

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 266th meeting held on 26th September 2017
Executive Committee Meeting

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

1). *Apologies for Absence.*
Stephen Edwards.

2). *Minutes of the Last Meeting.*
The Minute of the 265th meeting held on 28th August 2017 was approved as a correct record.

3). *Matters Arising.*
Item 14a); In case St Peter's Church becomes unavailable due to refurbishment, AA will enquire about the cost of hire of The Hollies hall.
Item 10): G McD reported that 20 people took part in the historic walk..
Item 13): AS reported that the U3A historical guided tour would take place on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. He has asked for an estimate of numbers. AS and AC undertook to lead the tour.

4). *Treasurer's Report.*
There had been no change in the accounts since the last meeting, and the bank balance now stands at £2559.05. There is not expected to be any change before the AGM, and the accounts will be audited before that date. GK would not be in Musselburgh at the time of the AGM: it was agreed to ask the auditor, Ben Wood, to present the accounts to the AGM. GK said that he would order wine for the AGM, but that this would have to be brought to the meeting. AS agreed to collect the wine.

5). *Membership Report.*
G McD reported that, to date, 28 people had rejoined the Society. In response to a question, he said that he had no information about what proportion of couples both joined the Society. There is no 'family' or 'joint' membership. It was not clear whether the increased subscription had had a negative effect on donations. Last year, the total of donations was about 25% of the total of membership subscriptions.

6). *AGM Arrangements*
AA agreed to conduct the business, as Acting Chairman, and to prepare the Chairman's Report for the year. His election as Chairman would be proposed by AS, and seconded by Gmcd. Committee members would be proposed and seconded as follows:
AS – AA and JB. SE – Gmcd and BT. AC – GK and AS.
Lord Cameron was prepared to speak at the meeting, as Patron of the Society.
The Committee agreed that, if possible, they would attend the venue at 6:50, to assist in setting out the hall.

7) *Committee composition from October 2017*
There had been no nominations for the post of Secretary. AS and BT agreed to take the Secretary's role in dealing with planning and related matters. AC agreed to prepare the Agendas and the Minutes of committee meetings. The principal role of the Secretary in future would be managing general correspondence, in particular with monthly speakers. AA would explain this to the AGM, and would hope to co-opt a willing person on that occasion.

8) *Communities Day, 30 September:* The Society would have a stall at this event. Gmcd, AS, GK & BT agreed to take part when able to do so. AS would provide display material from exhibits prepared for the ROM Exhibition, etc.

9) *Society's Web Site.* AA had taken control of the MCS website, and was learning how to maintain and update it.

10) *Correspondence.* Correspondence concerning the U3A visit (see above, heading 3).

11). Planning Matters.

17/00721/PPM: *Renewed application at Goshen Farm. BT had formulated a strong objection on behalf of MCS (circulated)*

16/00118/PPM: *Galt Terrace. Application to fill in the 'buffer strip' beside the East Coast mainline approaching Wallyford station. BT had made a strong objection on behalf of MCS.*

16/01029/AMM *Flats at The Mall. ELC had now agreed to this application, notwithstanding access and parking problems.*

17/00673/P: *Bowling Club, Carlyle Place. Proposal to build a new club-house, and convert/extend the existing premises to residential use. MCS had objected to a previous application, which had been withdrawn, because of the use of front box dormer windows. These were not present in the new application, and the Committee decided to make no objection.*

17/00560/P: *A retrospective application for alterations to the gate pillars of St Michael's (house), Inveresk had been refused. The gates would now have to be restored to their former condition.*

GMcD proposed, and it was agreed, that there should normally be a brief report of current and important planning issues at MCS's monthly lecture meetings.

BT said that he had made a specific request to the Reporters who are reviewing the Local Plan, that they should visit the Battlefield Memorial Stone site, before deciding the issue of the proposed development at Howe Mire.

12). A.O.B.

a) AC proposed, and it was agreed, that Den Mather should be asked to conduct a visit of a party of MCS members to bird-watching sites at Musselburgh links. AC would consult DM about the best dates, group size, etc.

b) GK agreed to consider whether it would be useful to increase the number of signatories for the Society's bank account, and to report back.

c) BT suggested that MCS should consider the issue of local flood risk and flood defences. He agreed to approach SEPA and Mr Murray Hutchison, with a view to identifying an appropriate speaker.

d) BT said that the refurbished bus garage would be holding an Open Day on 21 October.

e) JB asked whether work by Loretto School at Linkfield Cottage had been the subject of a planning application. AS agreed to make enquiries.

15). D.O.N.M.

Tuesday 30 October 2017; 7.30PM at Alan Armour's house, 6 Carberry Close.

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