

Dirleton Village Association

Minute of Meeting of 19th August 2021

The meeting was held by video conference due to COVID19.

Present: David Tait (Chairman), T. Drysdale, K. Cornwell, D. Carter, F. McClintock, B. Thomson, C. & K. Hamer; J. Macleod; M. McNee, C. Lindsay.

1. Apologies: F. Dingwall

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 17th June 2021 approved by **DC** and seconded by **FMcC**.

buckthorn and other self-seeded trees that have encroached onto the dunes over the last 50 or 60 years. They are struggling to find a community woodland plan of sufficient size for the 6.6Ha of compensatory tree planting proposed. However, a potential site in Fife has been identified.

3. Public Realm – DC

Kirk Green – Heritage lighting replacements for Church Green delayed until October due to supply issues. The works will hopefully be completed in time for the Remembrance Day service on 14th November and to connect up the Christmas lights on the village green.

4. Planning - TD

[Auburn House and laundry](#) - The planning officer is still in discussion with Mr Feather. It is likely to be 1 – 3 months before a decision is made.

[Newmains](#) – The schedule for planting to the west of the steading has been submitted. It is minimal but has been approved. Not much activity on site at the moment.

A response is awaited from Nick Morgan, ELC's access officer, regarding the Right of Way assessment that is still being considered by the ELC legal team. **CH** to check out resurfacing of the access track.

Lysander House – Nothing to report

[7 Gylers Road](#) – Extension and formation of decking. No DVA comment required.

[Cowden Hill Drive](#) – application by the Renaissance Club for 6 cottages and 10 lodges. Outside the Dirleton Conservation Area therefore not of concern for the DVA. GACC is not supporting the application but is not objecting as it is designated for tourism and will therefore increase capacity. **DC** indicated that he would be making a personal objection based on removal of woodland and climate change.

[Castlemains](#) – **CH** update provided from an e-mail provided by M Teague of MNM Developments. Hedge protection fencing has started to be erected. Intention is for works to commence at 0730-17:00 and 0800-1300 on a Saturday if required. Intention to start construction works from the west of the development and work towards the main entrance off Station Road. Infrastructure works which includes new roads, footpaths and drainage works will commence from Station Road end of the development. Infrastructure works delayed until September due to materials supply. MNM happy to look at the LED heritage lighting which is being adopted by ELC.

5. Christmas Lights - FMcC

£8,000 funding application submitted to NBCAP to be considered at next meeting on 31st August. NBCAP meeting on 18th August was inconclusive to giving area wide financial support but the Dirleton application is the only Christmas lights application for 2021, funds are available and have previously been approved for North Berwick. Aberlady would also like a formal display.

TD commented that it's not long since £9,000 was raised for the existing lights by residents and businesses. It was noted that the NBCAP was not approached as part of that appeal.

JMacl commented suggested that the application to NBCAP might be viewed more favourably if there were donations from other sources.

KH enquired as to why the existing lights were not weatherproof as it was known they would be up all year round. **FMcC** confirmed they were expected to have a 5 year "lifespan" but there were no spare parts available, and the original supplier had ceased trading.

TD suggested a possible application to the GACC local priorities fund.

There is an overreaching East Lothian project known as "Coastal Sparkle".

Residents could be encouraged to extend the time that lights are kept on in private gardens.

FMcC to prepare a draft letter to NBCAP outlining DVA funds and previous community funding.

6. Membership

Subscriptions are due by the end of August.

£350 to Heritage Environment Scotland for access to the castle.

DT suggested that to be all inclusive future membership could be free as part of a Dirleton Village Residents Association. **JMacl** suggested this idea was rushed and it might raise issues with the constitution and OSCR. It needs to be discussed by the committee. **DC** and **FMcC** agreed with **JMacl**. **KC** doesn't think OSCR would take issue. **DC** suggested a joint DVA / DGN committee meeting to discuss.

7. Treasurer's Report

BT to structure a Treasurer's role. Cross referencing of invoices would give better accountability. Suggested support required for **FD** regarding subscriptions. Gift aid hasn't been claimed for 2 years. **KC** didn't appreciate the value of funds available to the DVA, which currently stands at £14,530.93. He suggested that it is being frowned upon for charities to be sitting on substantial reserves and the DVA could be making more donations. **TD** suggested that substantial funds would be required for the potential acquisition of the kirk and kirk hall, if the church were to sell off.

JMacl suggested a business plan might be required to cover DVA running costs etc. The purchase of Whitekirk was used as an example.

8. Gullane Area Community Council - TD

There is nothing relating to Dirleton although a second ordinary member will be required when he retires. Advert to be issued by **DC** via Mailchimp and **DT** via Facebook.

9. AOCB

- **KH** commented that the public toilets were closed during the last Market on the Green. **DT** confirmed that ELC Facilities Management were lacking staff resources and suggested contacting Caitlin McCorry Service Manager for ELC Connected Communities. **A Orr** has already raised this with ELC.
- Good wished were sent to **T Quiletti**.
- **MMcN** confirmed that the land opposite Foreshot Terrace has been purchased from the Mains family by Caledonian Heritable. ELC have tried to contact Caledonian Heritable regarding overhanging branches which have now been cut back by a resident.
- **FMcC** identified that the Eel Burn needs dredging to cope with surface water flows.

10. Date and time of next meeting-

7.30pm Thursday 16th September by Zoom and possibly in the Kirk Hall for October.