

## Dirleton Village Association

### Minute of Public Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

The meeting was held at The Castle Inn.

**Present:** S. Paterson-Brown (Chairperson); T. Lonie (Vice chairperson); S. Low; C. Hamer; J. Macleod; F McClintock; F. Dingwall; V. & B. Nimmo; T. & C. Drysdale; A. Breckon; K. & S. Cornwell; B. Thomson; R. Campbell; I. Oliver; A. Orr; N. Steel; M. Chynoweth; H. Wager; D. Carter

**Apologies:** B. Ford; S. Oliver.

1. Minutes of meeting 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 approved as correct. FM noted 15<sup>th</sup> not 16<sup>th</sup> June and S. Oliver noted Yellowcraig not Yellowcraigs.

2. **Matters Arising** – To be addressed as meeting progresses.

3. **Mobile Mast**

Feedback from residents indicates that 90% have one or less bars of reception within their property. ELC Telecoms are looking for a provider to install a mast. A letter is being prepared for The Courier.

4. **Internet Access**

A good response has been received from residents regarding the demand for fibre and the information will be passed on to BT Openreach who will assess the cost to the customer. SPB pointed out that landline operators in the UK will switch every home phone in the UK to an internet-based connection instead of a traditional copper-wire landline by 2025.

5. **Dirleton Common Ground Area / Yellowcraig's Car Park**

TD reviewed meeting minutes archived at the John Gray Centre to try and clarify the ownership situation and could find no evidence that suggested the land was for the use of Dirleton residents. SPB, TD and SL met with Jenny Hargreaves (ELC Team Manager – Countryside) and Robbie MacEwen (ELC Countryside Ranger) on 13<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the proposals for Camper Vans at Yellowcraig. The land is available as an overflow car park and is to be used for a medieval enactment. There are three dedicated overnight spaces for campervans. ELC traffic wardens visit site each evening to ticket any vehicles parking overnight outside these spaces. They have reviewed incidents of wild camping to see if there is any correlation with the issue of fines and management May-Aug 2021 1,322 incidents; 2022 1,263 incidents and 2023 325 incidents.

6. **Old Village Hall**

There has been no response from ELC in a year to a meeting request. An asset transfer would be required from ELC to a village group. The village group, whether the DVA or another, would need to be a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). it would need trustees/admin management and appropriate insurances - buildings and

content and public liability. Possibly part of the Dirleton Interest Group with a trustee/committee member from each group. To be discussed at the next DIG meeting on 28th August. One option might be to request that ELC demolish the building on health and safety grounds and use the land for a storage container. This would need planning approval. Craig Hoy (MSP) has suggested that grant funding might be available for refurbishment but not demolition.

The same SCIO could register a community right to buy with the land registry, in the event that the Church of Scotland decide to sell the Kirk or Kirk Hall.

## 7. Treasurer's Report - SPB

### *Income*

Subs	£515
Donations	£799
Tree project	£1,160
Total	<b>£2,474</b>

### *Expenditure*

Website	£394 (includes last 2 years payment)
DVA expenses	£1,033 (incl annual Insurance £220)
Kirk Hall hire	£140
Tree project	£2,611
DeFib Battery and pads	£482
Total	<b>£4,499</b>

*Balance* **£13,442.53**

FM identified that a large proportion of the balance was from a £10,000 bequest and KC commented that OSCR are not in favour of charities retaining significant funds. There have been several cases where the DVA have been made funds available for community projects but never attributed specifically to the bequest. Based on 2022/23 income it would be necessary to have some form of fundraising event to cover the cost of running the DVA – insurances, website, defibrillator maintenance.

## 8. Membership – SPB/JM

Membership fee was significantly reduced for 2022/23. Proposal to drop the membership subscription. Donations for 22/23 are greater than subscriptions and DVA accounts are healthy. Agreed to drop the membership as a trial for 1 year from 1<sup>st</sup> September and request donations with no specific sum to cover DVA running costs. HES has confirmed that they want to promote the use of the castle by residents and there will be free entry to the castle for residents who can present a current utility bill. This is recorded by HES. Also 25% discount to friends and relatives of residents.

