

Dirleton Village Association

Minute of Meeting of 9th December 2021

The meeting was held at Dirleton Kirk Hall.

Present: D. Tait (Chairman), J. Macleod, K. Cornwell, D. Carter; F. McClintock, C. Hamer; T. Drysdale, A. Orr, B. & V. Nimmo, M. Chynoweth

1. Apologies: S. Paterson Brown; S. Oliver; B. Thomson. DT apologised for rescheduling the AGM but the accounts have not yet been independently examined as required by the DVA constitution.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 14/10/2021 and 16/09/2021 approved by F.McC and seconded by J.MacL. CH to issue minutes of 19/08/2021 for approval before the AGM.

3. Membership

DT confirmed that the committee will be reduced to five following the AGM and we are actively seeking recruitment. FMcC proposed Brian Ford as a new committee member. FMcC also suggested that the efforts of outgoing/retired committee members should be recognised at the AGM.

Treasurer – BT has agreed to continue to fulfil the role temporarily and we are still seeking a permanent replacement.

Secretary – The secretary of GACC is now a paid position and considering the fruitless efforts to recruit a volunteer, DC put forward a motion for the DVA to do the same. DT indicated the cost to GACC is c.£800/pa. JMacl suggested that the Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL) may be able to source a volunteer secretary. DT agreed to obtain the scope of services outlined in GACC's secretarial role and to use this as a template for the DVA. JMacl offered to check the role description and to undertake the Covid Register and Kirk Hall booking herself.

The committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously, subject to VCEL confirming that they cannot fill the role.

CH indicated that if the secretarial role includes taking the minutes, he might be able to fulfil the non-technical role of website administration.

DC and TD confirmed that although they have retired from the committee, they will still provide the DVA with support in planning related matters.

4. Treasurer's Report

DT confirmed that BT is the third part-time treasurer this financial year and he is still trying to bring the accounts into order. They will be submitted to S. Kirkwood for independent examination, which is now anticipated in January 2021.

DT will propose new financial procedures at the AGM to improve the paper trail which will require two committee members to sign-off on payment of invoices and also on the source of incoming payments. TD reminded the committee that the financial year runs up to 31st August.

5. Public Realm – DC provided an update by e-mail 07/09/21

Kirk Green / War Memorial – all proposals complete with the exception of the church railings, and DC intends to meet with the church session to discuss this. FMCC thanked DC on behalf of the committee for his efforts in delivering a successful project.

Village Green – ELC will put the lighting works out to contract in 2022.

Interpretation Board – The interpretation board erected on the corner of Manse Road and Main Road, diagonally opposite the Caste Inn, was the responsibility of Jamie Baker within ELC's Tourism department. There does not appear to have been any internal or external consultation. DC has requested a meeting with the community and indicated that the board has been erected without planning permission.

Finger sign posts - DC to submit an application to the NBCAP to update the village's finger sign posts.

6. Planning

Speedwell – DC prepared a response on behalf of the DVA and the objection was supported by GACC.

New Mains Right of Way – TD has been in regular contact with Nick Morgan, ELC's Access Officer. TD to lodge a complaint as it is now a year since the issue of the path diversion was raised and ELC legal department has made no appreciable progress.

7. Queen's Green Canopy

To commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee individuals and groups are being encouraged to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October and March. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year. SPH, DC and J. Finlay will be undertaking a village walkabout from 10.30am 11th December to assess potential planting sites. M. Foy, ELC tree officer, has already agreed in principle to the tree planting project. A proposal needs to be submitted to the Tree Council by 19th December. The grass verge between Ferrygate Cottages and the eastern junction to the village has been provisionally earmarked as a potential site. Utilities may be an issue. CH to provide DC with Statutory Undertakers records and to approach B. Simpson to see whether he has any "un-productive" land that might be suitable.

JMaCL to use connections within NBHS for youth input.

An application for £150 has been submitted to GACC LPF.

DC requires the diary for the DVA meetings post AGM.

8. Resilience Team

DART was activated to react to storm Arwen with a blockage on Gylers Rd and emergency calls from Station Rd regarding flying debris. Lorna Scott is the new SPOT. Contact numbers are on the website.

9. John Finlay Artwork

All payments have now been cleared and a 50% share of the £1,430 raised will be transferred to DGN as approved by the committee.

10. Christmas Lights

FMcC confirmed that tree climbing company scheduled to remove the old lights and install the new ones are now too busy due to a backlog of work as a result of Storm Arwen. He has found an alternative who have visited site and will commence removal on 13th December and then install the new ones.

The garlands can now be fitted to the new lamp posts. **FMcC** hopes that **B. Ford** will be able to assist although he also has a lot of tree clearance work following the storm.

£2,000 transfer from DVA to Fete & Games was reconfirmed, as minuted for the emergency committee meeting on 29/11/2021. This ensures the lights are covered by the F&G's public liability insurance policy.

Renaissance Club contributed £2,000 and a total fund of £10,800 has been received. **FMcC** to try and make savings by requesting that ELC transfer the connection points to the new lamp posts.

There will still be a requirement for ongoing maintenance and various suggestions were made to raise funds towards this. **KC** requested that the lights are left on longer. The insurance company will need to be notified if they stay on longer than 12th January.

11. Kirk Hall Wifi

JMacL to contact the church session to discuss this and their terms for ownership and payments.

12. Dirleton Unity Enhancement Project

DT outlined proposals for an umbrella body to unify stakeholders and bring in other committee members to the DVA. Using insurance as an example he suggested potential savings that could be made. The aims would be to increase input from the youth community and involve businesses such as Amalfi and the Castle Inn. He repeated a request from September's meeting for the committee to provide input to develop a new mission statement to set out what the DVA do.

JMacL suggested the community day could assist this process.

KC and **TD** indicated that there is a danger that a much larger single body might break down into smaller groups and **KC** reminded **DT** that the charitable status of the DVA has to be considered.

13. AOCB

DT has issued the various surveys of the derelict village hall to the committee to take a look as this was high on the community's action list last time round. A figure of £50,000 was previously suggested for demolition. **CH** suggested that this was an underestimate and **DC** agreed to reapproach the contractor that was consulted.

14. Date and time of next meeting-

AGM tba January 2022.