

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 284th meeting held on 9 December 2019
Executive Committee Meeting
Alan Armour's home, 8 Carberry Close.

1). Present.

Alan Armour (Chair & Treasurer), Alan Stevens (Planning & Correspondence), Gavin McDowall (Membership & Trips), Barry Turner, Andrew Coulson (Minute Secretary).

2). Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies.

3). Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the 283rd meeting held on 5th November 2019 was taken as read.

4). Matters Arising.

Andrew Coulson outlined the possible routes to replacing the Society's laptop with a more recent model, that was capable of being used with the new projector installed in St Peter's Church Hall. After discussion, he was asked to try to acquire a suitable machine second-hand, and if possible to trade in the older machine with the seller.

5). Membership Report.

Gavin McDowell informed the meeting that there were 69 paid up members so far this year, and that this was significantly fewer than in the same month last year.

6). Treasurer's Report.

Three cheques had been signed since the previous Treasurer's report: £155 of Skyline Print; £70.90 for wine and soft drinks at the AGM; £131.98 for production of the Design Award plaque. At the meeting cheques were signed for £208.60 (public liability insurance); £90 (payments to speakers); £69.24 (Treasurer's sundries); £25 (contribution to the Hayweights clock plaque commemorating contributions of Stephen Edwards). Over the same period, £635 was received in subscriptions and donations. The estimated cleared balance in the Society's account was £2790.16.

The Committee agreed to make our usual annual contribution of £30 to the Scottish Civic Trust.

7). Planning Report.

19/0178/LBC, 19/01079/P. Alterations, extensions and redesign of access to Eskgrove House, Inveresk. The Committee strongly supported the objections formulated by the Inveresk Village Society, particularly to the breaching of the boundary wall dangerously close to the top of Inveresk Brae. Alan Stevens agreed to write to ELC in these terms (although it was noted that the formal deadline for comments had then passed).

19/01000/P. Alteration to shop front (retrospective). The Committee had previously agreed to write with the opinion that the lettering ('Veen Barbers') was too large, out of scale with the premises, and this letter had been sent.

19/01172/LBC, 19/01173/P The committee noted with approval that the proposal was for the replacement of windows with new, matching, timber sash & case construction.

Other news: The proposal for housing redevelopment at Edenhall has been withdrawn by the developer, whose plan did not appear to meet ELC's aspirations for the site. Construction of the relatively small Cala Homes development at Levenhall has now begun.

8). Correspondence. A reply had been received to the Society's letter drawing the attention of ELC to the deterioration of the former pub, 'The Stand', which occupies a prominent site in Musselburgh High Street. Planning permission had been given for extensive alterations, and ELC will continue to monitor the state of the buildings while these are carried out.

9). Gift for retiring patron.

A proposal was made and accepted.

10). Lecture meeting.

Arrangements for the next three meetings (December, January and February) were discussed and agreed.

Proposals were made for the next session's speakers. Members of the committee would in the first instance approach their proposed speakers, and then pass the contact details to the Chairman.

13). The Society's Patron.

An appropriate figure to succeed Lord Cameron as Patron was identified. Andrew Coulson agreed to approach the individual.

14). Any Other Competent Business.

Gavin McDowell is planning the Summer Trip as a visit to Stirling Castle with a stop for coffee at The Kelpies. He will also investigate Marchmont House as a possible alternative, or as a possible goal for next year's trip. Barry Turner reported progress with the Crookston School Project. A recent development is that the site has now been offered for sale; this presents a considerable opportunity, but also a possible threat to the fulfilment of the working group's ambitions for the site.

15). DONM.

Monday 13th January at Alan Stevens's home, 8A Hope Place.