

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 280th meeting held on 8th May 2019
Executive Committee Meeting
Bryon Liddle's home, 29 Ravensheugh Road.

Present: Alan Armour (Chair & Treasurer), Alan Stevens (Planning & Correspondence), Gavin McDowall (Membership & Trips), George Kinnaird, Bryon Liddle.

1). Apologies for Absence.

Andrew Coulson, Barry Turner.

The Chairman expressed the Committee's deep regret at the news of Barry Turner's illness but was relieved to report that he would be returning home to the UK shortly. He would forward any further news to the Committee.

2). Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the 279th meeting held on 4th March 2019 was approved as a correct record. Proposed Alan Stevens, seconded Bryon Liddle.

3). Matters Arising.

None that are not on the Agenda.

4). Treasurer's Report.

AMA advised that a final sum of £57.50 had been received from GMcD & deposited with the bank. He informed the meeting of the breakdown of income for the year to date as follows:

Total income to date & banked	£1462.48
Fees	£1030.00
Donations	£ 117.00
Visitors & teas	£ 104.93
Petty cash deposited	£ 106.16
Refund from AMA re.. Screen	£ 104.39

He asked for a cheque for £70 to be countersigned to cover his costs for lecture fees for J Hunter & the Musselburgh Camera Club speakers. He also required a cheque for £270 to be countersigned & made out to the V & A museum for payment of the tour cost. A cheque to cover the bus cost of £510 was also countersigned for GMcD to pass on to the bus company in due time. £25 of the trip income remains for the driver's tip, which the treasurer has in his possession. .

The Treasurer had received no further communication from the Church regarding a share of the cost of the new projector & had decided not to pursue this but would wait to be approached. The cheque for £75 to cover the balance of last year's rental has been cleared.

Once the cash transactions for the V & A visit had been finalised & no other anticipated outlays or income expected, he would arrange for a draft income & expenditure account to be prepared for the auditor before the need to circulate information to the Members for the October AGM.

5). Membership Report.

GMcD informed the meeting that the final number of Members for the current year was 102. This was slightly down on last year. Total membership fees totalled £1030; Donations £117 making a total membership income of £1147.00. Visitors' contributed £104.93.

It was suggested that a greater number of flyers for the Society be printed this year & that Committee members should organise a leaflet drop around residential areas of the town. AS said that he would attend to this.

6). Planning Report.

AS reported that the following applications have been examined:

19/00217/P: 39 High Street. Siting of storage container. (*In back yard. Conservation Area*).

19/01245/P: 10 Eskside West. Replacement windows. *Timber sash & Case replacing uPVC.*
 19/00192/P: 19/00191/LBC: Loretto School, 1-7 Linkfield Road. Erection of gates. (*Similar in style to the existing gates at Pinkie House*).
 19/00001/P: Land at Mall Avenue. Modification of clauses 1, 2, & 7 of planning permission 06/00770/OUT regarding provision of affordable housing.
 19/00335/P: 15 Maitland Avenue. Extension to house & formation of dormer window.
 19/00314/P: 46 Campie Road. First floor extension to house.
 19/00370/P: Fisherrow Harbour. Erection of boat store/clubhouse.

AS reported that two major housing applications had been considered by the full Planning Committee on 26 March. These were as follows:

15/00337/PM: Erection of 370 houses 103 flats & associated works at land at Craighall, Musselburgh.
 18/00485/PPM: Planning permission in principle for proposed mixed use development comprising residential development, education, business, industry, storage & distribution, innovation hub, employment uses, community facilities, residential neighbourhood centre, playing fields, changing facilities, public parks, & associated works at land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh.

7). *Summer Outing.*

GMcD reported that the members who have taken their names off the original “likely to go” list were greater than the extra people who have come onto the final list. Thus 50 were on the original list but current firm numbers indicate 45 at present.

The finances are as follows:	45 x £17	=	£765
	Bus		£510
	V & A 45 x £6		£270
	Driver's tip		<u>£ 25</u>
			£805
	Potential deficit		£ 40

8). *East Lothian Archaeology & History Fortnight 2019.*

GMcD is willing to lead a tour around Pinkie House as in previous years.

