

Musselburgh Conservation Society
Minutes of the 288th Executive Committee Meeting
held on
Monday 3rd August 2020, at 2:30 pm
at
Alan Armour's Home.

1). Present.

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

2). Apologies for Absence.

The Members of the Committee were all present.

3). Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer presented draft Annual Accounts for the year to 31st August 2020, which he said were not expected to change before presentation to the AGM. These showed an overall net deficit for the year of £226.95, leading to a reduction of the Society's cash reserves to £2678.93.

4). Planning Report.

20/00654/LBC & 20/00655/P: 29A Eskside West. Retrospective application for erection of satellite dish. This property is in the Conservation Area, and the satellite dish is on the front elevation. It is physically small, and the Committee decided to make no representation to ELC Planning Committee.
20/00623/P: Old Craighall Services. Erection of drive-through coffee shop, part demolition of hotel to form carpark. The Committee considered that this development would be a significant improvement of this site.

20/00704/P: Eskgrove House. Erection of double garage and associated works. This is a modest building set back from the main house, within the garden grounds. The Committee decided to make no representation to ELC Planning Committee.

Barry Turner reported that the site of the former Crookston School had been sold. It was not yet known who the purchaser was, or what their plans for the site would be.

5). Presentation to Lord Cameron.

The Committee agreed that Alan Stevens, George Kinnaird and Andrew Coulson would form the group to make the presentation privately, under Covid19-safe conditions, at Lord Cameron's home. Alan Armour would make the arrangements with Lord and Lady Cameron.

6). Queen Mary's Mount.

Andrew Coulson reported that there was an active three-way discussion between Buccleuch Estates, a group of Carberry residents, and a group of mountain bikers about the use of Queen Mary's Mount as a mountain bike circuit. MCS was concerned with two issues in the discussion – the damage done by mountain biking to the Iron Age Hillfort (a protected ancient monument), and the desirable reinstatement of the vandalised main information board on the Queen Mary's Mount historic trail, that was created in a project organised by MCS about 12 years ago.

He had drawn the attention of Historic Environment Scotland to the damage, and had been invited to take part in a site meeting (date not yet arranged) to discuss this issue.

As part of the virtual Local History Fortnight, he had prepared a geo-located walk (entitled 'Queen Mary's Mount'), which was now available on the 'Echoes' mobile phone app.

7). Members' mailing and AGM.

It was agreed that members should be encouraged to now pay their subscriptions, if possible, by direct bank transfer; and that the subscription should be unchanged this year. Members would be assured that if a significant part of the lecture programme (2020 – 2021) were cancelled, the reduction in MCS outlays would be reflected in an appropriate rebate of the subscription for the 2021 – 2022 session.

It was agreed that the Chairman should make the necessary arrangements to hold the AGM by email, including the renomination of retiring Committee members.

8). Lecture Programme, 2020 – 2021 session.

The Chairman reported that St Peter's Church Hall would not be available for MCS this year, and that any assembly held in the Hall under Social Distancing conditions would be limited to 12 attenders. Andrew Coulson said that in his view, it would be practicable to hold the lecture sessions as 'Zoom' meetings, and he agreed to organise these events. The Chairman would approach each of the speakers, and ask if they were willing to participate in this way, or if not, whether they would be prepared to give a talk instead in the next session (2021 – 2022).

The Chairman proposed that we should make a goodwill donation to the Church in view of the cancellation of the year's hirings, and the Committee agreed that £100 should be given.

14). DONM.

The date of the next meeting was not discussed.