

**Minutes of the Mavisbank Trust Board Meeting**  
held at 2 pm on Wednesday 23 February 2016 at Swanston

**Present**

Duncan Campbell	Trustee
Charlie Cumming	Trustee
David Harrowes	Trustee and Joint Acting Chairman in the Chair
Chris Lewis	Trustee
Keith McIntosh	Trustee
Kirsten McKie	Architectural Historian
Richard Prenter	Trustee
James Simpson	Project Adviser
Jeff Stoddart	Trustee
Ian Young	Trustee

**Apologies**

Bob Constable	Trustee
Lisa Beattie	Trustee
Rhona Brankin	Trustee and Joint Acting Chairman
Willie Macnair	Trustee and Chairman

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Action**

**Previous Minutes**

- 1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 9 December 2015 were approved.

**Sandy McCall Smith**

- 2 Peter Gordon had been in touch with Sandy McCall Smith and had drawn his attention to Mavisbank.

**Steering Group Meeting of 12 January 2016**

- 3 With reference to the Steering Group meeting held on 12 January 2016 the following was noted. (a) An update on the business plan was awaited from Laura Norris. (b) Further efforts should be made to establish the possibility of the proposed access road being approved by Heritage Environment Scotland. (c) Heritage Environment Scotland should be encouraged to stabilise the doocot. (d) It was hoped that a meeting with the Chief Executive would provide some impetus to the Mavisbank project.
- 4 At the Steering Group meeting Laura had said that the Landmark Trust had indicated a desire to restore Mavisbank house and to fund raise to achieve this. If it decided to go ahead with the project, it would though not wish to include the policies.
- 5 A meeting had been arranged between Anna Key the Director of the Landmark Trust and Rhona and David for 23 March 2016 to discuss possible options. It was agreed that the Mavisbank Trust should learn of the Landmark Trust's proposal in advance of any further discussion by the board.
- 6 There was discussion as to whether the role of the Steering Group was one of initiative or of liaison. It was noted that the Concordat stated that the Mavisbank project would be delivered through the Mavisbank Trust. Historic Environment

Scotland, the Prince's Regeneration Trust and Midlothian Council were, in the main, facilitators in the project. Communications between the Steering Group and the Mavisbank Trust should be improved.

### **The Penicuik House Trust**

- 7 The Penicuik House Trust had considerable experience through both the restoration of Old Penicuik House and the managing of its policies. A unification of the Penicuik House Trust and the Mavisbank Trust could be advantageous.

### **Community Involvement**

- 8 Keith reported on community involvement. Local desire in the restoration of Mavisbank was a minority interest. Local residents were however much in favour of a community park. It was desirable that the grounds should be opened to the public this year.
- 9 A paper was tabled which showed that a series of small projects and events were being planned. The Working Group organising these comprised Keith (Mavisbank Trust), Pauline Megson (Heritage Environment Scotland), Ross Woodside (Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust), James Kinch (Midlothian Council), Alan McLaren (Loanhead Gala Committee), Councillor Kelly Parry and Jill Peacock (Loanhead and District Community Council).
- 10 Possible projects were: Folk music event, Easter egg hunt, Nature trail with school groups, Summer fete, Photography days, Bat watch evening, Badger watch, Doors Open Day, Survey and recording day, Walking tour of Loanhead including Mavisbank, Positive destinations, Poetry workshop, Making bird boxes, Architecture history tour, Exhibition (photogrammetry survey of Mavisbank house - as yet unpublished), Lecture series, Researching the history of your place, Oral history workshops, Beekeeping workshop and Loanhead 350. Keith and the group were commended in their work and urged to continue. Heritage Environment Scotland could provide some support.
- 11 Architectural tours could attract a wider interest.

### **The North Drive**

- 12 While purchase of the North Drive might be considered it was noted that this would allow only for pedestrian access and would, to an extent, weaken the case for a new access over the Penicuik Estate field.

### **The Car Park**

- 13 The site of the proposed car park was within the Designed Landscape area.

### **Fund Raising**

- 14 James had secured funding of £10,000 from the Binks Trust. It was possible that further funding of up to £25,000 could be secured from the Dunard Fund but a definite proposal for use of the money would be required.

### **Digital Modelling**

- 15 A digital model of Mavisbank house could be commissioned undertaken by laser scanning using a drone. This could be helpful to fund raising. James would investigate the cost. James

## **Finance**

- 16 The Income and Expenditure Account was tabled showing a closing balance of £12,494 at 31 January 2016.

## **Governance**

- 17 It was thought that the current situation was too uncertain to make a discussion on governance useful.

## **Access**

- 18 Duncan reported on a meeting held with Alan Gilmore (Roads Engineer) who might be prepared to undertake some *pro bono* work on the proposed road layout. Duncan had also met with Adam Thomson (Midlothian Council, Development Management), Ellen McCalman (Midlothian Council, Landscape Architect) and Catherine Middleton (Heritage Environment Scotland's Landscape Historian). Illustrations of five key viewpoints could be commissioned to justify the construction of the proposed road and car park. The cost would be £1,500 per visualisation. The total cost of the base photography was £500 plus VAT. Now, when vegetation was at its least intrusive, would be an ideal time to undertake this. It was agreed to commission this for the two most important views - those from the car park to the Lasswade Road and the view from the Polton Road. Duncan

## **The Doocot**

- 19 The condition of the doocot continued to cause concern. It was felt Heritage Environment Scotland was doing only the bare minimum to safeguard this key feature by placing emphasis on the protection of people and ignoring the proper safeguarding of the building. Both were needed.

## **Chairman**

- 20 Currently Rhona and David were acting Joint Chairmen. It was pointed out that this led to uncertainty. Rhona and David would consider how this might be managed. Rhona David

## **Any Other Relevant Business**

- 21 Duncan had responded to the Heritage Environment Scotland Corporate Plan.

## **Annual General Meeting**

- 22 The Mavisbank Trust Annual General Meeting would be held immediately following the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust Annual General Meeting on 2 March 2016. (Post meeting note: the AGM was postponed and did not take place). Charlie

## **Date of the Next Meeting**

- 23 A Doodle Poll would be circulated to determine the date of the next meeting.

