

Minutes of the Mavisbank Trust Board Meeting
held at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 14 August 2018 at Swanston

Present

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| Rhona Brankin | Trustee and Chairman |
| Duncan Campbell | Trustee |
| Charlie Cumming | Trustee |
| Chris Lewis | Trustee |
| Ellen McCalman | Trustee |
| Keith McIntosh | Trustee |
| Jeff Stoddart | Trustee |
| Ian Young | Trustee |

In Attendance

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| Pauline Megson | Historic Environment Scotland |
| James Simpson | Project Adviser |

Apologies

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| Bob Constable | Trustee |
| David Harrowes | Trustee |

Minutes of the Meeting

Action/Agreed

Approval of Minutes

- 1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 27 March 2018 were approved subject to the following.
- 2 **Paragraph 4.5** Rhona would arrange to meet with the local MP Danielle Rowley in the near future. Rhona had already met with the local MSP Colin Beattie.

Rhona to meet with Danielle Rowley

Mavisbank Digital Reconstruction and Documentary Research

- 3 James presented an illustrated report on progress with the digital survey, reconstruction and documentary research. While this was not entirely complete the bulk of the work had been successfully undertaken. The illustrations of a reconstructed Mavisbank house interior and exterior were felt to be of extremely high quality and gave an extraordinarily clear representation of the house and grounds as they were in c.1750.
- 4 It was thought that the illustrations of the house would be extremely effective in any promotional exhibition and in fundraising.
- 5 The Digital Reconstruction and documentary research remained in the ownership of the Mavisbank Trust.
- 6 While the survey, digital reconstruction and documentary research made Mavisbank one of the most researched and documented houses in the UK it had to be borne in mind that the main aim of the Mavisbank project was the actual reconstruction of the house and grounds. Recreating an exact copy of the original interior would incur much higher costs than those previously estimated but this work could be undertaken at a date later than the completion of the main structure of the house.

- 7 The costs of restoration were substantial but fund raising, while a concern, remained entirely possible. There were several possible options. Resources could come from sources such as Historic Environment Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Dunard Fund (which had contributed £27 million to the rehabilitation of the Royal High School) and funders within the United States. In addition to this Bruce Hall, the Landmark Trust's own fundraiser, was extremely competent in this area.
- 8 Caroline Stanford the Landmark Trust's historian was now directly involved with Mavisbank.
- 9 A paper was tabled showing the tasks and costs of the digital surveys and reconstruction. The total cost was £26,000. The Dunard Fund had contributed £18,000, Historic Environment Scotland £5,000 and the Mavisbank Trust £3,000.

Meeting of Mavisbank Project Group

- 10 RH said that this group had now evolved to support HES and the Landmark Trust in their efforts to make a new Stage 1 grant application to the HLF. She would be representing the Trust on the group and it would meet next on the 26th September. EM said that she had met with Martin Fairley and Laura Norris on site at Mavisbank and would also be meeting with the owner of the North Drive and Midlothian Council officers shortly to explore possible solutions to the access issues.

Historic Environment Scotland

- 11 The Estates team from Historic Environment Scotland remained committed to the Mavisbank project. Martin Fairley would continue to provide the main liaison with Historic Environment Scotland.

Mavisbank Community Engagement

- 12 The six-month, part-time post of Community Engagement Officer had been advertised and two candidates were being interviewed. It was anticipated that a start date for the post could be within one month and a project plan developed quickly thereafter.
- 13 The Trustees agreed to the proposal that the Trust should contribute £2,500 towards the cost of the post. The officer would be housed and managed by ELGT on behalf of the partners.

Colleghill

- 14 The Landmark Trust intended to hold a reception at Colleghill House on 7 September. This was a building that had been refurbished by the Trust. The members of the Mavisbank Trust would be invited. It was suggested that the invitation might be extended to representatives of Midlothian Council.

Landscape Management Plan

- 15 Peter Ranson of Historic Environment Scotland had prepared a brief for a Landscape Management Plan for the Mavisbank policies and was currently seeking tenders with a view to appointing a consultant in September. Stakeholders would be consulted and it was intended that the plan would be completed within a period of six months.

Involvement of the Landmark Trust

- 17 It was important to remember that the Landmark Trust had not yet formally committed itself to the Mavisbank project and any public statements should not suggest that it was.

Doors Open Day 2018

- 18 Mavisbank would be open for bookable guided tours on the Midlothian Doors Open Days of 8 and 9 September.

General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR)

- 19 While it was no longer necessary for the Mavisbank Trust to have a Freedom of Information policy it would be seen as good practice for the Trust to continue publishing information such as meeting minutes, annual accounts, etc. on its website. Although only a very small-scale activity for the Trust, as a data controller, it was now subject to new GDPR legislation and was required to have a privacy policy relating to the collection, handling and use of personal information. CC tabled a draft Mavisbank Trust Privacy Policy which was discussed by trustees who then agreed that it should be adopted by the Trust.

Esk Valley Heritage Group

- 20 The next meeting of the Esk Valley Heritage Group would be on 9 October 2018. This would be a meeting of local property and landowners. At the meeting they would be invited to contribute their thoughts on how the profile of the valleys of the rivers North and South Esk could be appropriately raised.

Communication

- 21 If a member of the Trust missed a board meeting it could be difficult to keep up to date with proceedings. It would be helpful if notes of meetings and significant developments could be communicated to members by email.

Finance

- 22 A note of the income and expenditure account at 31 July 2018 was tabled. This showed a closing balance of £4,167.
- 23 A note was tabled setting out the tasks, costs and breakdowns of the Digital Survey and Reconstruction.

Date of the Next Meeting

- 24 The next meeting of the board would be held on 20 November 2018.
Note: This was subsequently amended to 19 November.