

**Musselburgh Conservation Society**  
**Minutes of the 260<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**

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

1). *Apologies for Absence.*  
George Kinnaird.

2). *Minutes of the Last Meeting.*  
The Minute of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 was approved as a correct record of the meeting.

3). *Matters Arising.*  
Item 14). AC reported that Daniel McCannel had now moved to England. His book "Reading Scottish Buildings takes many of its examples from Musselburgh & is well worth a look. SE suggested that Paul Lambie might give a talk on this subject.

4). *Treasurer's Report.*  
No report available.

5). *Membership Report.*  
G McD stated that the paid up membership now stood at 113. We had taken £15 in visitors' donations at the last meeting.

6). *Planning Matters.*  
*Goshen.* AS reported that he had seen the latest proposal put forward by Ashfield Commercial Properties. This shows the western part of the site up to the existing steading being developed with approx. 300 houses. He had left comments. BT had also submitted comments.  
*16/00994/AMC Erection of 28 houses, 16 flats & associated works, approval of detailed matters. Land at Old Craighall Road.*  
*Dog grooming shop North High Street. (Former picture framers).* AS reported that this property was not in the Conservation Area & therefore was not subject to the same conditions that applied to such. JW said that it has made a detrimental impact on the street & that it might be worth writing a letter on this subject. AS said that there had been extensive correspondence on this subject of the impact of shop fronts several years ago.

7). *Publicity including website.*  
AB reported that the Committee Minutes had been put on the web. A query had been raised on whether we could publicise the NTS lectures at Newhailes on our site. It was agreed that a link might be able to be established but that our site should be kept for Society business only.  
GMcD offered to help distribute posters for the talks.

8). *Summer Trip.*  
G McD reported that he had settled on a visit to Bowhill, (Duke of Buccleuch) at Selkirk. The date would be Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The cost would be approx. £25.50 per head. Entrance to the house & gardens, including a guided tour was £10. Coffee & Biscuits £3.50 & the bus approx. £11 inc. Driver's tip. There were two local museums in Selkirk if we found that there was extra time to fill. It was agreed that GMcD would put together a short presentation to the members to sell the trip. AC would help with the technicalities. AS will ascertain where the Horticultural Society are going this year.

9) *Lecture Programme 2017 – 18.*  
Dates for the lectures are as follows: Oct 12 AGM, Nov 10, Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12.  
AB is following up on a couple of possible. AC to investigate John Cooper, a battle historian, on the "Siege of Haddington". SE suggested a presentation on the proposal for a Music School in the old Edinburgh High School. The History faculty at Edinburgh University might also be worth exploring for a post grad student.

*10). Arts & Heritage Volunteering Group.*  
Nothing further on this at present.

*11). Schools Photographic Competition.*

AA had expressed an interest in heading this up. AS will send the chain of e-mails that Robert left to see if it could be picked up again in some way. AB suggested that the Scottish Civic trust schools photo competition might be used as a model.

*12). Proposed Meeting with HADAS & George Kerevan MP & Colin Beattie MSP & SG Consultation on the Planning System..*

BT had attended this along with others from HADAS. He reported that it had been a successful meeting & that the politicians had been receptive. A further meeting has been arranged for Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> with Labour politicians. AS & BT will attend.

Regarding the Consultation paper, BT had prepared some notes which had been circulated to Committee. The main thrust of this is that it is essential to get a Plan in place as a priority to avoid opportunist proposals for unwanted developments. There should be no compromise on improving the Plan however & we should submit our objections before the end of the Consultation on 4<sup>th</sup> April. BT was encouraged by the emphasis that the SG Consultation paper puts on Community involvement. Our concern regarding the current appeals situation was taken on board by the MSP & MP who said that they will speak to Ministers about this. There was a need to work together with other community bodies such as the Community Councils & the Area partnerships, & other amenity groups similar to our own. We need to present a unified view on the need for changes in the planning system & the relationship between land use planning & community planning needs to be brought closer together. BT will submit our comments through the official portal, though not all questions will be responded to as it is far too complicated. One thing that we as a group could get involved in is the idea of Place Plans put forward in the Consultation. We already have experience in the form of Conservation Area appraisals. Another idea, borrowed from Orkney is the compilation of a "Local List" of historic & interesting buildings.

*13). Heritage Gathering February 25<sup>th</sup>.*

It was agreed that the Society would participate in this again. It is being held in the Town House Haddington, 9.30 – 13.00 on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, & hosted by the East Lothian Antiquarian & Field naturalist Society. AS will book a display space & we will show boards depicting the Conservation Area & the Design Awards. Members of Committee will be required to man the stall & help out.

*14). Help at Evening lectures.*

AS noted that a few more Committee members could usefully help out by putting out the chairs, helping with teas & learning how the technical equipment works.

*15). Correspondence.*

AHSS letter canvassing for members to join their Cases Panel.

*16). A.O.B.*

BT will check with the Area Partnership about their involvement with renewing the Town Trail boards.

*17). D.O.N.M.*

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017; 7.30PM at Alan Steven's house: 8A Hope Place  
0131 665 6697.** BT will take the Chair.