

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 262nd meeting held on 4th April 2017
Executive Committee Meeting

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

1). Apologies for Absence.

Jackie Wilkins, Stephen Edwards.

2). Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the meeting held on 27th February 2017 was approved with a correction under item 9 – the Cramond Association details were being passed on by BT not AC.

3). Matters Arising.

Item 10) Arts & Heritage Volunteering Group. No further progress to report.

Item 3/16). No progress on the town trail boards.

4). Treasurer's Report.

GK tabled draft accounts for the year .These show a pattern very similar to last year which can be seen in the itemised comparison figures. There were some one off items such as the 30th Anniversary cake at £65 & the web fee was bi-annual so did not feature last year. AS pointed out that no Design Award plaque had been purchased this year. The only major item to be added was the Summer Trip which hopefully would break even. The bank balance stood at £2819.76. This did not include a cheque for web expenses which was handed to AB.

5). Membership Report.

G McD stated that the final paid up membership now stood at 116. This was a record. Any further subscriptions will be credited to the Accounts for next year to avoid incongruity.

6). Planning Matters.

17/00219/P: Erection of Sculpture, Site at Mall Avenue. *This was the figure of an archer cast in bronze for a site adjacent to the Roman Bridge.*

16/01029/AMM: Erection of 140 flats & associated works. Approval of conditions of planning permission in principle 06/00770/OUT. Mall Avenue.6 & 4 storey flats. *Comment on cladding at river frontage, ashlar stone instead of buff brick.*

17/00092/P: 1st floor extension to house, erection of glass privacy screen, privacy metal rafters & installation of solar panels on roof of garage: 6A Ashgrove. *Objection on grounds that this development detracts from & does not enhance the Conservation Area & issues of privacy affecting neighbours.*

16/00947/P: Alteration, formation of dormer & change of use of office building to form 1 house: 30 New Street. *Return of building to its original use as a house. No comment.*

Consultation on Scottish Planning System. BT reported that he had submitted comments on the official Government portal on behalf of the Society. The Secretary will forward the full text to Committee Members. A joint submission with HADAS, which had been proposed has not materialised.

Local Development Plan. BT reported that a meeting of the full council had approved the draft LDP with no amendments despite there being 443 objections. The Plan has now been submitted to Scottish Ministers & the Reporters will take between 3 to 6 months to examine the plan & all the representations. They may decide to hold further hearings on the representations. BT has also written to the Chief Government Planner & the RTPI in Scotland. setting out his concerns at the way representations have been ignored in a most undemocratic manner. He has sited specifically the example of Howe Mire site being included in the Plan for housing which contradicts its status as an historic battlefield in the same Plan.

Craighall. Plans for 1500 houses at Craighall are now coming forward & consultations with the local communities are to be arranged. A planning application will probably be lodged late 2017.

Flight Path Changes proposed by Edinburgh Airport. BT said that he had responded to the consultation on behalf of the Society pointing out that the airport has not factored in the future expanded population of Musselburgh in their calculations.

7). Publicity including website.

Nothing to report.

8). Summer Trip.

G McD reported that 22 people had signed up for the trip so far. 37 was the break-even number. Two tours of the house are being organised & depending on numbers it may be possible to make one of them an extended tour, showing parts of the house not normally seen.

9). Brewing Lecture 27th April.

This was a joint lecture with the Museum Committee. John Martin of brewing Heritage Scotland will talk about the history of brewing & malting in Musselburgh & Fisherrow. AS was liaising with Simon Fairnie over arrangements. The venue is St Peter's Church at 7.30 on Thursday 27th April & the cost of hire of the church will be split 50 – 50. It was hoped that there would be a good turnout although the date clashed with other events on in the town. Suggested that donations were asked for.

10) Lecture Programme 2017 – 18.

AS reported that Eric Glendinning, Haddington History Society, has agreed to talk on Oral History at the AGM on October 12th. AC will ask John Cooper to talk on the Siege of Haddington on November 9th. AS will try Sheena Irvine on Cousland Smiddy for December 14th. AC will find out if the Scottish Lime centre can talk to us. Once these are fixed the remaining ideas can be followed up. AB handed AS some further contact details.

11). Committee Composition from October 2017.

AS tabled a schedule of the Society's programme over the year with the Secretary's input noted in red. Some of the tasks could be re-allocated to other Committee Members & the total Secretary's work load so reduced. AA stated that the best way to find a replacement was to approach people personally. The Society also needs a Chairperson who should be in place for the next AGM in October. AB stated that she would be leaving Musselburgh for a new life in Oxford in the autumn & would therefore be tendering her resignation from the Committee.

12). Correspondence.

E-mail from Dorothy McCann regarding a talk by the Society to the Friends of the Brunton on September 11th which will be similar to the one given to the Church Women's Guild.

14). A.O.B.

Schools Photographic Competition.

AA reported that he had been in contact with Lesley Smith again who had promised to get back with some positive movement forward but had heard nothing further. He had also contacted the Scottish Civic Trust about the schools photo competition & had found out that although this was publicised country wide only 24 schools had taken part last year. It was suggested that schools & teachers were taken up by the curricula & so many other projects that this had low priority. However AA said that he would try one last time to push the project forward, possibly through the Area Partnership.

Old Town Hall.

BT reported that a scheme for re-use & refurbishment by the Architect Richard Shorter was practically ready for public consultation. after scrutiny by the Common Good Fund Committee who were the clients.

GMcD reported that the Fisherrow Yacht Club is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this year & that an exhibition is being organised in the Museum in the autumn.

15). D.O.N.M.

**Tuesday 2nd May 2017; 7.30PM at Alan Stevens' house: 8A Hope Place
0131 665 6697. AB volunteered to chair.**