9). *New Plaque for Mall Clock.*

AMA had spoken with Eastern Design shortly after the last Committee meeting & eventually made contact with the person involved in communication with the Community Council dealing with the production process. There was no progress to report at that time as Eastern were waiting for a decision from the Community Council.

10). *Progress on Syllabus for 2019 – 20*

AMA had continued with efforts to complete the seven lectures for the year & to date had confirmation for October, November, December 2019 & March 2020. He had sent out e-mails for February & April 2020 to two speakers & had received an agreement for one of the dates (to be confirmed) from Gordon Neil to talk on “Seton Palace Excavations). The date of April 9th 2020 would be filled by Hamish Reid, a guide at Abbotsford, on “The Life of Sir Walter Scott”. The January date was hopefully to be filled by a speaker on “The Life & Work of Elsie Inglis” but the speaker could not commit until later in the year. AMA advised him that we went to print in August & hoped that would be sufficient time for him to confirm the date.

11). *New Equipment in Church Hall.*

AMA had received a report from AC in connection with the new equipment & this was read to the meeting & a copy detailed below. The screen & the new projector worked well but there was a problem with the recently installed speaker system transferred from the church. AMA suggested that the Society purchase its own speaker system comprising an “Addabox” type system with a microphone plus stand. This was not an excessive cost & estimates put the figure at under £200.

12) *Correspondence.*

AHSS membership renewal. AS will write back regarding non- renewal.

13). *AOCB*

Design Award 2019. AS reported that not many suitable projects have been completed this year to date. Some suggestions are the new fish restaurant in North High Street, the Shell sculpture in Edinburgh Road, the Archer at the Mall, house refurbishment on North High Street near the Ravelston Hotel. AS will look at these.

The Old Town Hall. There seems to be little enthusiasm from the Council to progress the refurbishment proposals. The Museum archives, presently stored in the building are to be moved to the John Gray Centre.

The Stand public house. The Committee expressed concern at the deteriorating state of this listed building. AS will write to the Council about this.

14). *DONM*

Monday 26th August at George Kinnaird's home, 75 Millhill

AFS 18/05/2019

Appendix. Report on AV Systems

I think the only issue I have to report back to the MCS Committee meeting is about the new AV equipment:

As you know, the new AV equipment for the St Peter's Church Hall was installed just in time for the last lecture. The new projector and screen performed very well, and have been set up quite conveniently for use by speakers. There was a small table to situate the computer, and next time I will put this close to the left hand wall, so that the trip hazard of trailing cables will no longer exist. (The rubber cable cover is still in the Church Hall: MCS bought it, so we should recover it: but I suggest we then gift it to anyone who will give it a socially useful home --- Village Society, perhaps?). I think I remember that the Chairman undertook to dispose of the hilarious collapsing old screen -- but if not, I shall transport it to the dump when a convenient occasion arises.

I anticipated, wrongly, that communication between computer and projector would be by some wire-less system. In fact, there is just a cable ending in an HDMI connector. I think that an HDMI socket is probably a standard fitting on any full-size and reasonably recently made laptop -- and it certainly is on mine. However, the laptop we bought for MCS use some years ago -- and which Alan Stevens has faithfully brought to every meeting since -- does not have an HDMI connector. I understand from Alan that no other use is made of this computer, so I think we should dispose of it. If the committee agrees, I shall look into the ways that this could be done, and report back.

I suggest that there is no need to purchase a replacement laptop at this stage. It is no hardship for me to bring mine (and the 'presenter' -- the little usb gadget with push buttons and a laser pointer for the speaker to control the slide show) each month, and if this/I is/am/are not available, I'm sure several other committee members could do the same.

Finally, the sound system. This is obviously less powerful than the massive system we've used before -- but I'm sure it will be perfectly adequate. As you probably noticed, I tried out the wireless microphone system that I bought for the Society last autumn. This initially appeared to work well, but then developed crackles and pops that were sufficiently irritating that we decided not to ask the speaker to make use of them (and the general impression I had was that on this occasion, the speaker was heard -- maybe the hall acoustics have been improved by the modifications?). There are several points at which things could be going wrong, so I've asked the person responsible for the installation if at some convenient time we could try out a wireless microphone from the church, in the church hall. If it all works fine, we shall know how to proceed.... I doubt that I will manage to get this done before the autumn, now; and any further decisions and actions can wait till then, I think. - Andrew.