

Musselburgh Conservation Society

Minutes of the 295th Executive Committee Meeting

on 31st August at 7.30pm

At the Home of the Chairman

Welcome: The chairman welcomed the members with particular reference to those recently co-opted, Camelia Symes, George Cunningham and Melanie Roccio.

Attendance: A.M. Armour (Chair & Treasurer); A. Stevens (Planning); B. Turner (Planning & Speakers); G. McDowall (Membership Secretary); Camelia Symes; G. Kinnaird; G. Cunningham (Press Officer) Melanie Roccio.

Apologies: A. Coulson

Minutes of Meeting held on 21st June 2021: It was agreed the minutes represented a true record of the meeting and were duly proposed by BT and seconded by GMCD.

Matters Arising but not discussed below: None

Correspondence: AMA advised he had contacted Scottish Civic Trust with the article from the Courier covering the presentation of the 2020 Design Award to the designers of the Archer statue. This had been accepted by the SCT for printing in their September newsletter with the kind agreement of the editor of the Courier. A copy should be available on line. Other correspondence included notification from the Reporter on McDonald's application for a take-away to be sited at Tesco car park and a response from Paul Zakowski re the Fire House at the river Esk and the need for a reason for its repair. See below for further discussion on the fire house (AOB).

Treasurer's Report: The set of accounts (attached below) and distributed to the Committee, give an indication as to the state of affairs for the year ended 31st August 2021. These have yet to be audited by Ben Wood but the balance shown on hand at the bank of £3001.47 agrees with the final bank statement for the year. The auditor may change some of the headings as has happened in the past before being presented to the Annual General Meeting. The figures show a net surplus of £322.54 which can be accounted for by the generosity of members in their donations. Despite reducing the annual subscription to £10 for all members, subscription income shows parity with last year. A gift of £100 to the Musselburgh Area Partnership was returned as unused by them plus a small refund of the cancelled insurance. This provided an income with subscriptions, etc of £1221.38 against an expenditure of £898.82. Main items of expenditure include £172.68 for zooming fees for Committee meetings and lectures, (which should not re-appear), printing, stationery, stamps and the plaque, the cost of the last rising sharply from last year. You may recall stamps were used to send out paperwork to all the members and this proved to be a good use of the funds. No hall fees this year but we did give a donation of £100 to the church as a gesture of goodwill. Notification had been received from Geoff Mason that the church hall has been reserved for the Society with perhaps a slight problem for the April one, being near Easter, possibly. Also,

the rental of the Hall has risen from £25 per use to £35 from October. The offering of wine at the AGM and Christmas can be decided later

Finally, the Treasurer pointed out that the likely income for 2021-22 will not be sufficient to cover overheads unless we receive once again generous donations from the members. With the need for the insurance to be re-instated to at least third party public liability level, hall rental plus other rising costs, the subscription of £10 will likely provide a shortfall of £200 - £300. However, he reminded the Committee it was agreed the subscription was left at £10 for the coming year as a gesture of thanks to the members for standing by the Society during a very difficult time which saw many clubs and societies either going into hibernation or folding. Any deficit would be met out of the Society's capital reserve. However, it is recommended the subscription for 2022-23 should rise to £15 minimum with the added hope of continued donations from the members although consideration may need to be given to senior member subscriptions.

Planning Report: AS informed the Committee of the following planning applications, none of which required further action by the Committee:

21/01025/P: 50 Ravensheugh Road, (Westpans). Extension to house, formation of dormer window & balcony and erection of ancillary domestic building. *Dormer to street frontage, 2 storey home gym and office building to rear of gardens.*

21/01020/P: 184 North High Street (Ship Inn). Erection of retracting canopy roof. *This is a glazed roof over the back courtyard eating area that can protect the open area from inclement weather to allow al fresco dining.*

21/00709/P: 148 North High Street (formerly Signature Upholstery) *Part change of use from shop to dwelling.*

21/00863/P: 16 New Street (bungalow opposite bowling green). *Extension to house formation of dormers and roof windows.*

20/00044/P, 20/00047/ADV: Planning permission appeal, land east of Inveravon Terrace (McDonalds). This appeal has been dismissed by the Reporter and planning permission refused.

BT advised that the MCS comments on the MacDonald's decision had not been received by the Courier and therefore not included in the initial report. Additional information was sent by BT to the Courier and was included in a follow up piece stating that the reporter was unable to consider the proximity of the school and the matter of healthy eating as these were not included in matters of planning. MSP Colin Beattie had been contacted and was hoping this gap in the planning system would be closed.

BT asked what was happening to the Travelodge building at Old Craighall. Planning application had been made in the past. No further information available.

MR spoke of the conversion of a barber shop in the High Street to a fast-food outlet but the likely problem of litter caused by this was not a basis for an objection.

Membership Report: The printing of the syllabus and circulars were delivered to the meeting by AS. It was noted the date for the December lecture was misprinted and should read 9th December. GMcD very kindly offered to amend the date by hand. It was agreed the date for e-mailing the members would take place during the first week in September. Also, the circulars would be left at various shop etc outlets and, if possible, the remainder would be delivered to some of the new houses in the area. MR gave a report on the use of Jotform which could be used as another way to facilitate the dissemination of information as well as the collection of subscriptions. See report below. MR and GMcD would meet to discuss how Jotform could be better used to supplement existing methods of subscription collection.

