

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 269th Executive Committee Meeting held on 22nd January 2018

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

1). Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2). Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the 268th meeting was approved as a correct record: proposed AS, seconded BT.

3). Matters Arising.

Item 9). BT reported that he had responded to the Inveresk care village proposal at the consultation event, using the *pro forma* provided. His comments had attracted significant comment, including in the local press.

AS reported that the application for an extension to the Ravelston Hotel, to which MCS had objected, had nevertheless been approved.

Item 10/4). BT could now present a talk, entitled 'A short walk through Inveresk' in the case that a speaker is lost at short notice.

Item 8). AS would take part in the annual Heritage Forum in the Dunbar Town House, on Saturday 24 February from 9 – 1:30. GMcD would provide photographic display boards. Societies had been asked to limit attendance to 3 people, in view of the space limitations of the venue.

4). Treasurer's Report.

GK presented a copy of the Society's current account bank statement. He reported that the cleared balance of the Society was £3120. No large items of expenditure were currently envisaged.

5). Membership Report.

GMcD reported that, to date, 103 members had joined or rejoined. He would contact the small number of last year's members who had not yet rejoined.

6). 2017 Design Award. AS reported that the plaque would be presented to East Lothian Council, and the Area Partnership, (together responsible for the renovated play area in Lewisvale Park) by Lord Cameron, on Friday 26th January at 11 am. The Committee were invited to be present. JW would prepare a press release for the local newspaper, and AS would take photographs.

7). Speakers for next year

AA reported that 5 out of 7 lectures for next season had now been scheduled:

11/10/18 - AGM and short lecture on "Surprising Dubai". Barry Turner

8/11/18 - Rosemary Gold - lecture title TBA

13/12/18 - not allocated

10/1/19 - Local Flood Risk and Flood Protection. Gail Donald and Conor Price.

14/2/19 - "Bats" by David Wild

14/3/19 - John Hunter - Trial and tribulations of restoring a Scottish tower house.

11/4/19 - not allocated.

AS had approached the Camera Club, who had responded positively.

Xn undertook to invite Dave Berry to talk on the First World War naval disaster, 'The Battle of the Isle of May'

8). Renewal of 'Musselburgh Town Trail' interpretative boards. BT reported that the boards had been designed by Paul Lambie, financed by the Community Council and installed by Eastern of Market Street, Musselburgh, who have retained the artwork.

Overall, the quality and design of the presentation had been to very high standards, and the boards had lasted well. Two of the boards (at the Race Course, and at Inveresk Church) now required renovation, and changes in the use of buildings, etc, made some of the information on several boards no longer current. More recent practice would be to limit the detail and length of texts on such boards (and to provide internet access to more extensive information). JW had considered, for one board, how the text could be shortened and simplified.

After discussion, BT agreed, in the first instance, to discuss the issues of repair or replacement of the deteriorated boards with PL. Members of the Committee undertook to look through printouts of the board contents to identify outdated information.

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

10). *Planning Matters*

Application from NTS for new signage at Newhailes House. No objection.

Consultation on SSEB proposals for development prior to handover of the fourth lagoon, Musselburgh ashpits. Consultation will take place from 4 – 8 pm on 8 February, at the Fisherrow Centre.

BT reported that there had been no developments apparent in the consideration by Reporters of the next East Lothian Local Plan.

11). *AOCB.*

1) AA reiterated the need to identify both a Secretary, and a future Treasurer, for the Society. He would continue to raise the issue at the lecture meetings.

2) AA reported that Sheena Irving would be prepared to receive a private visit to Cousland Smiddy by members of the Society at a convenient date after 1 May. AA and GMcD would make appropriate arrangements.

3) After discussion, it was decided to ask Lord Cameron to propose a vote of thanks to the speaker at the next lecture (Royal Company of Archers).

4) JB reported that the low stage in St Peters Church Hall had now been removed. She understood that the audio equipment would still be available.

5) JB reported on enquiries she had made about the repair of a low wall beside the Race Course, which had been demolished by an unknown motorist. Responsibility was apparently being disputed between ELC and the Race Course. She would ask Andy Forrest about whether the Common Good Fund might bear responsibility.

6) GMcD reported current arrangements for the Society's visit to Dumfries House on Sunday 3 June. The cost would be £24/head, and the coach would leave the Brunton Hall at 9:45.

7) BT reported that a consultation event on development of the Old Town Hall complex would take place on 17 Feb from 10 – 4, with an exhibition in the Museum, and the opportunity to visit all parts of the complex.

8) AS agreed to attend the next meeting of the Area Partnership, at MECA, on 26 March.

9) AS and AC had agreed to conduct a walking tour of the '7 Bridges of Musselburgh' for East Lothian University of the 3rd Age on 8 May, at 2 pm.

12). *D.O.N.M.*

**Monday 26th February 2018; 7.30PM at the Chairman's home, 6 Carberry Close.
Tel. 665 4179**