

DIRLETON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity Number SCO17163) Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Charitable Purposes

The objects of the Association, as set out in its constitution are:

- *To encourage the preservation and, where possible, the improvement of the character, amenity, and beauty of the village and its surroundings and features therein of historic or ecological interest;*
- *To encourage high standards of planning and architecture in the area;*
- *To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history, and character of the village;*
- *To facilitate community activities*
- *To co-operate with other bodies having such interests.*
- *To pursue these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, other forms of communication and publicity and promotion of schemes of a charitable nature.*

Recruitment and Election of Committee Members: *The Association's Committee and Office Bearers are elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting held in the autumn of each year. The Committee may co-opt new or additional members as necessary during the year.*

Committee Members November 2022 - November 2023

Office Bearers

Chairperson: In rotation. Honorary Secretary: vacant. Honorary Treasurer: Simon Paterson-Brown.

Minutes Secretary: Carl Hamer. Membership Secretary: Janice Macleod.

Other Members: Brian Ford, Fred McClintock, Tracy Lonie and Sheila Low

Ex Officio: Zena Tindall (Community Councillor).

The State of the Association

The number of DVA memberships was 164 in 2022, but this year it has been decided to stop membership subscriptions and instead recognise anyone in the Dirleton Ward area to be able to join. This means it is difficult to assess true membership. The total population was 818 in 2013 but has increased significantly over the last few years).

The Committee

There has been a significant increase in committee members since last year. Brian Ford has stepped down from the Committee and the Committee would like to thank Brian for his contribution to the DVA. The remaining members are standing for re-election.

Communications and Public Involvement

The Association held meetings every two months throughout the year to which all DVA members (and now residents) were invited. Committee meetings were held on other months and on an ad hoc basis as issues arose.

The committee members have delegated responsibilities to aid communication.

Simon Paterson-Brown as treasurer, financial matters, Community Council

Carl Harmer Planning, Dirleton Village Website

Fred McClintock DVA Representative North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Janice MacLeod email group administrator, membership enquiries, welcome pack, updating Community notice boards.

Tracy Lonie Facebook Administrator

The village website (www.dirletonvillage.org) has been completely rebuilt and has been working efficiently along with the new email system. Thanks to both Mike Howarth and Carl Hamer.

The DVA have a new Facebook page.

The village noticeboards continue to be used to make information available to off-line residents, non-members and visitors.

A new 'welcome pack' was written and is now delivered to all new residents as well as being available on the website.

Planning and Associated Matters

The DVA committee continues to monitor all planning applications within Dirleton and the surrounding areas on behalf of the community to ensure high quality planning and architecture within the conservation area, in accordance with the DVA constitution.

Work on the Castlemains Place site for 36 housing units has commenced its final phase and many residents have already moved in to the first phase houses. An application for planning permission for two blocks of flats (4 affordable housing units in all) by East Lothian Housing Association was approved but has since been superseded by consent to convert the existing industrial building into a pair of private semi-detached houses.

Newmains Farm. Building on this development site has stopped and its future is unknown.

Newmains Public Right of Way: Discussions are continuing with ELC in relation to the public right of way around Newmains. We are grateful to Tom Drysdale for his work here.

An application for a new house west of the Castle Inn was refused by ELC and a new application is being considered which has addressed some of the reasons for the objections received.

There have been numerous applications for extensions to existing properties, some of which are listed, and the DVA has submitted responses to ELC.

Other Activities and Achievements

Representatives from the DVA committee have been attending the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (AP) meetings regularly on behalf of the community.

DVA committee members have met with various officials of ELC during the year to further the community's priorities which resulted from the Dirleton Discussion Day and subsequent survey in 2017.

The War Memorial appeal raised more than was needed for the war memorial repairs. A recent circular to all donors resulted in uniform approval to retain the funds for future projects and the committee is very grateful to all donors for their generosity. A vote to use the funds to restore the churchyard railings cut down in WW2, confirmed that there was not enough support and when combined with the view from the Kirk session, no further action will be taken here.

The committee are still awaiting a response from ELC in relation to safety issues concerning the main road through the Green.

The committee submitted a summary view to ELC, taken from information obtained from the Community Day in August 202, regarding Local development Plans. Further work will be required in the New year as ELC develops it's 5yr Local Place Plans.

Following feedback from the Community Day, the DVA committee has submitted an 'Expression of Interest' to the Council concerning the derelict village hall. This does not commit the community to doing anything at this stage, but simply requires the Council to review the situation and respond. A preliminary meeting was held in October and we await their response.

The Dirleton Village Interest Group meets 3 times per year to discuss issues relevant to a wide variety of organisations. The two main issues this year have been how the Market on the Green might be taken forward in the future, including where all its equipment might be stored and whether the DVA should be converted into a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which would permit it to own premises. There was unanimous support for this and the DVA is currently developing a SCIO constitution which will be presented at the AGM. The main driver here is to obtain a storage facility within the village which can be used by all the Interest groups.

Accounts

The draft accounts for Sept 2022-Aug 23 show the account stands at £13,637. Income was £2726 and Expenditure was £4548. The detailed accounts will be shown at the AGM

Approved by the DVA Committee and signed on its behalf:

Janice MacLeod

Acting Chairman

Date: