

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 267th meeting held on 30th October 2017
Executive Committee Meeting

Present: Alan Armour (Chair), Alan Stevens, Janette Bonthron, Gavin McDowall, George Kinnaird, Barry Turner, Andrew Coulson, Jackie Wilkins

1). Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies.

2). Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the 266th meeting held on 26th September 2017 was approved as a correct record: proposed AS, seconded BT

3). Matters Arising.

Item 3). AA had enquired about the cost of renting a meeting room in The Hollies, in case St Peter's Church Hall became unavailable, and had not yet received a reply.

Item 6). AA had found the handling of a large number of loan wine glasses to be a precarious exercise. He had purchased 48 acceptable but economical wine glasses, which he would make available on future occasions.

Item 6). There was general agreement that the duration of the AGM meeting was somewhat too great. It was agreed to arrange a shorter talk in future years.

Item 6). AA asked about the birding visits to the lagoons that had been advertised at the AGM. AC explained that the first visit had been cancelled because of high winds. He would arrange a new date with Den Mather, and then contact all those who had signed up at the AGM.

4). Treasurer's Report.

GK said that the annual accounts had now been audited, and that archive copies will be presented. £857 had now been collected in the new membership year, and this figure strongly implied that the year's income will meet or exceed that from the previous period.

5). Membership Report.

G McD reported that, to date, 79 members had rejoined. This represented a healthy start to the year.

6). 2017 Design Award. A list of candidates for the Design Award was proposed by AS and agreed by the Committee:

Sheltered flats adjacent to the Tesco store
Extension to Pinkie St Peter's Primary School
House on the beach in Edinburgh Road
Levenhall Village Store
Bus Stop in the High Street
Play area in Lewisvale park.

AS will order the presentation plaque. He will also take photographs of the candidate buildings, and liaise with Stephen Edwards about the display. The judging will be done at the December lecture.

7) Speakers for next year

A number of suggestions were made of possible speakers and topics for the 2018/19 lecture programme. Names and contact details were passed to AA, who had undertaken to be responsible for manage the programme. He asked members of the committee to provide him with suggestions on a continuing basis.

8) Correspondence. AA reported that he had written to the Patron and to the AGM speaker to thank them for their contributions to the meeting. He had also written to Alison Butler, enquiring about the procedure by which the host for the Society's website was paid.

AS tabled correspondence from the Architectural History Society of Scotland, and from the Scottish Civic Trust.

9) Planning Matters. BT reported on the application to build 250 units of housing at Cowpits (17/00917/PPM). He had strongly objected to the proposal on the grounds of the effectively minimal access to and from the immediately adjoining parts of Whitecraig, and because the plan created an

indefensible Green Belt boundary. The site will be scheduled for housing if it continues to be included in the draft Local Plan – but, in his view, this inclusion (along with Howe Mire) as a trade-off for the removal of Goshen Farm had been a bad mistake. If the Reporters decide to include this site in the Local Plan, it will not be possible to object in principle to the development.

BT also reported that, following a number of requests, he had prepared a short account of how the Local Plan target of 5,300 homes in Musselburgh was made up.

10) AOCB. The Committee agreed to meet the costs for AS to attend the annual Scottish Civic Trust Conference.

GMcD reported that he was considering two possibilities to suggest for the Summer Visit – to Dumfries House, and to the new V&A gallery in Dundee. The two proposals were discussed, and GMcD agreed to ‘take soundings’ of those present at the next lecture.

11) D.O.N.M.

**Monday 27th November 2017; 7.30PM at Alan Armour’s house, 6 Carberry Close.
Tel. 665 4169**