

## MUSSELBURGH CONSERVATION SOCIETY A.G.M. 2019

### **Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.30 pm at St Peter's Church Hall, High Street, Musselburgh.**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming 50-plus members to the AGM, to the talk and to refreshments afterwards.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Celia Coulson.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The minutes of the A.G.M. held on the 11th October 2018 were adopted, proposed by Alan Stevens and seconded by Bryon Liddle.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising which did not form part of the formal Agenda.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman commenced by welcoming all members to the meeting and was pleased to see such a strong turnout, in view of the suddenly inclement weather.

Reviewing the events of the Society's year, he described first the upgrading of the St Peter's Church Hall, including installation of comprehensive audio-visual equipment. The Society had contributed by meeting the cost of a lectern and a ceiling mounted electric driven screen: but, he explained, our venue rental would be remitted for a period such that there was no overall cost to the Society.

On behalf of the membership he congratulated the Committee for the efficiency with which they carried out the tasks of running the Society:

Gavin McDowall; membership administration and Summer outing.

Alan Stevens & Barry Turner; planning issues and applications.

Andrew Coulson; Minutes Secretary.

George Kinnaird and Bryon Liddle; members of the committee with valuable insight and experience.

As in making his report last year, he repeated that the future of the Society depended on younger participants being prepared to come forward as members of the Committee. Otherwise, the ages of the current committee members would soon make it inevitable that the Society would cease to operate.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

#### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Alan Armour, referred to the Annual Income & Expenditure Account, to 31 August 2019, copies of which had been provided. As a result of the purchase of the new equipment for St Peter's Church Hall, and other one-off expenses, the accounts showed a net loss of £111; but this was not an issue of great concern, in view of the rent remission arrangement he had already explained, and the overall relative strength of the Society. Subscriptions have been maintained at the previous year's level.

There were no questions or comments from the audience, and the meeting adopted the Report *nem con.* (Proposed, George Kinnaird; seconded, Barry Turner.)

## **6. RE-ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Alan Stevens, Andrew Coulson and Barry Turner had completed two years' service on the Committee. All three were willing to continue in this role. Their re-election was proposed by Alan Armour and seconded by George Kinnaird, Bryon Liddle and Gavin McDowall respectively. There was no dissent.

**Re-election of Auditor:** Alan Armour proposed the re-election of Ben Wood as the Society's Auditor. George Kinnaird seconded the proposal, and there was no dissent.

## **7. THE SOCIETY'S PATRON,**

**Lord Cameron**, said that, on the occasion of his demitting office at this meeting, he would like to pay tribute to the work of the Society's Committee and supporters in seeking to conserve the civic environment of the historic town of Musselburgh. Conservation, he said, is a forward-looking state of mind, and it is important to make sure that East Lothian Council is properly planning for the future of the Burgh – in the face of climate change and other environmental and political challenges. It may often occur that solutions to these challenges can be found in the past. In recent years, there have been some disappointing developments in public policy, but he took the recent award of the Stirling prize this year to a social housing development as a beacon of hope. This attractive, high density but low rise, development of a street of 105 dwellings in the city of Norwich had been constructed to the highest environmental standards, using designs and materials which drew references from a local historic perspective. He hoped that ELC could take a similar point of view, forward looking but bedded in the past.

The Chairman thanked Lord Cameron for his words of encouragement and thanked him also for the more than 20 years that he had served as the Society's Patron.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all those present for attending.

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## **TALK BY Ailsa Fortune.**

The meeting was followed by a most interesting illustrated talk on the early women golfers of North Berwick, given by Ailsa Fortune and entitled 'Par for the Ladies'.