

**Musselburgh Conservation Society**  
**Minutes of the 258<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**

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

AS took the Chair and welcomed Jackie Wilkins, to the Committee.

*1). Apologies for Absence.*

Stephen Edwards, Alan Armour.

*2). Minutes of the Last Meeting.*

The Minute of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016 was approved as a correct record of the meeting.

*3). Matters Arising.*

*Item 3/9): Joint letter to Ministers with HADAS:* AS reported that this had been sent off on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. A reply had been received from Alan Cameron, Policy Manager, Planning & Architecture Division at Victoria Quay, which noted our concerns. Most of the letter however described the current system which we are very much familiar with. HADAS has been in touch with George Kerevan with a view to setting up a meeting early in the New Year. The Committee agreed we should participate in this.

*Item 5): Goshen Enquiry:* The Appellants had withdrawn after only 2 days as they realised that their case was not viable. BT has since had confirmation that the application has been deemed as a refusal. The developers were now carrying out archaeological excavating on the site, no doubt trying to prove that there is nothing of historical significance there.

*Item 10): U3A Guided Tour:* Nothing further on this at present.

*Item 13/1): Screen:* AC will investigate costs for a new projector screen as our current one is unstable.

*Item 13/2) Prize-winners:* GK will bring two bottles of wine for the prize-winners of the Party quiz to Thursday's lecture meeting.

*Item 13/4): Visit to St Michael's Church:* 13 members had attended for an interesting tour led by 2 guides, followed by tea & biscuits. Individual donations were made to the church restoration fund.

*4). Treasurer's Report.*

GK reported that the current bank balance stood at £3118.27. Subscriptions stood at £816 & the finances were in good shape so far. The accounts for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake & the work to the website had been paid. The printers account was still outstanding. A cheque for £30 is being sent to the RNLI as a donation of Dave Berry's lecture fee. A copy of the audited accounts for the past year was handed to the Secretary for the file.

*5). Membership Report.*

G McD stated that the paid up membership currently stood at 95. There were one or two fees still to collect & there were a few members new to the Society. It was hoped that more could be recruited from all the new houses that were being constructed in the town.

*6). Planning Matters including Local Development Plan.*

*Proposed Local Development Plan.* BT has submitted the Society's formal response which outlines a way of reducing Musselburgh's contribution to the housing figures by 1000 but without adding to numbers elsewhere in the County. It is a damage limitation strategy & a summary can be seen on the Society's website. The Society particularly objects to the inclusion of development over the Battlefield site (Howe Mire - Code MH13). HES have also objected strongly to this proposal & stated that it should be taken out of the plan. BT also reported that a consultation on the SES Plan is being held on Wednesday at the Brunton. This proposes a further 6800 houses in East Lothian by 2038. A drop in session is being held from 3pm to 6.30pm or a more structured session in the evening. BT will put together a representation on behalf of the Society.

*Current Planning Applications.*

16/00751/P: Erection of 94 houses, & construction of relocated parking from Victoria Stadium; Barbachlaw Farm Wallyford. *Detailed application for previous approval in principle. No objections. as approval in principal has already been given on appeal to the Scottish Government.*

16/00530/P: Erection of 1 house & associated works: Drummohr House Musselburgh. *1 ½ storey timber house sited to preserve existing trees. No objection.*

16/00862/P. Temporary use of site for open air market on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month: Old Town Hall car park Musselburgh. *This initiative is to be welcomed.*

*7). Schools Photographic Competition.*

No further progress to report. AS will contact Lesley Smith.

*8). Publicity including website.*

AC reported that he had set up a Twitter account. This could be accessed using MussConOne. There was also a link to “The List”. Discussion centred on whether we should issue an occasional Newsletter. BT said that the Inveresk Village Society did this & he would bring along a sample to the next meeting. It was agreed that the Committee Minutes could be put on the web.

*9). Design Award 2016.*

AS commented that there very few projects that he could think of that would qualify for the award this year apart from the house overlooking the beach on the Edinburgh Road. Others were the Cakes & Shakes cafe conversion in Dalrymple Loan & a refurbishment in the High Street. It was agreed to ask the Membership on Thursday evening if they could volunteer any candidates.

*10). Arts & Heritage Volunteering Group.*

.AS tabled an e-mail from this group of the Students Association at the University of Edinburgh. This suggested that the Group would like to explore volunteering opportunities with the Society. It was agreed that we should engage with this & AB & JW volunteered to explore this further with them. As a first step AS will invite them along to our lecture meeting on Thursday & AB & JW will make contact via e-mail.

*11). Town trail Information boards.*

AS reported that he had noticed that many of the town trail information boards situated around Musselburgh were becoming very shabby & the picture boards were delaminating from the backing. They required upgrading & he had contacted Paul Lambie regarding this. Paul was very willing to assist & had approached Stuart Baxter at the Area Partnership to see if funding could be forthcoming. The originals still exist with Eastern but it was thought that the text would need editing & updating & perhaps even a redesign. JW said that she would be interested to do this. AS stated that planning permission might be required if too much change was introduced & that Paul Lambie would have to be in agreement as this was his original project. It was thought that progress might best be made through the Area Partnership, as there may be other plans in the pipeline regarding a town trail.

*12). Correspondence.*

Bernard Heidermann re. Land behind the Stuart House, 7 High Street.

Celia Coulson – Following up on Lord Cameron’s theme of trees in Musselburgh. There is concern over vandalism to new tree planting, particularly around the Mall area & surroundings. It was agreed that this matter should be raised with the Area Partnership who would be best placed to deal with this. Musselburgh Museum & Heritage Group – letter of support. & note of progress on OTH.

Scottish Civic Trust – 2015/16 Review.

*13). A.O.B.*

BT reported that the shop formerly used by the Riding of the Marches was to be used as a “pop up” by the Area Partnership to encourage the public to discuss ideas on how they would like to see the town develop & improvements made.

*14). D.O.N.M.*

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016; 7.30PM at Andrew Coulson’s house: 12 Eskside West  
0131 665 3779**