**JM** requested that residents let her know if there are new residents so that she can issue a welcome pack.

## 9. Planning – CH

[22/01050/P](#) Change of use and alterations to workshops to form 2 houses at 17/18 Castlemains Place. Application by R3 Repairs for two semi-detached houses on the same footprint has been approved. **CH** is liaising with the planning officer regarding the sale of public amenity space to a private developer without consultation. This was supported by the DVA on the understanding that reinstatement of the redundant septic tank and former roadway would result in no net loss of public amenity. The approved documents remove this requirement.

[23/00880/P](#) Part demolition of wall and erection of a new house on land to the rear of The Castle Inn. This is a revised application, previously under reference [22/00978/P](#) and [22/00995/LBC](#) which was refused on various grounds. The main differences are that the house is set back further on the property, addressing SO's issue of overlooking, the chimney has been removed, and there is only one new gateway in the wall. The colour of windows needs to be clarified (slate grey or white), the proposed relocation of the sycamore needs to be reassessed and no LBC application has been made. The DVA has drafted a response.

## 10. GADD Community Council - SPB

- A new representative is required following DTs resignation.
- ELC consultation for the new Local Development Plan. The DVA will prepare a response and **SPB** will distribute the link for residents to comment.

## 11. Fete & Games - FM

Event was a great success. The committee will be meeting in the coming weeks to agree which charities will benefit from funding.

## 12. Harvest Festival – AB

There will be a harvest festival Market on the Green 12 – 4pm 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to raise funds for Dirleton Play Group, which is a registered charity. Thanks to Kate Hamer for advice and preparing an advertising poster. Poster to be added to noticeboards. **CH** will post on the village website calendar. **TL** to add to Facebook page.

## 13. Food Bank - TL

The pipe band donated funds raised at the Highland Games to the food bank. Brian Ford asked **FM** to request that a representative of the Trussell Trust can talk about the food bank at the October meeting. **BF** has prepared a podcast for the Trussell Trust and has formed a link between farmers and food banks to harvest and distribute excess crops that the TT is looking to roll out nationally.

## 14. Committee Actions

### *Finger Posts*

The finger posts at the Main Road / Manse Road and Main Road / Ware Road junctions are out of date. ELC confirmed a replacement cost of £800 each + installation. Agreed that ELC should remove them altogether and put up a single brown sign directing to the Bowling Club.

### *Ash Die Back*

**Mike Foy** (ELC Tree Officer) has confirmed that there are no plans to fell the tree suffering from Ash dieback opposite Amalfi Café.

### *Kirk Hall Internet*

**JM** to liaise Keith Stewart after the meeting.

### *Village Welcome Pack*

**CH** to liaise with Mike Howarth to place the village welcome pack on the home page of the website.

### *Power Cuts/surges*

**CH** to contact Scottish Power regarding the recent power cuts and surges to get reassurance that the maintenance/repairs are now complete and there are no further outages planned.

### *Chapelhill Shrubbery*

Now cut back.

### *Castle Bus Shelter*

**DC** spoke with Doug Haig who agreed that the DVA can repaint the bus shelter. Works to be carried out after the nesting swallows have fledged.

### *Sustainable and Active Travel Action Plan*

Information has been circulated regarding a community engagement workshop to be held in Gullane on the 16<sup>th</sup> September (noon – 2pm) by Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS) to develop an Active and Sustainable Travel Action Plan for the North Berwick Coastal Ward Area.

### *Social Events*

Information has been circulated regarding:

- Hops in the Garden event at Archerfield Walled Garden on 2<sup>nd</sup> September to support Leuchie House.
- Walk Fest 28<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

**CH** to add to website calendar.

### **AOCB**

- There is an article in The Courier about Dirleton resident Heidi Dawson representing Scotland in Netball at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad and Tobago.

### **Next meeting**

The committee/sub-group meeting will be on 21<sup>st</sup> September and public meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October, both at 7pm in the Castle Inn.

Following the meeting Keith Stewart, Baron Stewart of Dirleton KC, gave a talk on his work as the Advocate General of Scotland.