

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Draft Minutes of the 274th Executive Committee Meeting held on 25th June 2018

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

1). Apologies for Absence.

There were apologies for absence from George Kinnaird and Jackie Wilkins.

2). Minute of of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the 273rd meeting was approved as a correct record: proposed BT, seconded AS.

3). Matters Arising.

1. Item 14 (2). BT had attended the ELC meeting to finalise the Local Plan. SNP councillors had shared MCS's belief that proposed infrastructure measures would not alleviate sufficiently the adverse consequences of the Plan's additional housing in Musselburgh, and had voted against adopting it. All other councillors had voted in favour, so the Plan is now in effect.

2. Item 12 (i). BT reported that the Planning Application to convert the Quayside into a Care Home had been turned down, but was likely to be appealed. He had taken part in a meeting of local Councillors, objectors and representatives of the Musselburgh Business Partnership which had agreed on a common strategy for opposition at the Appeal. He expected that an article about the dispute would appear in the *Musselburgh Courier*.

3. Item 13. AS reported that he had written to the Architectural History Society of Scotland appreciating the work done by AHSS, and regretting that MCS had decided not to renew its subscription to the Society.

4. Item 14(i). AC reported that he had written to Musselburgh & Inveresk Community Council, proposing that the explanatory panel beside the Hayweights Canopy, now installed between the Mall and the River Esk, should be replaced in a more readable form. MCS would like the new panel also to commemorate the role of Stephen Edwards in preserving the historic landmark, and would be willing to contribute to the cost. Irene Tait, on behalf of the Community Council, had replied to say that she would take the proposal to the Council for discussion.

4). Treasurer's Report.

GK had transmitted the most recent bank statements, which showed the current balance of the Society's account as £2911.42.

5). Membership Report.

GMcD reported that there had been no change in the numbers since the previous committee meeting.

6). MCS – audio-visual equipment. JB reported that St Peter's Church were considering installing music reproduction equipment in the Church Hall. She would provide the appropriate contact details to AC. The Committee, after discussion, agreed that they would be willing to consider making a financial contribution to the costs of a semi-permanent installation suitable for supporting lectures as well as music reproduction.

7). Visits. GMcD reported that 48 members had signed up for the visit to Dumfries House, and with two cancellations, this meant that there had been a final surplus for the trip of £124.50.

A visit to Cousland Smiddy had been arranged for Thursday, 28th June.

AA said that the V&A in Dundee is close to opening, and will now enter preliminary bookings for next year. GMcD will make contact with V&A Dundee, with a view to arranging the Society's visit on Sunday, June 2nd 2019.

8). *Planning matters.*

(i) 18/00485/PPM. *Master Plan for major development at Oldcraighall.* BT had made personal comments on these plans, the substance of which had been published in the *Musselburgh Courier*. AS agreed to rephrase these comments appropriately, and submit them to ELC on behalf of MCS.

(ii) Proposed change of use from shop to coffee shop (Newbigging). No comment was made.

(iii) Proposals from SES Electricity Board for bird and nature reserve developments on reclaimed land. Transfer to ELC will occur after the issue of repair to the sea wall is settled. The Committee had no comment on these proposals.

(iv) Proposals from National Trust Scotland for further enhancements to visitor facilities at Newhailes House. No comment.

9). *Correspondence.* AA reported that he had received a letter from an author, Mr L Bruce Keith, who has recently published a volume on Scottish Bridges, and would be willing to give a talk related to this topic to MCS. AA had made a preliminary arrangement with him, for the first talk of the 2019/2020 session, in November 2019.

AS reported an email from Jennie Mollison, about the dilapidated state of the historic fire-engine house for the Net Mills, on the bank of the Esk near the Net Mills entry way. AS undertook to research whether the building is included in the HES database, and BT will discuss the building with Paul Zochowski.

10). *Any other competent business.*

(i) *Scottish Civic Trust.* AS outlined a meeting he had attended, to meet Susan O'Connor, the new Director of the Scottish Civic Trust. She was proposing to re-launch the Trust in the autumn: an important role of the Trust was to support civic amenity societies, such as MCS – for example, by suggesting expert lecturers in specific aspects of the preservation and enhancement of the built environment.

(ii) *Re-development of the old Town Hall complex.* BT reported that he expected that next steps would be taken under the aegis of the Area Partnership.

(iii) *Repair of Race Course boundary wall.* JB said that there had been no change in the situation. BT undertook to raise the issue informally again with senior staff at both the Race Course, and at ELC.

(iv) *MCS Syllabus.* The Committee agreed that 200 copies of the Syllabus of meetings in the 2018/19 season, for distribution in the Library, Brunton Hall and Museum: and by members of the committee.

(iv) AA commented that he was glad how welcome members and visitors were made at our lecture meetings, and that thanks should go in particular to GMcD for the important part he plays in this. "My wife and I were rather left out in the cold at a recent visit to another Society. Despite there being not many there, no effort was made to make us feel welcome", he said.

11). *Date of next meeting.*

Provisionally set for **Monday 10 September 2018; 7.30PM at the Chairman's home, 6 Carberry Close, Tel. 0131 665 4179.**