

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 283rd meeting held on 5 November 2019
Executive Committee Meeting
George Kinnaird's home, 75 Millhill.

Alan Stevens took the chair, in the absence of the Chairman. The Committee extended its sympathy and best wishes to Alan Armour.

1). Present.

Alan Stevens (Planning & Correspondence), Gavin McDowall (Membership & Trips), George Kinnaird, Andrew Coulson (Minute Secretary). It was noted that four members of the Committee did not constitute a formal quorum, and that accordingly no definitive decisions would be taken at the meeting.

2). Apologies for Absence.

Alan Armour (Chair & Treasurer), Bryon Liddle, Barry Turner.

3). Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the 282nd meeting held on 1st October 2019 was taken as read.

4). Matters Arising.

None that are not on the Agenda.

5). Minutes of Annual General Meeting, October 2019.

Andrew Coulson reported that he had drafted the AGM minutes, and that Alan Armour had amended and added to them. He would circulate the current version to the Committee.

6). Membership Report.

Gavin McDowell informed the meeting that there were 58 paid up members so far this year, producing an income of £635.

The Committee agreed to distribute photocopies of the lecture programme to appropriate churches.

7). Planning Report.

George Kinnaird declared an interest in the first item:

19/00951/LBC & 19/00950/P. Extension to late 18th C Grade B listed house at 71 Millhill. The Committee had no adverse comment on the design. The extension was largely out of public sight, and it enhanced the building.

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

Alan Stevens also reported that planning permission had been given for extensive housing and mixed use development at Craighall and Old Craighall; and that signage at Newfield had also been approved.

8). Commemoration for Stephen Edwards at the Hayweights Clock Canopy on the Mall.

Celia Coulson, Den Mather, Alan Stevens, George Kinnaird, Barry Turner, Andrew Coulson and Pat Edwards held a small ceremony to commemorate the many contributions made by the late Stephen Edwards to the conservation of the built environment in Musselburgh and Inveresk, on 31 October at 2 pm. Lord Cameron was not able to attend, but had written privately to Pat Edwards. A report and photograph had been sent to the local press.

9). Correspondence.

Sheena Irving (Cousland Smiddy) had proposed to organise the next East Lothian Heritage Forum at Cousland early in 2020. Our preferred dates would 22nd February or 14th March.

A letter from the Scottish Civic Trust reported current strategy and activities, and included copies of their Annual Report and Strategic Plan.

10). Gift for retiring patron.

Members of the committee undertook to make researches.

11). Design Award Entrants.

Alan Stevens confirmed that the entrants this year would be:

- Shell sculpture on Edinburgh Road,
- The Archer & Arrows wor at various locations,
- The refurbished fish restaurant “East Coast” on North High Street,
- Refurbished flats at Inveresk Bowling Club, refurbished house on North High Street,
- New housing estate at Pinkie Mains.

He would prepare the display boards for the December lecture meeting.

12). Speakers for the next session.

A number of suggestions were made, and members of the Committee undertook to make appropriate enquiries.

13). The Society’s Patron.

No proposals were made for a successor to Lord Cameron.

14). Any Other Competent Business.

Andrew Coulson undertook to enquire of the Chairman about the av requirements for the next lecture. He said that there were now two amplifier+speaker systems available in the Church Hall. He hoped that the technical problems of the Society’s wireless microphone had now been solved, but that he would keep the outdated wireless microphone available as a back-up.

It was agreed that a quorate Committee Meeting should consider the purchase of a new lap-top for the single purpose of displaying slide-shows on the overhead projector.

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.

15). DONM

Monday 9th December at