

Dirleton Village Association

Minute of Meeting of 18th August 2022

The meeting was held at the Kirk Hall.

Present: D. Tait (Chairman), C. Hamer; J. Macleod; F. McClintock; S. Paterson Brown; B. Thomson; T. Drysdale; D. Carter

Apologies: B. Ford

1. Minutes of Meeting 23rd June

CH confirmed that the last 12 months minutes and agendas are now on the website. **SPB** requested that they are put in chronological order. **CH** will look into this with Mike Howarth as part of the website admin training process. Committee to review minutes.

2. Kirk Hall

TD summarised the document he has prepared and issued to the committee regarding proposals to apply to the Scottish government register a community interest in the kirk hall. **JM** is not in favour of including this at the Community Discussion Afternoon and preferred a face-to-face meeting with Reverend David Graham (**DG**) and the Kirk Session to discuss this and other matters such as Wifi and projector screen. **DG** has already agreed to setting up a meeting at the earliest opportunity. **DT**'s view is that **DG** / Keith Stewart (**KS**) should be informed prior to the event. **FM** is concerned that if this is not progressed urgently other parties may step in. **DC** indicated that the title is held by the Kirk Session as trustees and not directly by the C of S. Also, **KS** is likely to be extremely busy with the current litigation on a second independence referendum and may not have time for matters of this kind. The committee agreed that **TD** would approach **DG/KS** to inform them of the proposal and that it would not be discussed at the Community Discussion Afternoon. **JM** will follow up with **DG** on her meeting request regarding other matters.

3. Kirk Railings

DC confirmed that there are funds remaining in the DVA account associated with the Kirk Green public realm project. It has previously been suggested that the funds be used to replace the Kirk boundary wall railings. All permissions are in place for this however, we understand that some members of the Kirk view the absence of the railings as a reminder of sacrifices made to the war effort. The wall is owned and maintained by ELC, not the kirk. **DC** to prepare a draft questionnaire, for approval by the committee, prior to issuing to residents and the Kirk for their views. If the majority approve the project, then all donors will need to be approached to confirm the reallocation of funds or reimbursement.

4. Finance

- a) **MH** has identified that Sheila Low has been paying for the website subscription from a personal account. **BT** to arrange reimbursement of £177.60 ASAP and to issue **MH** with DVA account details for future subscription payments.
- b) **BT** provided committee members with a summary document of the Treasurer's role.

- c) **DT** asked if there are any outstanding issues that might be raised by the IE. **BT** confirmed that electronic payments are preferred to cash, and that Sandy Kirkwood is busy and may not be the appropriate person for the Independent Examiner for 2022/23 accounts.
- d) **DC** asked what the situation is regarding the payment for trees for the Queen's Green Canopy project, which will need to be ordered soon.
- e) **BT** confirmed that the next Treasurer has to be a member of the committee. **DT** indicated that the role could be split with someone separately taking on the incoming / outgoing payment record, as he has done with **BT**. **SPB** volunteered to act as the interim Treasurer. The membership will be notified at the next meeting. **DC** and **SPB** indicated that they will approach potential Treasurers. **BT** to issue a digital copy of the Treasurer's role document.
- f) **BT** handed over forms for transfer of DVA account signatories with and arrange a handover of account documents with **SPB**.
- g) The committee thanked **BT** for his hard work.

5. DVA Subscription

DT proposed a 50% reduction in subscription. **CH** suggested notifying members that in recognition of the current economic climate we would not be raising subscriptions. **BT's** view was that this might be a more powerful action and confirmed the DVA still needs an income for administration. **SPB** suggested a subscription of £5 per household as a compromise and minimise use of coins and change issues, and this was agreed by the committee.

JM is taking over from Felicity Dingwall as membership secretary. **SPB** to amend the subscription letter to go out to the membership for printing along with an updated letter from the chairman. Payment to be requested preferably by BACS, or by cheque, or if unavoidable, in cash at a drop box at Amalfi. **BT** confirmed cheques and cash would need to be paid in hand at the Santander in Musselburgh. Membership cards are still required to access the Castle gardens, although there is no access to the Castle. Membership cards and receipt will be e-mailed or possibly posted or made available for collection.

CH volunteered to assist in distribution of membership leaflets at the end of August.

6. Community Discussion Afternoon

DC to attend the DVA table with the results of the previous community consultation known as the "Dirleton Scrolls". **JM** is organising a leaflet drop, **DT** to print off c.400 leaflets for distribution to residents of Dirleton and Archerfield and through the Primary School pupils. HES will have a representative present and will be asked to clarify whether HES plan to reimburse the DVA payment for access or carry it over to the re-opening.

CH has submitted proposals for a wildlife project at the Dirleton Curling Pond to Archerfield Estate for approval. This will not be discussed with residents until approval is confirmed.

7. Winter Support

At the previous GACC meeting Liz Allan raised issues over fuel poverty and the need to resilience groups to consider what can be done to assist residents.

8. Date and time of next meeting-

7.00pm 22nd September 2022 at the Kirk Hall

ACTIONS

Carried over

- a) **DC** awaiting feedback from Doug Haig regarding renewal of finger posts.
- b) **DC** awaiting feedback from ELC planning enforcement regarding the blue tourism board.
- c) **TD** to liaise with **D Scott** and update DVA committee on planning enforcement for the equestrian stable block.
- d) **DT** to check when Zoom subscription is due for renewal.
- e) **CH** undertaking training by **MH** for website administration.
- f) **DC** to check for potential ash die back on tree opposite Amalfi.
- g) **JM** to inform Hilary Smith and Doug Haig that she is to take over from **DC** as DVA representative on the Area Partnership.

New

- h) **DT** to update letter from chair for distribution with subscription renewal forms.
- i) **SPB** to update the subscription renewal form.
- j) **JM** to organise distribution of subscription renewal forms.
- k) **BT** to arrange Treasurer handover with **SPB**.
- l) **TD** to liaise with DG/KS regarding the Kirk hall.
- m) **DC** to prepare a draft questionnaire for the kirk railings project.

Signed as a true representation of the meeting

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Carl Hamer

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Janice Macleod