

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 263rd meeting held on 2nd May 2017
Executive Committee Meeting

Present: Alison Butler (Chair), Jackie Wilkins, Andrew Coulson, Alan Stevens, Janette Bonthron, Gavin McDowall, Alan Armour, George Kinnaird.

1). Apologies for Absence.

Barry Turner, Stephen Edwards.

2). Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the meeting held on 4th April 2017 was approved as a correct record.

3). Matters Arising.

Item 9); Brewing lecture: AS reported a slightly disappointing attendance of approx. 35. However the talk was very interesting & informative. The speaker, John Martin spoke very well & had well prepared illustrations. The cost of £50 for hiring the church would be split with the Musselburgh Museum Group. It had been a free lecture open to anyone in the town & so no donations had been asked for.

4). Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer was in the process of finalising the year's accounts which will show a slight loss this year. There are some expenses that occur bi-annually & this tends to unbalance the accounts.

5). Membership Report.

G McD stated that the final paid up membership now stood at 116. 3 members who joined late will be credited to next year's accounts. Donation rates for visitors were discussed & it was noted that the Floral Art charges £4 for visitors. G McD said that he would ask visitors for a contact address in future so that they can be notified of lectures & encouraged to join,

6). Planning Matters.

17/00329/P: Replacement windows, 57 West Holmes Gardens. *Timber sash & case – OK.*

16/00948/P: Erection of 2 houses, car parking etc; 30 New Street. *Original scheme of flats for this site now changed to 2 individual houses with the original cottage being refurbished. Comment on design not appropriate for the Conservation Area.*

17/00007/PAN: Site of mixed use development: Land at Old Craighall. *A public consultation will be held on this, date not yet announced.*

17/00092/P: 1st floor extension to house, erection of glass privacy screen, privacy metal rafters & installation of solar panels on roof of garage: 6A Ashgrove. *AS reported that this had been approved despite 18 objections.*

Local Development Plan. No date set for future hearings yet.

AS reported that ELC has discontinued sending out the weekly list in paper form. This now had to be accessed through the Council website & search using "Weekly register of applications".

7). Publicity including website.

AB stated that someone will have to take over the website. She will also have to rearrange the payment system. JW volunteered to write up lectures & send them to the Courier. AS has done this in the past but not consistently. AS & GMcD distribute posters around the town AC suggested that more places could be found for posters, the Co-op shop at Stoneyhill for example. Also that we print more leaflets & for Committee Members to hand them out around the town.

Re. Twitter AC said that it would be good if links could be made to further information such as visuals which related to the talks.

8). Summer Trip.

G McD reported that 38 people had signed up for the trip. This was over the break-even number. His only concern now was that the weather would be suitable for the afternoon to be spent exploring the grounds as people will not be allowed back in the house after the tour is completed. G McD is considering the use of tokens for coffee

9) *Lecture Programme 2017 – 18.*

AS reported that Eric Glendinning, Haddington History Society, has agreed to talk on Oral History at the AGM on October 12th; John Cooper is to talk on the Siege of Haddington on November 9th; Sheena Irvine on Cousland Smiddy for December 14th. AC will find out if the Scottish Lime centre can talk to us. AB suggested that we need a more catchy title for the talk on oral history. AS will consider this. Other ideas: 499 Architects (Edinburgh Road House); a natural history talk (maybe related to Levenhall Links); geology of Edinburgh (stone buildings); Royal Company of Archers; Richard Shorter on plans for the Old Town Hall; Andy Wightman (Green Party) on Land ownership & the Common Good. AC said that it would be a good idea to put a page on the website relating to the next talk with, if possible, some images from the speaker.

10). *Committee Composition from October 2017.*

AA stated that he would put himself forward for Chairman in October. It was agreed that the Secretary's job could be divided up into 3 areas which could each be taken on by a Committee Member. These would be Minutes Secretary, organisation of the lecture programme, & planning issues which AS agreed to continue with. This would spread the tasks more evenly which people might be more encouraged to take on. AS will draw this up. AS said that Clive Brown had expressed an interest in joining the Committee & AS had invited him along to try out a Committee Meeting.

11). *Correspondence.*

Flyer for Midlothian Heritage Week, 1-7 May.

Scottish Civic Trust: My Place Awards & My Place Photography 2017. Nominations for 2018 should be thought about.

AHSS Summer Activities 2017.

12). *A.O.B.*

Schools Photographic Competition.

AA reported that he had been in contact with Lesley Smith again who was to contact the schools but he had heard nothing since. In the light of this it was agreed that this idea would have to be abandoned as no positive progress was being made.

Town Trails.

JW was keen to see the renewal of the town trail boards progressed. AS will forward correspondence on this to JW. There has been no further response from the students on the project.

13). *D.O.N.M.*

**Monday 12th June 2017; 7.30PM at Andrew Coulson s' house: 12 Eskside West
0131 665 3779. AA volunteered to chair.**