

Dirleton Village Association

Minute of Meeting of 19th January 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: D. Tait (Chairman), J. Macleod, K. Cornwell; F. McClintock, C. Hamer; T. Drysdale, A. Orr, B. Nimmo, S. Low; M. McNee; F. Dingwall; E. Burn,

1. **Apologies:** S. Paterson Brown; D. Carter; B. Thomson
2. **Matters Arising** – None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of 09/12/2021 approved by **KC** and seconded by F.McC.
4. **AGM Update**

DT confirmed that Sandy Kirkwood (independent examiner) requires more explanation about specific payments incoming and outgoing. **TD** confirmed that there is a maximum of 9 months to issue to OSCR. Hopefully the February meeting will be the AGM. Suggested that members need two weeks' notice, **TD** thinks it's 7 days.
5. **Public Realm – DC provided an update by e-mail 19/01/21**

*Church Green. The Council has to return to remove the base of the old lamppost in front of the hall. It has to be disconnected first by Scottish Power as it is the old electricity supply connection. **DC** will contact Leisure Services to get the disturbed areas re-sown in April.*

Main Green lighting. No news about start date of phase 2 works.

*'Blue' Tourism signboard. No reply from Mr Baker. **DC** will contact the planning department for an enforcement notice at the end of January if there is no reply to the DVA's request for a consultation.*
6. **Planning applications**

*New Mains Farm. **TD** couldn't meet Nick Morgan (ELC Countryside Officer) for a Right of Way (RoW) site visit. **TD** has complained to ELC Chief Executive over the Council's inability to address this matter and it has now been taken out of the Council's Solicitors hands. **TD** to contact **NM** at the end of January to follow up.*

*Castlemains – Marc Teague (MNM Developments provided an update to **CH** by e-mail 17/01/2021. He apologised for not notifying residents of the commencement of the development access works, he hadn't been informed by their contractor, Advance Construction. He confirmed that the hedging which was removed will be planted elsewhere on site. The surface water drain is to be constructed in Station Rd over the next few weeks and disruption will be kept to a minimum. He asked that we notify him residents have any issue during this period of works.*
7. **Queen's Green Canopy project (DC notes)**

On 11 December a group of residents walked around the village and identified possible sites for tree planting, following an open invitation to all residents. Locations which would

affect house views or light levels were not included. **DC** and **JF** (John Finlay) will put these on plans for community discussion/approval.

SPB submitted an application to the Tree Council for a grant to plant trees on the grass area at the East (North Berwick) by-pass road junction. There was a December deadline for this. The grant would pay for 31 trees to be planted out-with the road junction visibility sightline and the services wayleaves. The committee has the combined services location drawings.

On 10 January **SPB** and **DC** met with Mike Foy the Council's Tree Officer, who was very supportive and helpful. He is to be the Council's contact person for this project. He agreed with the identified locations in principle, and the DVA is now to send him its detailed proposals once they have been agreed by the community. He is also looking into whether there is any further funding available.

SPB is aware of a possible £150 grant from the Community Council.

8. Resilience Team

ELC has carried out localised gritting. An action plan is in place for the winter months.

9. Festive Lights

FMcC confirmed that lights are to remain lit throughout January and the insurance has been updated for this. There was one complaint from the East Lodge for the extension of the lighting period. The overwhelming majority were supportive and **FMcC** was thanked for delivering a successful project. **JMacL** suggested that photographs are submitted to NBCAP to say thanks for their donation.

The garlands were not attached to lamp posts this year. A comment was made that they are better without.

10. Dirleton Unity Enhancement Project

DT presented a draft organogram showing the suggested umbrella group with many of the village's groups identified along with their aims. **JMacL** suggested this was simply a networking group and that discussions between groups already occurs as many of the committee are involved in other groups. **DT** was asked to circulate the organogram.

11. DVA Committee

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

Secretary – **JMacL** confirmed that the Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL) don't provide secretarial services but do provide training. **SL** is concerned at the suggestion to pay c.£800 for secretarial services, which is a large proportion of the DVA's income from subscriptions. **DT** to check if the secretary position has been advertised. **SL** suggested that we should make better use of voice transcript technology.

The minutes content is to be reviewed but should include a list of actions.

12. Website

The website is still running but needs an editor. Mike is adding information as and when it is made available.

13. Treasurer's Report

DT explained the situation regarding independent examination of the accounts and the need for clarification on certain payments.

DT proposed that new financial procedures are put in place 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. **SL** suggested the proposals are overly complicated.

14. GACC

Nothing of local relevance

15. AOCB

FMcC confirmed the Fete & Games will be on 25th June

JMacL confirmed that she has approached the Kirk Session regarding Wifi in the Kirk Hall and is awaiting a response.

DC confirmed that the Bowling Club roofing and new window works are now complete. The anticipated contract completion date is the end of January. Thereafter the club will be asking for volunteers to help with the redecoration. If you are interested, please contact **DC**.

JMacL requested that a Communities Day is added to the February meeting agenda.

16. Date and time of next meeting-

AGM or committee 17th February 2022. Venue to be confirmed.

ACTIONS

- a) **DC** will contact Leisure Services to get the disturbed areas of the church green re-sown in April.
- b) **DC** will contact the planning department for an enforcement notice at the end of January if there is no reply to the DVA's request for a consultation over the blue tourism board.
- c) **TD** to contact **NM** at the end of January for an update on the RoW.
- d) **DT** to circulate the draft organogram.
- e) **DT** to check if the secretary position has been advertised.