

## Dirleton Village Association

### Minute of Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

The meeting was held at the Kirk Hall.

**Present: D. Tait (Chairman), S. Paterson Brown, D. Carter; B. Thomson; K. Cornwell; F. McClintock, C. Hamer; T. Drysdale, A. Orr, B. & V. Nimmo; S. Oliver.**

**Apologies: J. Macleod; Tony Quiliieti**

1. **Matters Arising – DT** apologised as he has not issued the organogram
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of 19/01/2022 approved by **DC** and seconded by **F.McC** subject to the addition of F. Dingwall as an attendee and apologies from **BT**.
3. **Accounts 2020-21**  
**BT** confirmed that Sandy Kirkwood (independent examiner) still requires explanation about specific payments incoming and outgoing. **DC** confirmed he has responded to the two specific queries regarding payment to ELC of £450 for the stone placed around the Loupin' Stane and £1,787 to NBCAP for repayment of DART funds held in the DVA account and that there was no expenditure on hedging plants. **SK** suggested setting up separate accounts for individual projects such as the war memorial where multiple payments are to be made. **BT** to review responses from the committee and reply to **SK**.
4. **Public Realm**  
*Church Green* - **DC** confirmed that *in* Feb/March the Council will 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. Lighting on the north side of the Main Green is scheduled later this month. However, the Council may not have the finances within 2022-23 budget to prioritise the remainder of the green despite having already purchased the lamps.  
*Finger Posts* – On the junctions of Main Road with Manse Road and Ware Road are out of date signing Dirleton Gallery and Post Office. The Council have to survey all their finger posts to update in one go and realise the saving of a bulk order. **DC** to establish the extra over cost to see whether the DVA can pay the difference to prioritise our signs particularly regarding the location of the Bowling Club following renovations. **CH** confirmed they are only fixed with an allen key screw holding the finial.
5. **Bowling Club - DC**  
Contract is now substantially complete with a snagging list. **DC** to issue before and after photos for the website. Members to carry out painting. MNM Developments previously agreed to resurface the footpath. **DC** to approach Marc Teague of MNM to see when this could be done.  
Now need to increase the profile through a reopening ceremony, article in the Courier, finger posts etc. to increase membership.

The club can hold social events, but they need to be organised by the club to comply with the lease.

## **6. Planning applications**

[Auburn House](#) – The Listed Building application has been consented. The planning application has been called in and will be presented to the planning committee on 15<sup>th</sup> March. **TD** to contact the clerk to confirm the number of public representations that are allowed. Currently suggested that these are made by **FMcC** and Malcolm Davidson. The GACC will be asked to represent and indicate that the DVA objection should be given more weight than a single member of the public as they represent a significant membership. **SO** expressed concern to why only 5 objections were submitted.

**DC** asked for a chat with **TD** to ensure that the architectural objections are also presented.

[Castlemains](#) – **CH** confirmed that road works for the surface water sewer construction should be complete w/c 21<sup>st</sup> February. The sewer will extend from the SUDs basin to the Eel Burn. It should be sized appropriately if it is to pick up land drainage.

## **7. DVA Secretary**

DT has issued the GACC secretarial job description for review. Concern was raised that the suggested £800 annual salary is c.80% of the DVA's income from subscriptions. **TD** confirmed that ELC actually provides GACC a grant for their secretary. However, no-one has come forward to take on the role as a volunteer for the DVA in the last 5 years and duties that would normally be undertaken by a secretary are being missed such as update of the website. **SPB** suggested that cost might be shared if the secretarial role could include other groups. **AO** suggested that the role should be more widely publicised. Lorna Scott (Gullane Village Association) produces a well distributed newsletter and has offered to assist in publicity and to talk at the next public meeting

## **8. Treasurer**

BT will continue to fulfil the role temporarily and we are still seeking a permanent replacement.

