

Dirleton Village Association

Minute of Special General Meeting on 12th September 2024

The meeting was held at 7pm in The Castle Inn.

Present: C. Hamer (Chairperson); Z. Trendell; J. Macleod; F. McClintock; S. Paterson-Brown; V. & B. Nimmo; T. Drysdale; I. Oliver; R. Campbell; M. Chynoweth; F. Dingwall; D. McDonald; N. Bruce; D. Arnold; P. Du Vivier; E. Sutherland; J. & C. Lindsay; A. & N. Stokes; A. Orr; B Thomson; S. Brodie; J. LeRoux; S. Wilson; N. Steele; R. Gray (28)

Apologies: D. Carter T. Lonie; A. Breckon; H. Wager; S. Oliver

1. Introduction

CH introduced the meeting as a Special General Meeting to discuss and agree whether the DVA should be wound up and the Dirleton Community Association (DCA) set up in the form of a SCIO. The change in name reflecting the involvement of the wider community around the village.

2. DCA Proposed Constitution

The draft revised constitution with tracked changes was prepared by S. Low a former committee member and was distributed to the membership by email on 4th August with a digital copy available on the website and paper copies in Amalfi and the Castle Inn to read.

3. Objectives of the DVA

The objects of the Association shall be to promote and encourage the following aims by charitable means but not otherwise:

- a) 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.
- b) To encourage high standards of architecture and planning in the area.
- c) To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the village.
- d) To facilitate community activities.
- e) To co-operate with other bodies having similar interests.
- f) 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.

4. Purposes of the DCA.

The Organisation's main purpose is consistent with furthering the achievement of sustainable development. The Organisation's Purposes are:

- 5.1 To act as a voice for the residents of Dirleton and the surrounding areas as defined in Clause 4 (**The Community of Dirleton as defined by the village of Dirleton along with the settlements of Archerfield, Fenton Barns, and Ferrygate**) by collecting and representing views which have an impact on life in the Community and to liaise with all public bodies on matters pertinent to residents of Dirleton and the surrounding areas
- 5.2 To promote community participation amongst, and to encourage good working relationships between, all of Dirleton's community bodies, associations and residents
- 5.3 To encourage the preservation and the improvement of the character and amenity of Dirleton and its unique natural, historic and ecological features and to promote public interest therein
- 5.4 To support the retention and development of communal areas and facilities and to promote any other community-based activity which residents may consider could improve the life and well-being of the community
- 5.5 To liaise with the local council and community council in relation to planning matters, at all times encouraging high standards of architecture and planning and to protect the conservation and heritage of the village
- 5.6 By the way of meetings, lectures and publications, community participation will be encouraged in schemes of a charitable nature: all activities amongst the community will uphold equal opportunities and prohibit all conduct that discriminates or harasses on the grounds of race, religion, disability, age, political beliefs, gender or sexual orientation.

5. Issues

Membership Fee

The proposed constitution allows for a membership fee of £1, although the proposal is that due to current finances, the fee could be removed at the first meeting, in the knowledge that it can be resurrected in the future, if needs be. **TD** suggested this short-sighted considering the finances that are likely required to achieve the current proposals. **DD** suggested that the administrative structure isn't in place for a SCIO. **AO** highlighted potential GPR issues with the transfer of the members details. **TD** raised concerns over inconsistencies in the draft constitution and **SPB** explained that this was incorrect **TD** was reading the changes that have been tracked for transparency.

A vote was held to retain the ability to have a membership fee and this was carried unanimously.

DCA Boundary

It is proposed that the DCA membership is limited to the village of Dirleton and outlier settlements of Archerfield, Fenton Barns and Ferrygate. An alternative is to limit the membership to the village with an allowance for 25% of the membership to be outside this

area. **JM** confirmed that the current membership is c.250 of which c.25 are from Archerfield and 10-15 from other areas. **TD** raised concern that membership outside the village could potentially veto a proposal for the village. **ZT** put forward **DC's** view that he is supportive to keep the membership eligibility area more flexible, as in the present constitution. Such as: 'Members may be resident in the Dirleton area, or 'Friends of Dirleton '. **TD** requested clarification on the parish boundary indicating that there is potential for >25% outside the village; **PDV** supported **TD's** views. **CH** explained that the parish boundary is significantly larger than the area within which the majority of the DVA membership resides, for example the current DVA membership does not extend to the new development at Ferrygate or to the properties at the western end of Westerdunes. There is no plan to change this. **AO** commented that the use of Community in the title suggests a wider membership than the just the village. **VN** commented that the Dirleton is becoming more like a town than a village. A vote was held on the proposal to retain the current DVA boundary rather than limit it to the village + 25% and this was carried unanimously.

There are current DVA members that don't live in the village or outlier settlements but have an interest in the DVA's activities. Also, the DVA wants to encourage junior membership. A vote was held on the proposal to include Associate and Junior members, and this was carried unanimously.

ZT explained the benefits of a SCIO, allowing ownership, employment and community engagement. A vote was held to wind up the DVA and transfer to the DCA in the form of a SCIO and this carried with 26 votes and 2 abstentions.

Next meeting

The next public meeting will be a public meeting on 17th October 2024, Castle Inn at 7pm. *Subsequently, amended to 10th October to avoid half-term holidays.*

Actions:

- a) **SPB** to update the SCIO constitution to reflect the agreements made at the meeting and submit to OSCR for approval.