Copy of report from MR

JotForm Membership Form

JotForm is free

Doesn't require an app by either the admin or the person filling it in, can all be done via website

Easy to edit/update

Reduces the need for paper membership forms that cost and are easily lost, plus not everyone has access to a printer

Form can be sent via a link that the recipient opens on their device

Easy to fill out

Can be done at any time without having to find time to hand in a paper form

All submissions are stored on the website and an email is sent to sign up address

*INCLUDE PAYMENT DETAILS IN "THANKS FOR SUBMITTING" MESSAGE

Archaeology & Heritage Fortnight: The Society was involved in the organization of three walks: The 7 Bridges, Queen Mary's Mount and the Battlefield walk (10th September). Details of these could be found on web page "Echoes – Musselburgh."

Facebook Entry: AC reported that Celia has created a Facebook Group for Musselburgh Conservation Society and we will aim to keep up a regular stream of postings of things which we think members will be interested in (including, of course, MCS's own activities). The page is linked to a number of other Musselburgh community groups so there will be a mutual exchange of information. Anyone can join the group and in particular would encourage the Committee and MCS members to do so – if they are at all active in Facebook – and to contribute to it.

Additional Lecture on Zoom on 9th September plus reserve speaker: George Haggarty will give a lecture by zoom on pottery produced in the area. He will be introduced by CS as the Chair will be unavailable on the evening. A vote of thanks to be given by GC. AMA would contact the speaker again with a request for a short CV and offer the usual fee. Simon Fairnie

has agreed that he would be able to provide cover at short notice should any of the lecturers organized be unable to attend.

Renewal of Public Liability Insurance: AMA has been in contact with Keenan & Pennykid regarding the re-instatement of the Society's liability insurance. He has also e-mailed our Patron for advice. The broker insisted the Society required cover for public liability covering members and others the Society may come in contact with (on an outing for example) plus cover for the Committee in case anyone is sued for any reason. However, despite being reminded we are not a charity, the extra cover is called Trustee insurance. After some discussion, it was agreed to take out the cover to ensure neither the Society nor the Committee would be at risk. The cost is not high at £208 and can be afforded. It was agreed to arrange for the cover to start when the first lecture took place in the church hall (likely the AGM on 14th October).

Election and Re-election of Committee members at the AGM: AMA had circulated a draft agenda for the AGM in October and after discussion, the names of those to be elected or re-elected were amended where required and proposers and seconders named for them all. AMA would demit office after introducing CS as Chair, with CS taking over the meeting starting with introducing the Patron to say a few words. The updated agenda would be circulated to the Committee by AMA. GMcD would ask the members for any nominations to Committee at least two weeks prior to the AGM. Such nominations to be in writing to the Committee.

Any Other Business:

a) AMA was glad to report that the plaque at the Mall clock is in the process of being repaired and re-positioned by Eastern Exhibition and Display. This vandalism and others are to be the subject of an article in the Courier arranged by GC. The repair will be free of charge as a gesture of goodwill and GC will include this in the article.

b) The matter of the Fire House on the Esk was discussed and the question was whether it was worth refurbishing although it was agreed it was a building of some historic interest to the town. AMA would contact Councillor Katie Mackie to find out if any financial assistance could come from the Common Good Fund to cover repairs. Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was also mentioned and MR suggested help could be obtained with the paperwork if it was decided to go down this path. As mentioned above, it had to be proved the building was worthy of repair and to what use could it be put.

c) AMA agree to continue the update of the web page until no longer required to do so.

(d) Goshen Farm. In light of the recent appeal decision, means are being explored by which the arable land might be preserved in the long term as farmland with some public use, such as allotments in part of the area. The whole area is zoned as Green Belt.

e) Possible recipients of the 2021 design plaque award would be on the agenda for the next Committee meeting. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

f) Comment was made about the poor condition of the Grey Horse public house in the High Street. AMA would contact Councillor Mackie to find out, if possible, when the Shish Mahal

lease of their existing property was up, the Shish Mahal being the current owners of the public house.

Date For Next Meeting:

The next meeting would take place on 5th October 2021 at 7.30pm at the home of Camelia Symes, 24 Inveresk Village. Entry is by the small door at the National Trust Gardens – not the garden entrance but the other small door.

MUSSELBURGH CONSERVATION SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

<u>2019-20(£)</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2020-21(£)</u>
858.00	Subscriptions	850.00
71.00	Donations	240.00
63.00	Lecture Visitors	-----
-----	Insurance Premium Refund	31.36
	Muss. Area Partnership Refund of Gift	100.00
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992.00	Totals	1221.36
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
210.00	Lecture Fees	120.00
208.60	Insurance (Public Liability)	-----
185.11	Printing, Photocopying – Syllabus Cards	150.00
131.98	Annual Award Plaque	172.80
122.82	A.G.M. and Christmas Lecture Wine Costs	41.94
75.00	Hire of Hall	-----
17.32	Telephone Calls, Postage and Stationery	66.40
268.12	Gifts and Donations	175.00
-----	Zooming Fees	172.68
1218.95	Totals	898.82
<u>(226.95)</u>	Total Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>322.54</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2021

ASSETS

2678.93	Bank	3001.47
	<u>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>	
(226.95)	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	322.54
2905.88	Retained Earnings Brought Forward	2678.93
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<u>2678.93</u>	Totals	<u>3001.47</u>

I certify that these accounts represent a true and accurate view of the financial position of the Society as at 31st August 2021

Ben Wood, CIPFA, CHA, September 2021