## **9. Queen's Green Canopy project DC**

Grants totalling £3,000 have been received towards the project. The proposals have been issued to the village and 15-20 feedback emails have been received, the majority of which are supportive, as are the Council. The main planting will be carried out in November 2022 with one tree to be planted in June as a dedication to the Platinum Jubilee. A drop-in session is scheduled from 2-4pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February at the Kirk Hall to obtain further feedback.

## **10. Dirleton Interest Group (DIG)**

**SPB** is assessing the support for a DIG and has a meeting scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> March, possibly hosted by the Castle Inn. **FMcC** recognised the similarity of aims with **DT's** proposals for Dirleton Unity Enhancement

## 11. Jubilee Celebrations

The first challenge of DIG is to look into the opportunity for a jubilee village party, possibly associated with the F&Gs, as some will be taking the opportunity to go away for the Bank Holiday weekend. **BN** was involved in the millennium celebrations which included a bonfire on the village green when the turf was cut away to aid reinstatement. **SO** queried when the F&G was established, she remembers them being held for the Silver Jubilee in 1977.

## 12. Castle Closure

The closure of the castle is restricted to the building, which is fenced off, the grounds are still open. The closure is not intended to be permanent and has come about following drone surveys of HES assets and includes all East Lothian's castles. "Tactile" surveys are now proposed to assess potential structural issues that have been identified. **KC** highlighted that HES is a government body with £100M budget and have let the public down by not maintaining their assets. At the recent "drop in" session on the village green, Craig Hoy MSP said he had asked HES for clarification regarding the closures.

## 13. Litter Picking

**JMacl** is organising a village litter picking event later this month.

## 14. Kirk Hall

*Future* – **TD** identified that although locally the church did not see a need for the DVA to register a community *right to buy*, decisions are not necessarily made locally and therefore we should register an interest. This would require reactivating the company previously set up to register interest in land to the north of the village.

*Screen* – In November 2019 a grant of £500 was made by Village Voices Village Choices (an initiative of DGN<sup>1</sup>) to purchase a projector for the Kirk Hall. Due to Covid restrictions this has not been progressed. **AO** suggested that this grant might be repurposed to install Wifi.

*Wifi* - **JMacl** confirmed that she is still awaiting a response from the Kirk Session regarding the principle of Wifi installation and if acceptable would apply to the NBCAP for funding as part of their digital inclusion initiative.

## 15. GACC

Nothing of local relevance

## 16. AOCB

Discussion was held during the meeting regarding the DVA meeting accessibility. **SO** wasn't sure whether she would be able to participate in a committee meeting. **DC** confirmed that in light of criticism received from the membership that decisions were being made behind closed doors at committee meetings, they had been made open to the public. Some closed committee meetings are held to discuss specific issues in detail that are then to be discussed in more general terms with the members.

**DART** activated for Storm Eunice. **TD** identified that the Glebe grit bin is empty. **DT** confirmed that he has to do a survey.

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<sup>1</sup> Amended for factual correctness by JMacl

DVA, DGN, DART all use Mailchimp. **DC** suggested a meeting to get better access/value for all.

**KC** the Gullane bus circular to Haddington is underused and is soon to be reviewed. North Berwick groups are appealing to First Bus to reinstate the X5 service.

**17. Date and time of next meeting-**

AGM or public on 17th March 2022. Venue to be confirmed.

**ACTIONS**

**Carried forward from 19<sup>th</sup> January**

- a) **DC** to contact Leisure Services to get the disturbed areas of the church green re-sown in April.
- b) **DC** to 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.

**From 17<sup>th</sup> February**

- f) **BT** to review account query responses from the committee and reply to **SK**.
- g) **DC** to establish the extra over cost of finger posts.
- h) **DC** to issue before and after photos for the website.
- i) **DC** to approach Marc Teague of MNM Developments regarding resurfacing the Bowling Club footpath.
- j) **TD** to contact the planning clerk to confirm the number of public representations that are allowed.
- k) **TD** to contact GACC to assess their representation on 15<sup>th</sup> March.
- l) **DT** to survey grit bins and organise refills as necessary.