

Dirleton Village Association

Minute of Meeting of 24th March 2022

The meeting was held at the Kirk Hall.

Present: D. Tait (Chairman), S. Paterson Brown, J. Macleod, C. Hamer, F. McClintock, D. Carter, T. & C. Drysdale, A. Orr, S. Oliver, P. Gillies, M. Kent, L. & P. Burnet, B. Ford, D. Scott, P Duvivier, F. Dingwall, M. Chynoweth, L. Scott, N. Jones

Apologies: Tony Quillieti, B. Thomson, K. Cornwell

1. Retiring Committee Members

DT confirmed that **DC** and **KC** have now retired from the committee and thanked them for all their efforts over the years. **DC** was presented with a small gift by way of thanks and will catch up with **KC** to present a similar gift.

2. Matters Arising

- **CH** confirmed that **JM** and **AO** had both corrected item 14 regarding the funding for a projector in the Kirk Hall.
- **NJ** spoke on behalf of Gullane & Dirleton Historical Society (GDHS) recapping item 12 regarding the closure of the castle structure. He expressed annoyance that requested that Heritage Environment Scotland (HES) had not liaised with GDHS or the DVA. He requested that as the DVA membership includes access to the castle, the committee should write to HES requesting that the tactile surveys proposed are prioritised. He felt that MSPs Craig Hoy and Paul McLennan would have a political interest.

3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 17/02/2022 approved by **SPB** and seconded by **F.McC** subject to the amendment requested by **JM** and **AO**.

4. Gullane Village Association

LS provided an insight to the formation of the GVA.

- GVA avoided a community asset transfer for the Village Recreational Hall, which is located behind the Village Hall and are now the leaseholders.
- Membership is open to all residents but unlike the DVA, there is no membership fee.
- They do not have a planning remit.
- The hall has now been refurbished and NBCAP has provided funding for new furniture, broadband and 2 laptops for digital inclusivity. Additional funding is to be sought for upgrades to the kitchen, lighting and heating.
- The hall is used by several groups, which provide income to pay the rent. The hall can be [booked](#) online.
- A quarterly newsletter has a distribution of 1500 copies, delivered by hand. This may not be financially or environmentally sustainable and a digital version is being considered.
- There is an Artisan Fair, similar to Dirleton's Market on the Green.
- They have a social media presence with a [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

- There is a plan to resurrect the Youth Club and the Gullane Games Week is set to return this year with activities free to other communities as well.
- GVA should work closely with the DVA to learn from projects/procedures that are successful, or not.

5. Accounts 2020-21

BT confirmed by e-mail to the committee that his 4th meeting with the Independent Examiner on 23rd March appeared to go well, and he is hopeful that the accounts to 31st August 2021 are now agreed. **DT** stated that there were still four outstanding issues and set out the legal requirement to issue the accounts to OSCR by 31st May, the whole committee can potentially be punished for discrepancies with fines and prison sentences. **DC** stressed that this issue needs urgent attention by the committee. *Post meeting update – DT and DC had not seen BT's e-mail.*

DT explained how he was trialling two forms to track / record outgoing expenditure and incoming funds.

BT and **DC** are the only signatories for cheques, neither are committee members. This reinforces the need for financial procedures to be updated.

6. Public Realm

Church Green - **DC** and M. Howarth meeting with Leuchie House, the new owners of Denis Duncan House, to see whether the BT overhead line can be removed from the green.

Finger Posts – **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.

Blue Historical Interpretation board – Doesn't have planning permission and **DC** to liaise with ELC to moving it and painting the legs black so it is not so obtrusive.

Street Lighting on the Main Green – **DC** to liaise with ELC regarding painting the columns black.

Members reported that the lights on the Kirk Green were not working.

7. Bowling Club - DC

The club will be opening with an invite only event on 10th April for c.30 people. **MK** requested an invite.

8. Planning applications

[Equestrian Stable Bock, Manse Road](#) – **DS** expressed concern that the equestrian development adjacent to his property is being constructed contrary to planning consent. However, the drawings available on ELC's planning portal do not show proposed levels and there are no building warrant drawings available. The access road is now c.1m higher than the original ground level and vehicles accessing and egressing the stables will be highly visible from their garden and affect their privacy. The planning enforcement officer has recently been notified of the concerns and **TD** will update the committee as soon as feedback is provided.

[Auburn House](#) – The planning application has now been consented. Various pre-commencement planning conditions need to be satisfied before construction can start. **SO** stated that there is a right of appeal. However, **CH** explained that this is a legal

procedure that is not appropriate in this case and beyond the financial capabilities of the DVA.

Castlemains – **CH** confirmed that there has been no further communication from MNM developments. He understands that the condition related to material finishes has not yet been discharged and the current economic climate has delayed delivery of materials. The access road and drainage infrastructure are complete off-site and on-gong on-site. **FMcC** confirmed that the surface water discharge to the Eel Burn is now flowing although **CH** explained this is from land drainage rather than the development site.

