

**MINUTES OF THE MAVISBANK TRUST BOARD MEETING
HELD AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2019 AT SWANSTON**

Present

Rhona Brankin	Trustee and Chairman
Duncan Campbell	Trustee
Bob Constable	Trustee
Charlie Cumming	Trustee
Chris Lewis	Trustee
Ellen McCalman	Trustee
Ian Young	Trustee

Item 1 - Apologies

David Harrowes	Trustee
Keith McIntosh	Trustee
Pauline Megson	Historic Environment Scotland
James Simpson	Project Adviser
Jeff Stoddart	Trustee
Lucy Wood	Mavisbank Community Engagement Officer

**Item 2 - Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 19 November 2018
and Matters Arising**

Action/Agreed

- 1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 19 November 2018 were approved as a true record.
- 2 Paragraph 5 - At the last meeting the Board had been informed that Historic Environment Scotland (HES) was developing a new Landscape Conservation Management Plan for Mavisbank. HES intended to consult on a draft plan and Duncan felt that the Mavisbank Trust should be afforded the opportunity to comment on it in advance of the wider consultation. Rhona said that she would ask Historic Environment Scotland if the Trust might be afforded the opportunity of submitting comments in advance. **Rhona to approach HES**
- 3 Paragraph 9 – Duncan said that now the Trust had completed its digital reconstruction of the interior of Mavisbank House it would provide Landmark with a very useful tool. This would allow them to identify and select key elements as it was likely that would be too expensive to undertake a full restoration.
- 4 Paragraph 17 – Rhona said that she would ask HES/LT whether they would allow the Trust to see a copy of their initial project scoping report commissioned from the Jura Consultancy. **Rhona**
- 5 Paragraph 18 – Duncan noted that it was unknown as to whether Willis Stevenson was still alive although this was thought to be unlikely. Also, there was a possibility that her daughter, Jean Martin, might turn out to still be the legal owner of Mavisbank House if its current ownership by three non-existent US citizens, as recorded in the Register of Sasines, were to be nullified by a court.
- 6 Paragraph 21 - Chris said that he had not yet passed a copy of the ELGT Esk Valleys Landscape Partnership HLF grant bid to David due to the large number of documents involved but he would endeavour to do so shortly. **Chris**

Item 3 – Mavisbank Digital Reconstruction Project

- 7 A paper had previously been circulated outlining the progress of the Trust's Digital Reconstruction Project. Chris said that the project was now almost complete except for some minor amendments to the visualisations of the house and grounds. If further funding could be secured additional items such as "fly through" visualisations could be produced. The digital reconstruction was an extremely valuable resource for assisting with the physical restoration and for fund raising, as well as for raising awareness within local communities. It could also be placed on the Mavisbank Trust website. The original project budget had been set at £26,000 but expenditure was currently being held at £24,838 whilst the final costings were reviewed. It was noted that HES now had a 3D printer in the Engine Shed at Stirling and the possibility of producing a 3D model of the House based on the digital data held by the Trust could be discussed with them.

Item 4 – Mavisbank Project Steering Group Update

- 8 Rhona had attended the Project Steering Group meeting on 13 February 2019 at Historic Environment Scotland's "Engine Shed" at Stirling and she said that she would circulate a note of the meeting to the Board. The Landmark Trust's Board was meeting today and it was expected that they would agree to a joint first stage HLF funding bid with HES for a Mavisbank restoration project. Historic Environment Scotland's Board would meet to discuss Mavisbank on 19 April 2019. However, it would not be possible for Historic Environment Scotland to meet any significant financial contribution to the project from within existing budgets. Fiona Hyslop, as Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, would need to approve additional funding.
- 9 Assuming HES and LT's boards' approval, the intention was to make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's new grants programme before the end of September 2019. The application, limited to £5M, would then be considered by the HLF's Scottish Committee. Charlie noted that an additional HLF grant scheme was expected to be launched in 2020 for projects over £5M although there were no details available yet.
- 10 The Landmark Trust had a good track record of accessing additional funding sources for its projects. Chris said that there had been some initial interest from a potentially significant benefactor but that it was still far too early in the project for this to be taken further.
- 11 To support fundraising, the Landmark Trust were keen to see if the Mavisbank could be included on the World Monuments Fund's next list of endangered sites, this having been achieved previously by the Trust in 2008.
- 12 Consultants for HES and LT had updated project costings for the following options: (a) consolidation of the house as a ruin, (b) partial restoration and (c) full restoration. It was likely that the Landmark Trust would occupy the main part of the house with the two pavilions being given over to community use. It had been suggested that the total cost of a full restoration could be in the region of £17M.

Rhona to circulate a note of the Steering Group meeting of 13 February 2019.

Item 5 - Meeting with Midlothian Council

- 13 Rhona and Anna Keay had met with Grace Vickers, Midlothian Council's Chief Executive and Mary Smith, Midlothian Council's Director of Education, Communities and Economy at Mavisbank on 7 February 2019

together with two Members of the Council, Diane Alexander and Janet Lay Douglas. All had expressed support for the restoration of Mavisbank House and the policies.

Item 6 - Mavisbank Community Engagement Update

- 14 A Community Engagement Events Report had been circulated earlier.
- 15 Lucy's role as Mavisbank Community Engagement Officer was due to end on 31 March 2019. However, Charlie said that there was sufficient funding in the budget for an extension to 30 April 2019 if the Mavisbank Trust was able to make its contribution of £2.5K. Chris confirmed that this would be paid to Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) shortly. **Charlie to extend Lucy Wood's contract to 30 April 2019.**
- 16 Engagement with the local community had been progressing steadily although creating greater awareness of Mavisbank was not easy as it had lain almost unknown to the local and wider public for some 40 years or more. On site events were more successful than others but the limited access hindered the potential for greatly increasing activities.
- 17 The Landmark Trust had queried the extent of Lucy's role and programme of work, in particular as to whether this should be confined to desk-top studies. There was agreement that Lucy was doing an excellent job and discussion as to whether she should still be employed by ELGT in the future and/or if Landmark and HES ought to become more involved in maintaining the post. It was noted that the Mavisbank Trust had no funding available at present. **Rhona to discuss Lucy Wood's post with the Landmark Trust.**

Item 7 – Mavisbank Trust Financial Update

- 19 A paper on the Income and Expenditure Account at 31 January 2019 had been circulated earlier and this showed a closing balance of £910. Chris said that now the Digital Reconstruction Project had been completed the Trust had expended most of the income it had raised over the past couple of years. Consequently, there was an urgent need to secure additional funds to cover its overhead costs. Although these costs were not high the Trust required around £1.5K per annum to remain solvent. **All**

Item 8 - Trustee Recruitment

- 20 Chris, Charlie and Ellen had met recently to discuss the need to appoint new Trustees and the creation of a recruitment pack. A draft had been circulated earlier and an advertisement prepared. These were approved by the Trustees with minor amendments and it was agreed that it was necessary to begin recruitment soon. However, it was felt that it would be prudent to wait until the HES and Landmark's boards had committed to progress the Mavisbank project as this would remove the current uncertainty and provide clarity for potential candidates. **Advertisement to be circulated, Charlie to handle applications from new Trustees**

Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 6 June 2019
(NB. Meeting later postponed until 17th June 2019)

