

MUSSELBURGH CONSERVATION SOCIETY A.G.M. 2017

Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 12th October 2016 at 7.30 pm at St Peter's Church Hall, High Street, Musselburgh.

Alan Armour, Acting Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming the Society's Patron, Lord Cameron, the evening's speaker, Dr Margaret Collingwood, and members and guests to the AGM, to the talk and to refreshments afterwards. He hoped that such a large attendance indicated that there would many willing volunteers to join the Society's Committee.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from George Kinnaird, Lady Cameron, Pat Edwards, Celia Coulson, Gerry McKay and Rod & Morag Reeves

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the A.G.M. held on the 13th October 2016 were adopted, proposed by Frances Stevens and seconded by Jackie Wilkins.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman said that his experience of a year as a member of the MCS Committee had shown it to be an effective body, with good knowledge and skills particularly appropriate for interaction with East Lothian council planners. The main responsibilities of the Committee included: organisation of evening lectures and summer visits; membership functions; consideration of local planning applications and the local authority's plans & making representations on these issues to the authority. These tasks were particularly important at present, because of the threat that large scale development presented to the community integrity and character of Musselburgh and nearby settlements. Looking forward to the coming year, he noted that Alison Butler, who had managed the Society's website, had moved to the Oxford area, and that he would be taking over this role. Alan Stevens was retiring from long and excellent service as the Society's Secretary. The Committee had agreed to subdivide the Secretary's responsibilities – in future, Alan Stevens and Barry Turner would take the planning-related roles, and Andrew Coulson had become the Minutes Secretary. The Chairman and the rest of the Committee would welcome members who would be willing to help with the Committee's efforts, and in particular to take on the remaining modest tasks of the Society's Secretary.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chairman introduced the Treasurer's written report and annual accounts.
Review of the last 5 years The small profit [£93.63] shown over the last two years has put a brake on the losses [£474.73] suffered over the previous three years.
Review of this year Savings [£75.29] made on printing costs were offset by the increase in the fees paid for the monthly lectures and website training [£165.00]. The saving [£112] by not awarding the annual conservation plaque was an isolated occurrence and will be a further expense next year.

The annual summer trip is not intended to raise funds and good management in previous years has ensured that the trip has only made a small profit or loss. *Subscriptions* It would therefore be prudent to bolster the society's income and the committee have agreed to raise the annual subscriptions as listed in the notification of this AGM as follows:-

Season 2017/18 Ordinary members £12 Concessionary members £10

Previous subscription raised:

Season 2015/16 Ordinary members £10 Concessionary members £7

The Chairman recorded his thanks to George for his extremely competent work as Treasurer. The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Janette Bonthron and seconded by Marie Mackay.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alan Stevens proposed, and Gavin McDowall seconded, the election of Alan Armour as Chairman. There was no dissent.

The post of Honorary Secretary remained unfilled.

Frances Stevens proposed, and Jackie Wilkins seconded, the re-election of George Kinnaird as Treasurer. There was no dissent.

Alan Stevens advised the meeting that Committee Members were elected for 2 years & could be re-elected after that. The following Committee Members were all willing to stand again.

<i>Member</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Seconded</i>
Stephen Edwards	Gavin McDowall	Barry Turner
Andrew Coulson	George Kinnaird	Alan Stevens
Alan Stevens	Alan Armour	Janette Bonthron

All were unopposed and therefore duly elected.

7. PATRONS REMARKS

Lord Cameron reminded members that one of the main objectives of the Society was to encourage 'the highest standards of architecture and town planning'. This goal had never been more important: the central pressure for more housing was leading to the loss of high grade farm land, to increasing problems with urban infrastructure, and to the overloading of services. His private view was that Musselburgh may be losing its character, and perhaps even its community spirit. He commended the excellent document prepared jointly by Musselburgh Conservation Society and Haddington and District Amenity Society and addressed to Scottish Ministers, which drew attention to many of the shortcomings of the planning system and called for reforms which would 'enable planners to plan, not just to regulate'. He closed by asking members once again to consider joining the committee to assist with these pressing tasks.

8. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Stephen Edwards reported that a complaint he had made to the Enforcement Officer about excessive and inappropriate signage attached to the fish shop at the end of Kilwinning, had resulted in the swift removal of all the offending material. He was congratulated on his rapidly achieved success.

At the end of the formal business, Lord Cameron on behalf of the Society presented Alan Stevens with a gift of architectural books, in grateful thanks for his 15 years of

skilful and energetic work as Honorary Secretary of Musselburgh Conservation Society.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

TALK BY Margaret Collingwood

The meeting was followed by a most interesting illustrated talk given by Margaret Collingwood and entitled 'Gas masks and lipstick', on her experiences as a military nurse during the 1991 Gulf War.

Refreshments followed.