

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 271st Executive Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2018

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

1). Apologies for Absence.

Jackie Wilkins.

2). Minute of of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the 270th meeting was approved as a correct record: proposed AS, seconded BT.

3). Matters Arising.

Item 11.5: JB reported that the uncertain and unstable governance position of Musselburgh Race Course appears to have produced a refusal by both the Race Course and East Lothian Council to take responsibility for the reinstatement of the boundary wall.

4). Treasurer's Report.

GK was unable to present a copy of the Society's current account bank statement, since it had not yet been received from the bank. He reported that the statement would show that the cleared balance of the Society was now £2874.41. Recent payments included £100, part-year room rental, to St Peter's Church, and expenses associated with the annual Design Award.

It was noted that MCS continues to operate a second current account (the 'Greenbelt account'), which has been used occasionally to receive and disburse grant income. The Committee agreed that this account should remain open.

5). Membership Report.

GMcD reported that 106 members had joined or rejoined. He was holding over one subscription payment to next year, since the member would receive little return for his payment, at this stage of the year.

6). MCS Office Bearers. AS & AC suggested that if a new Treasurer and Secretary could not be found, it would be necessary to wind up or merge the Society on the occasion of the next AGM. The Chairman agreed to point this out to members at the next lecture meeting. The Committee also agreed to approach appropriate MCS members, who are not current members of the committee, to stand for the vacant offices.

7). Data Protection Regulations. The Chairman said that compliance with data protection regulations had become more pressing for smaller membership organisations. It was now necessary to obtain explicit consent from individual members for the retention and use of personal data. He hoped to be able to present information and guidance on requirements at the next committee meeting.

8). Speakers for next session. John Knox, Musselburgh Camera Club, will present two films from the Club at the MCS lecture meeting of 11 April 2019.

AA took the opportunity to visit a449 Architects in Portobello, having not received a response to his e-mail. He was advised the giving of a suitable lecture was being considered by the director, Matt Johnson and AA would contact him again in a few days to try and obtain his agreement.

9). Renewal of 'Musselburgh Town Trail' interpretative boards. BT reported that Paul Lambie was fully content that renewal of the boards could be the occasion for revision, emendation and correction of the text. BT undertook to write to the Community Council, proposing that they should now replace those of the boards for which this was necessary, and offering that MCS would be prepared to identify necessary revisions. Individual committee members undertook to consider the text for specific boards.

10). Audio-visual equipment. The Chairman undertook to research the prices and virtues of possible replacements for the Society's portable screen, now somewhat dilapidated. AC undertook to perform a similar exercise with respect to a new 'hands-free' wireless microphone.

11). *East Lothian Heritage Fortnight Contributions*. It was agreed to offer a conducted visit to Loretto Chapel, and to the Painted Ceiling in Pinkie House; and a repeat of the walking tour 'Seven Bridges of Musselburgh' for the September event.

12). *Planning Matters*.

17/01173P. Application to extend and develop property as a river frontage cafe and catering venue.

AS reported that he had commented to ELC on behalf of MCS, welcoming the development, which would represent a significant enhancement of the riverside environment, and hoping that the design and construction would be of a quality appropriate to the potential high amenity of the location.

18/00100/P. New house on a site adjacent to Stoneyhill Farmhouse. The Committee decided to make no comment on this application.

18/00027/P. New gate on Millhill, giving additional vehicular access to the Race Course. The Committee decided to make no comment on this application.

18/00073/P. 39 North High Street, Fisherrow. Application to replace wooden-framed windows with upvc. The property is in a Conservation Area, and AS undertook to object to ELC, that the replacement windows should also be in wood.

18/00028/P. 11A Victoria Terrace. Application for replacement windows and doors in upvc. These fittings were to the rear of the premises, and would not be visible from the street. No comment.

17/00964/LBC. 1A Mountjoy Terrace. Application for replacement windows in wood.

17/00763/P. Development of Bowling Club premises, 17/18 Carlisle Place. Revised application, with removal of over-large dormers, to which MCS Committee had objected.

High Street signage. AS reported that at least two new shop signs had appeared close to the Old Town Hall, with no planning applications made. He undertook to write to point this out to the Enforcement Officer.

13). *Correspondence*. No significant correspondence had been received.

14). *A.O.B.*

1) GMcD said that paperwork for the summer visit would be available at the next lecture meeting.

2) BT reported that a local journalist had informed him that a consultation exercise was taking place about ELC support for more sustainable transport, including better provision of pedestrian routes and cycleways. After discussion, he agreed to comment that attention was needed to the air-quality problems generated by excess motor traffic through Musselburgh, and that these would be considerably aggravated if the planned expansion of the town by over 5000 dwellings, was allowed to go ahead.

3) AS drew attention to erosion of stone walls beside heavily used motor roads (due principally to the use of salt in winter). He agreed to write to ELC to ask who should be responsible for amelioration.

4) AS reported that neither the Hayweights clock, nor the clock on the High Church was now working. He would report these issues to the Area Manager.

5) The Chairman undertook to arrange a visit for members, already discussed with Sheena Irving, to Cousland Smiddy – in the early summer.

15). *D.O.N.M.*

Monday 16th April 2018; 7.30PM at the Chairman's home, 6 Carberry Close.

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