

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 285th Executive Committee Meeting
held on
Monday 13th January
at
Alan Stevens's home, 8A Hope Place.

1). Present.

Alan Stevens (Planning & Correspondence), Gavin McDowall (Membership & Trips), Andrew Coulson (Minute Secretary). In the absence of the Chairman, Alan Stevens took the chair. It was noted that since the meeting was inquorate, no financial decisions could be taken.

2). Apologies for Absence.

Alan Armour (Chair & Treasurer), Barry Turner.

3). Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The Minute of the 284th meeting held on 9th December 2019 was taken as read.

4). Matters Arising.

Gavin McDowall reported that there had only been a limited positive response to both his suggestions for a Summer Trip – Kelpies + Stirling Castle, or Marchmont House. In addition, conditions of booking set by Marchmont House would cause quite a sharp rise in the price to members, compared to recent years. He would consider other possible destinations, in Fife.

5). Treasurer's Report.

In the absence of the Treasurer, no Treasurer's Report was presented.

6). Membership Report.

Gavin McDowell informed the meeting that there were now 79 members of the Society, substantially fewer than at the corresponding point in the previous year. He would approach non-renewers individually.

7). Planning Report.

19/0178/LBC, 19/01079/P. Alterations, extensions and redesign of access to Eskgrove House, Inveresk. This application had now been withdrawn.

19/01000/P. Veen Barbers application for retrospective permission for a new shop front had been granted.

19/02187/P Ship Inn. Addition to the plan of a false wall with blank windows and surmounted by potted hedging plants had been applied for. It was agreed that Alan Stevens would lodge an objection to this, as a bizarre and inappropriate novelty.

19/01236/P. Enlarged and renewed fish production factory on the Esk Mills/Papermill site. There was no objection to this development.

19/01319/P. Application by National Grid to decontaminate the former gas works site. No comment on this application, which is presumably intended to facilitate sale for a housing development.

8). Retirement gift for Lord Cameron. Andrew Coulson reported that he had obtained the print, and that this was now with the framers.

9). 2019 Design Plaque Award Ceremony.

The nature and timing of this event was under discussion with Stuart Baxter.

10). Speakers for the next session.

Andrew Coulson would invite Finlay Lockie to speak at the December meeting, on the restoration of Northfield House. There remained two unfilled slots. Andrew Coulson undertook to approach a local archaeology company, and Gavin McDowall to enquire whether a speaker or speakers from Fisherrow Yacht Club could speak about a recent voyage undertaken to Fair Isle.

13). The Society's new Patron.

Arrangements would be made to welcome the Society's new patron, on the Chairman's return home.

14). Any Other Competent Business.

Sheena Irving has arranged to hold the East Lothian annual Heritage gathering in the Cousland Village Hall on 14 March. Alan Stevens reported that he had asked for a table, but not to speak, at the event; there would be a display of photographs of winning Design Award projects.

15). DONM.

Monday 17th February at a venue to be decided.