planning Matters, part 2

DS tabled the latest list of relevant applications received by the LDNPA.

7. Environmental Survey

Article 4 Direction for Ambleside; it was noted that this was due to be considered by LDNPA Planning. It was further noted that Andy Lowe had been giving training to LD planners in regard to heritage and conservation issues.

Incentive Scheme: JB introduced a document that outlined (1) The principles of financial support, (2), The type of work considered, and (3) a simple application process. MG proposed that this be taken to the next AGM for discussion and acceptance as a future programme/project. This was agreed.

8. Stockghyll Park and the LDNPA Local Communities Funding Offer / First Park Working Group meeting

SD reported on an offer of £1965.00 received from the Lake District Communities Fund for an educational and community outreach project centred on Stockghyll Park and its links into Ambleside. This had been accepted by SD on behalf of the Trust, and it, and the application that was made to the LDCF , was to be discussed at the first meeting of the Park Working Group on 1 May.

9. Any Other Business

- RL noted recent LDNPA planning decisions in Bowness-on-Windermere rejecting uPVC windows.
- MG offered to update the Trust's section of the Ambleside Online website. Action: MG.
- TB noted issues in respect of official LDNPA support for zip wires.
- It was noted that DEFRA were offering financial support for traditional building maintenance and repair.
- It was noted that SD's talk about the work of the Trust to one of Ambleside's Rotary clubs on 3 April had been well received.

10. Next meeting

Tuesday 15 May, 7.15pm, Ground Floor, Ambleside Library.