

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 272nd Executive Committee Meeting held on 16 April 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 271st meeting was approved as a correct record: proposed AS, seconded JB.

3). Matters Arising.

a) It was noted that governance issues at the Race Course are still unresolved, and that, apparently in consequence, responsibility for damaged wall reinstatement continues to be disputed between the Race Course management and ELC. JB said that she would continue to exert what pressure she could, and BT proposed to raise the issue with Stuart Baxter.

b) It was noted that the Hayweights clock was now working again, and that there had been improvements to the landscaping at the riverside beside the former railway station site.

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 28/2/2018 was £2915. He would pass the statement when received to the Chairman.

5). Membership Report.

GMcD reported that there had been no change in the numbers since the previous committee meeting: 106 members had joined or rejoined, and that this was the final total for the year. He would remain in contact with non-renewers.

6). MCS Office Bearers. The Chairman reported that Kathleen Armour would be prepared, if necessary, to accept the role of Treasurer. It was their view, however, that under those circumstances, propriety would require that KA should not become one of the authorised cheque signatories. The Committee gratefully welcomed these proposals.

7). Data Protection Regulations. The Chairman said that he had drafted an appropriate letter and response form for members to confirm their consent to the use MCS made of their personal data. This document had been distributed at a lecture meeting, and 55 signed copies had been returned to GMcD.

After discussion it was decided that the Membership Secretary should post a copy, with sae, to the remaining 51 members, and send it by email to other retained contacts.

8). Speakers for next session. AA reported that Dave Berry would not, after all, be able to give the lecture on Thursday 13 December 2018. The Committee agreed to accept AC's offer to speak on the cholera epidemic of 1832.

The programme of speakers is now:

Thursday, 11 October, 2018:	AGM followed by Barry Turner, 'Surprising Dubai'
8 November	Rosemary Gold, Gold family history
13 December	Andrew Coulson, 'Cholera, 1832: Musselburgh & Macbeth Moir'
10 January, 2019	Gail Donald (SEPA) and Conor Price (Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme) on "Local Flood Risk & Flood Protection"

14 February	David Wild “Bats in Town and Countryside”
14 March	John Hunter “The Trials and Tribulations of Restoring a Scottish Tower House”.
11 April	John Knox – Audio-Visual Presentation by Musselburgh Camera Club

9). *Renewal of ‘Musselburgh Town Trail’ interpretative boards.* After discussion, Committee members, as follows, agreed to consider the necessary revisions for individual boards. Proposals would be sent to BT, who would agree the final amendments with Irene Tait, for the Community Council:

Race Course	JB
Luca	JW
River Esk	AC
Harbour	GMcD
Inveresk	BT
Brunton Hall	BT

10). *Audio-visual equipment.* AC reported that he had bought a length of cable covering, to reduce the trip hazard in the use of computer and projector for lecture meetings, and that this had been used at the most recent session.

It was agreed that the screen did not yet require to be replaced.

AS and AC reported that the heavy audio equipment was now stored too remotely from the church hall for practicable use. AC agreed to research the cost of a more modern PA system, but it was agreed that more convenient secure storage would also be required. He reported that the cost of a suitable wireless lapel microphone would be £49, and this purchase was agreed.

AA reported that a suitable lectern could be obtained for £30; a purchase decision was deferred until the storage position is clarified.

11). *Transport Local Plan.* AC reported on a consultation workshop on ‘Musselburgh’s Active and Sustainable Masterplan’, to which he had been invited as a local ‘Spokes’ member. The relationship, if any, to the Local Transport Plan had not been spelled out.

BT said that the Local Transport Plan was now open to comment, and he recommend committee members to make representations on the website, and to attend the public feedback session on 26 April, in the Brunton Hall.

12). *Visit to Dumfries House.* GMcD reported that 40 members had now signed up for the trip, and that this represented the break-even point for the event. Those visiting the garden rather than the house, would have to pay £3 entry to the garden: he would try to negotiate a rebate of £5 for these participants.

13). *Planning matters.*

(i) An application had been made for a descriptive panel to be added to the David Macbeth Moir statue.

(ii) An application had been made to build 6 townhouses at Monktonhall Farm.

(iii) A modified application had been made for the site adjacent to the former ‘Mrs Forman’s’: the proposal now was for two 2-storey flats.

(iv) An application had been made for the replacement of windows at 1A Mountjoy Terrace, with traditional wooden sash & case windows.

(v) AS reported that the application for uPVC replacement windows for 39 North High Street had been refused.

(vi) The 'Coral Sea' fish restaurant had applied to make improvements to the shopfront of the recently incorporated property, formerly a hairdressing business

14). *Correspondence.* AS read his letter to ELC, asking for attention to be devoted to the problem of the erosion of stone walls adjacent to heavy traffic routes, caused mainly by the use of road salt in winter.

AS read his letter of objection to the application for change of use of the Quayside to a retirement or care home.

15). *A.O.B.*

1) GMcD agreed to guide a visit to Pinkie House and Loretto Chapel as a contribution to East Lothian Archaeology and Local History Fortnight, on 2nd September, 2018.

2) JB gave a brief account of anti-social events associated with the fairground located on small site on the Race Course, beside Linkfield Road. The operators had been refused permission to continue at their previous site, in the eastern part of the links. She had been told that all four Musselburgh councillors had been opposed to the granting of a licence on the Race Course site. The site used was very small, adjacent to residences, on a major road, and in a conservation area.

BT proposed that the issue should be raised with the Chief Executive of the licensing authority, East Lothian Council, and agreed to write on behalf of MCS.

16). *D.O.N.M.*

Tuesday 22nd May 2018; 7.30PM at the Chairman's home, 6 Carberry Close.

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