New Mains – **TD** is awaiting feedback from ELC regarding the Right of Way.

9. Jubilee Celebrations

An oak tree will be planted by Lord Stewart of Dirleton to commemorate the queen's jubilee on 4th June. The tree will fill a gap within the group of mature trees at the western end of the Doo'cot green. NB pipe band have agreed to play and a donation of up to £150 (depending on the scale of the band) from the DVA was approved with a unanimous committee vote. The primary school children will be involved scattering wish notes amongst the roots and adopt a tree for watering duties. The tree will be given a plaque and it was agreed that the plaques on the three other dedicated trees within the village will be refurbished; **SPB** and **FMcC** to assess. To ensure the 10L pot grown tree is secured, **DC** will collect from the nursery on 25th March and **DT** provided expenditure paperwork to the value of £45 incl. VAT.

JM indicated there was a general feeling at a recent Dirleton Interest Group meeting to want to celebrate the Jubilee and a Tea party was suggested on the Kirk Green with food available in the Kirk Hall. There could also be storytelling for children to also celebrate The Year of Stories 2022, which will spotlight, celebrate and promote the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland. A donation from the DVA would be welcome and confirmation that the event would be covered by the DVA's PL insurance. A permit has been applied for from ELC.

10. Dirleton Interest Group (DIG)

SPB and **JM** confirmed that the inaugural meeting of DIG at the Castle Inn on 2nd March was well attended. Further meetings were suggested on a quarterly basis although **MK** suggested maybe more often to increase social engagement, improve communication and inclusivity within the village. The Jubilee weekend was discussed. Music and dancing are proposed in the marquee after the Fete & Games on 25th June with the Castle Inn providing a bar.

AO suggested that the newsletter is resurrected.

11. DVA Membership

There was a general discussion about the DVA membership with suggestion that there should not be a fee but rely on donations. This would increase inclusivity. **TD** expressed concern regarding OSCR regulations although it was noted that the GVA has this approach and has charitable status. **TD** suggested that proposals are put forward and **DC** indicated that the Constitution would need to be amended to reflect changes to the aims of the DVA. **DT** will look into this.

12. Queen's Green Canopy project DC

Grants of £1,500 have been received from both the Tree Council and East Lothian Lieutenancy and £150 from GACC towards the project. Consultations have been held with residents regarding eight proposed locations for planting. The main planting will be carried out in November 2022.

13. GACC

Nothing of local relevance. Next meeting Thursday 31st March.

14. [ELC Short-Term Letting Consultation](#)

The Scottish Government introduced new legislation in 2021 allowing Local Authorities to create Control Areas to help manage Short-Term Letting in their areas. Short Term Lets are properties, either whole houses/flats, or a single room, that are available to rent for short periods of time, Air B&B being an example. Typically, they provide accommodation for tourists or temporary workers. Short Term Lets are separate to private rental tenancies, which are regulated through the The Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.

The Town and Country Planning (Short-term Let Control Areas) (Scotland) Act 2021 makes provision for planning authorities in Scotland to designate all or parts of their area as a Short Term Let Control Area. Within a Control Area, an application for planning permission would be required for a new Short Term Let. If approved, the property would then be able to operate as a Short Term Let, in compliance with any conditions on the planning permission. Short Term Lets, both existing and new, are also required to apply for a license to operate. Existing hosts and operators will have until 1 April 2023 to apply for a license, with all Short Term Let properties being required to have a license by July 2024. An East Lothian specific Licensing Scheme is currently being drawn up, which must be in place before the 1 October 2022. ELC are carrying out an 8-week period of consultation to gather opinions from local residents and a wide range of relevant sectors on whether there are particular issues in East Lothian's communities. The consultation closes on 8th April, see link above, also to be issued by Mailchimp.

15. AOCB

SO offered to assist in the newsletter delivery if it is resurrected. **TD** clarified the situation regarding the common land at Yellowcraig used by ELC as an overflow car park. A parking meter has been installed where a mobile signal is available. **SO** queried accessibility to the curling pond that is on land owned by Archerfield Estate.

16. Date and time of next meeting-

AGM on 21st April 2022.

ACTIONS

Carried forward from 19th 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.

Carried forward from 17th February

- c) **DC** to establish the extra over cost of finger posts.
- d) **DC** to issue before and after photos for the website.
- e) **DC** to approach Marc Teague of MNM Developments regarding resurfacing the Bowling Club footpath.
- f) **DT** to survey grit bins and organise refills as necessary.

From 24th March

- g) **DT** to consider sending a letter from the DVA to HES.
- h) **DC** to meet with Leuchie House.
- i) **DC** to issue an invite to MK
- j) **TD** to update DVA committee on planning enforcement
- k) **DT** to check PL insurance cover for jubilee Tea Party.
- l) **DT** to look into amendments to the constitution and financial procedures