

Minutes of The Mavisbank Trust Board Meeting
held online at 7.00pm on Thursday,
3rd March 2022

Present

Sarah Barron - Trustee & Chair

Charlie Cumming - Trustee

Lucy Linforth - Trustee

Ellen McCalman -Trustee

Michael Steven - Trustee

Chris Lewis – Trust Advisor

1. Apologies

Grant Ballantine - Midlothian Council

Sam Black - Trustee

Rhona Brankin – Honorary Patron

**2. Minutes of Board Meeting held on 27th
January 2022 @ 7.00pm**

Lucy Wood to be named as not Linforth

Chris Lewis an Advisor, no longer a Trustee

3. Matters Arising

EKM to meet with Kirsteen Rowlands on 8th
March to discuss communication plans.

EKM

4. HES/Landmark Trust Update

CL reported that RB had attended a pre-meeting before one with Nigel Huddleston, the UK minister for culture, to discuss Mavisbank with Owen Thompson, MP, Landmark and HES.

The Westminster meeting brokered by Owen Thompson to discuss Mavisbank was scheduled for the 8th March.

Owen Thomson said he would contact the Scottish Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development for support. RB had suggested meeting with Colin Beattie, MSP as well.

HES had said that it would no longer take the lead on developing future plans for Mavisbank and now saw its remit as being confined to the policies and facilitating community engagement. They were happy to work with the Trust on community engagement and its plans to transition to a community trust.

James Simpson was suggesting that the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust could potentially be involved in the stabilisation of the ruins.

EKM said that the Trust needed HES to commit to allowing the Trust to carry out community engagement activities on site. Both SB and CC felt that the Trust had been side-lined by HES over the years and no more so than now.

5. Development of Mavisbank Community Trust

Based on CL's original document MS had drawn together an itemised schedule of what was needed to set up Friends of Group and invited trustees to provide feedback.

ALL

6. Friends of Mavisbank

MS asked if we should seek a memorandum of understanding from HES.

SB suggested that the Trust could use the HES Mavisbank Landscape Management Report as way of identifying future projects at Mavisbank.

CC said that it would be helpful if HES supplied the Trust with a copy of the community engagement report from the HLF bid. CL said he would try to get this from HES/Landmark Trust.

LW said she had a friend who was a member of the Friends of Carlton Hill Cemeteries and would make contact for advice.

LW was willing to create a draft document showing activity proposals, etc. and send it to MS, SB & EKM for a read through.

MS, SB + EKM

CL/MS to work on expanding proposals.

SB felt it would be good to have a list of community stakeholders and CL said he would try to obtain a database developed previously with PM and HES for their community consultations.

SB advised that Esk Valley Trust as well as the Civic Trust were willing to share any information we produced.

7. Mavisbank Archive

EKM wondered if all the various Trust Mavisbank reports and archive materials could be stored online. MS advised that it would be possible to put them on Googledrive and be accessible to trustees only.

MS/CL

CL noted that looking back at old files had been useful with regard to previous discussions about maintaining the riverside path and potential Trust projects. He had been reminded recently that in the

agreement that ELGT had reached with the South Drive landowners when it upgraded the riverside path in 2014 it stated that the Trust would not be responsible for any future maintenance of their section of the path.

8. Financial Update

CL presented the income and expenditure account to the end of February 2022. There had been very little activity since the last board meeting and there was a closing balance of £1,055.

9. Esk Valley Trust Meeting and Survey

SB said that the recent online talk on Mavisbank by Tom Parnell (HES) to EVT had been very well attended with over 100 attendees. EVT's online questionnaire survey on Mavisbank would run until 6th March but had received 69 responses to date and she would share the results once it was completed. Also, she now had contact details for and Australian talk attendee, Andrea Rankin, who said she had relatives who had lived at Mavisbank.

10. A Mavisbank Talk

SB wondered if it would be possible for the Trust to set up a standard talk that could be used in the future by trustees. LW said she would look out one she had given previously when working as the Mavisbank Community Engagement Officer.

LW

10. AOB

CL noted that after circulation of his application agreement to appoint Simon Shackley as a board trustee had been reached between meetings, subject to suitable references being received.

MS said that James Simpson would be giving a talk about Mavisbank on 20th April as part of a Cultural Prescribing programme at Edinburgh University.

11. Date of Next Meeting

CL to arrange Doodle poll for early April date.