

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 261st meeting held on 27th February 2017
Executive Committee Meeting

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

1). *Apologies for Absence.*
Jackie Wilkins,

2). *Minutes of the Last Meeting.*
The Minute of the meeting held on 23rd January 2017 was approved as a correct record of the meeting.

3). *Matters Arising.*
Item 16). BT had not yet had a chance to talk with Stewart Baxter regarding the Town Trail boards.

4). *Treasurer's Report.*
GK reported that the bank balance stood at £2932. Membership stood at 116 & outgoings were similar to last year. GK was preparing the accounts & would table a draft at next month's committee meeting. The insurance premium had been paid & a cheque was handed over to the Secretary for reimbursement of expenses. AB tabled the web biannual fee account which totals £120. On current reckoning the Society should break even by the end of the financial year & might even make a small surplus depending how successful the Summer Trip is. AS pointed out that the Design Award had not been presented this year so the expenditure on the plaque of approx £90 had not had to be found.

5). *Membership Report.*
G McD stated that the paid up membership now stood at 116. This was a record, the previous best being 111 members. With two meetings still to be held there may be the odd extra member. G McD said that anyone joining at the final meeting in April would have their membership carried over to next year.

6). *Planning Matters.*
16/00876/P: Alterations & part change of use of shop to cafe use, formation of first floor cafe terrace with handrail & hardstanding. 163 High Street. *This would take advantage of the river view & might start the regeneration of the neglected river frontages.*
16/00489/LBC/P Replacement windows, 14D Linkfield Road. *Timber sash & case to match originals.*
16/00989/P, Erection of walls, fencing, gates & railings, heightening of walls, alterations to doocot, glasshouse, formation of hardstanding areas & demolition of buildings. Newhailes House. *60 documents accompany this application & show the restoration works to the designed landscape of Newhailes House & the construction of a children's adventure play area & community garden in the old walled garden. This is a significant investment by the National Trust for Scotland.*
17/00085/P: Erection of conservatory & formation of hardstanding area, 10A Victoria Terrace. *Lean-to at rear of property.*

Consultation on Scottish Planning System & Proposed Local Plan.
BT reported on the meetings held jointly with HADAS with local & national politicians. He had been encouraged by the interest taken. Ian Gray & Colin Beattie have met & discussed the situation; a follow-up meeting was being arranged with the aim of producing a joint agreed representation. BT will submit the agreed representations on the pro forma before the closing date of 4th April. With regard to the Local Plan BT said that he was encouraged by the idea of involving local communities in the formation of "Place Plans". The Musselburgh Area Partnership would probably be the vehicle for producing these & the Society already had some experience in the Conservation Area Appraisal done for Inveresk. (This had largely been SE's work). The Committee thanked Barry for his sterling work on leading the responses on the planning system & local plan. & it was agreed that BT can expand on & submit the Society's representations.

7). *Publicity including website.*
AB reported that the Committee Minutes were now being regularly put onto the website. She would also put a link into the NTS website. AC had established a Tweet which is now up & running. It was agreed to put up some of the shop front lettering quiz.

8). *Summer Trip.*

G McD tabled the booking form for the Summer Trip to Bowhill. The cost was greed as £24 per member which would include coffee & bannocks at the tea room before the guided tour of the house which is to be arranged for 1.45pm. Booking will start at the next lecture meeting.

9) *Lecture Programme 2017 – 18.*

Ideas so far: Cousland Smiddy – Sheena Irvine (AS); Aural History – Eric Glendinning, Haddington History Society (AS); The Siege of Haddington – John Cooper (AC); Buildings of Musselburgh Conservation Area - Paul Lambie (SE); Richard Murphy, Architect (SE); The future of the former Royal High School; WW2 in East Lothian – David Haire, Haddington History Society (AS); Edinburgh World Heritage Site, The Cramond Association (AC); Scottish Lime Centre. A short list will be coordinated by AS.

10). *Arts & Heritage Volunteering Group.*

AB reported that little progress had been made. The group were still to arrange to view & assess the trail boards.

11). *Schools Photographic Competition.*

It was suggested that our local schools should be encouraged to take part in the Scottish Civic Trust schools photo competition as this was an already established format. Extra “local” prizes could be added by the Society for Musselburgh Schools; AA will investigate this & then seek a meeting with Lesley Smith.

12). *Committee Composition from October 2017.*

The Society needs a Chairperson who should be in place for the next AGM in October. AS stated that he would be standing down as Secretary in October & that a replacement will have to be sought. GK agreed to continue as Treasurer for one more year (2017 – 18). SE & AC come up for re-election & both are willing to stand again. There is one further vacancy on the Committee. It was suggested that the Secretary & the Treasurer should draw up job descriptions. AA commented that speaking personally to people was the best way to persuade them to take on these roles. AB suggested that a survey of Members skills could be made. e.g. a line could be added for this to the Membership Form.

13). *Correspondence.*

None.

14). *A.O.B.*

AS reported that the Heritage Gathering had been extremely interesting & that the Society had made a good showing in it's' table & brief talk. Several useful contacts had been made for future talks etc. Next year the Gathering will be held in Dunbar Townhouse hosted by The Dunbar & District History Society.

G McD, AC & BT are to give a presentation to the Women's Church Guild.

BT mentioned the Flight Path Changes proposed by Edinburgh Airport & suggested that the Society should find out what was proposed.

AA raised the state of the landscaping around Tesco. AS said that this had been discussed with Tesco before but little had been done. The strip along Inveresk Road is outwith Tesco's site & this could be raised with Stewart Baxter (Area Partnership).

GK thought that the signage on the Italian Restaurant “Vino & Cucina” was commendable.

15). *D.O.N.M.*

**Tuesday 4th April 2017; 7.30PM at Andrew Coulson's house: 12 Eskside West
0131 665 3779.**