

Dirleton Village Association

Minute of Public Meeting on 10th October 2024

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

Present: S. Paterson-Brown (Chairperson); Z. Trendell; T. Lonie; C. Hamer; J. Macleod; F. McClintock; A. Stokes; P. Du Vivier; I. Oliver; R. Campbell; B. Thomson; D. Carter; D. Arnold; A. Soave

Apologies: V. & B. Nimmo; C. Drysdale

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 20th June 2024

No amendments requested. Proposed **FM** and Seconded **ZT**

2. Matters Arising

a) Local Place Plan – ZT

NBCAP were supportive of the LPPs submitted. Gullane LPP was rejected by ELC. **ZT** has had no response from ELC regarding Dirleton LPP. **ZT** to follow up.

b) Historic Reenactment

The event was not well attended, and this was likely due to the poor weather. There were no food or beverage stalls. ELC were not considered particularly helpful with permitting. CH suggested this was considered similar for permitting of other events rejected due to time constraints, or other technicalities. GADD CC to take this up with ELC to find out how they could be more supportive of events that promote the local businesses.

c) Village Hall

The structural engineers that worked on the Bowling Clubhouse refurbishment have agreed to undertake an inspection to assess potential remedial costs associated with cracking. Unfortunately, ELC's asbestos manager is off sick to arrange access.

d) Street Lighting

Phase 3 of the new street lighting is being installed around the village green with heritage lighting heads. Works should be complete at the end of October. DVA are liaising with ELC to ensure festive tree light connections and Xmas tree connection are retained/re-established. Phase 4 will be along Main Road where there will be new columns but reusing existing heads.

e) Fly Tipping

We are not aware of any new fly-tipping in the vicinity of the village. The lay-by on the Drem road is being infilled with soils and will presumably be landscaped. This is to prevent repeated fly-tipping.

3. DVA /DCA

SPB summarised the SGM in September. The members voted to wind up the DVA and transfer to the DCA in the form of a SCIO with two abstentions. The membership catchment will be the same as the current DVA i.e. Dirleton Village, Archerfield, Ferrygate Farm & Cottages and Fenton Barns.

At the AGM in November the DVA will be wound up and a new committee elected for the DCA from representatives of the various community groups. The bank account needs to be transferred SPB to review paper archives of meeting minutes to confirm details of the Molly Ritchie bequest in 1990's of £10,000 which is to be ring fenced. GDPR to be considered in transferring membership from DVA to DCA.

4. Treasurer's Report - SPB

Receipts - £112 membership fees (DD not cancelled); £1171.91 Scottish Gardens

Payments - £355.58 DVA Expenses; £237.05 Website/Email Service; £150.49 Insurance; £1,404.26 Village Hall Valuation.

Balance £13,904.66

Full details to be presented at the AGM.

Membership fee at £1/member would not cover annual running costs. Discussions held on the affordability of a fee of £3.50, £5 and £10. £10/member would cover ELC's valuation of the village hall. **DC** commented that the ability to match fund is beneficial when making applications for funding.

Fee to be agreed at AGM along with consideration of investment opportunities – interest paying account, premium bonds.

5. Solar Walk & Dark Skies Event - DA

Scaled version of the planets in our solar system now laid out on the JMW from the Sun, Mercury and Venus at the East Lodge extending 1.2km towards Neptune at Archerfield Walled Garden and Pluto beyond. GADD CC funded covered the majority of costs. Special thanks go to Ian Stirling for the carpentry of the support posts and Amy Breckon for design. Primary School art now displayed in the village notice board. Lots of social media posts and article to go in the Courier.

Heriot Watt University have agreed to cover the cost of the inclusion of a Dirleton Dark Skies event in the schedule for Edinburgh Science Festival at Easter 2025. Also to provide **DA** with administrative support. Planned events for Good Friday and Easter Saturday include guided tours of the solar walk by experts, two telescopes for observation (if clear sky) and an indoor observatory. Ongoing discussions for a permanent camera of the night sky, possibly within the Castle. ELC have confirmed that it is relatively straightforward to switch off the street lighting circuit around the green. **TD** raised H&S concerns; these will need to be addressed with ELC when applying for a permit. **DA** liaising with **FM** who has experience with permitting from organising the F&Gs.

The event will be ticketed as a potential fund raiser for Science and Nature projects at the Primary School. Possible QR codes for donations from visitors.

6. Planning – CH

[24/00980/P](#) GADD CC identified one new application for an extension to No.4 The Gardens. The planning documents have been reviewed and we consider that there are no concerns relating to the village conservation status. Views to the property are very limited. Neighbours can make their own representations.

[24/00947/P](#) **AS** notified the members that HES have made an application for a replacement storage shed for the Bowling club. Following the meeting the application details were reviewed. The details include a supporting statement from HES and their consideration of the location and construction materials. The DVA has no objection.

[22/01050/P](#) Change of use and alterations to workshops to form 2 houses at 17/18 Castlemains Place. ELHA are still in discussions with ELC Estates regarding purchase of a strip of the village green for use as private garden.

ELHA has agreed that the surround to the redundant septic tank on Station Road can be infilled and landscaped, leaving the septic tank in-situ. Need to get approval from ELC Roads to grub up the stopped-up section of Castlemains Place to connect the landscape bed across. This may require a planning application.

7. Food Bank – SPB

Collections for the food bank have been suspended due to the bureaucratic requirements for packaging and labelling that make it too costly for local farmers and businesses to supply.

8. [GADD Community Council](#) - ZT

The CC are working their way through the local priorities. A new vice-chair person is required. They are objecting to ELC's NB parking proposals, suggesting locals should be exempt. Funds from Cala Homes' S75 planning agreement for development in Gullane have been redirected to works in Tranent. Yellowcraig car parking data is to be reviewed. There is a p-t secretarial job for the CC that might be of interest to a student for experience. DC identified that community funds from Crystal Rig WF trust are to be managed by a SCIO with committee representatives of all East Lothian CCs to distribute funds appropriately.

9. DGN - JM

Food donations have been made by those attending the Monthly Lunch Hub.

The Kirk have to change bank accounts to enable BACS transfers for payment of the proposed Wi-Fi in the Kirk Hall.

10. AOCB

- VN requested that FM looks into repainting the village library in the phone box. FM to liaise with Keith Cornwell, who may have paint from the last time it was done. Request for volunteers made.
- CH confirmed that consents have now been obtained from landowners for the Curling Pond project. Quotes received for a preliminary ecological assessment (PEA) and civil engineering works. Awaiting confirmation that quote for civils includes materials. Scottish Landfill Trust have indicated the project would be eligible for funding. SPB suggested the CC may be able to match fund the cost of the PEA. CH agreed to formal presentation at the AGM.

Next meeting

The next public meeting will be the AGM on 21st November 2024, Castle Inn at 7pm.

Actions:

- a) CH to follow up addressing stopped-up Castlemains Place and disused septic tank with ELC /ELHA.
- b) DC/SPB to continue pressing ELC regarding the village hall.
- c) ZT to follow up the LPP issued to ELC

- d) **FM** to look into repainting the telephone box
- e) **CH** to apply to DVA/DCA/CC for PEA funding

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