

DIRLETON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Minute of the Annual General Meeting: 21st November 2024

Present: S. Paterson-Brown (chair); C. Hamer; Z. Trendell; T. Lonie; F. McClintock; D. Carter; B. Thomson; T & C. Drysdale; F. Dingwall; V & B. Nimmo; A. Orr; C & J. Lindsay; P. & A. Rintoul; R. Campbell; I. Oliver; B. Moody; M. Chynoweth; P. Jackson; R. Sydeserff; A. Stokes; J. Thomson; J. MacDonald; A. Breckon

1. Introduction: SPB welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies: H. Wager; J. MacLeod; B. Ford; M. McNie; F. Dingwall; S. Oliver; E. Sutherland

3. Approval of the Minute of the previous AGM 16th November 2023: approved on a proposal by ZT, seconded by FM. **Matters Arising:** Discussed in the Chair's report.

4. Annual Report

SPB summarised the Annual Report that was prepared by JM and submitted to the membership by Mailchimp on 11th November 2024, which for ease of future reference is detailed below.

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.

Committee Members November 2023 - November 2024

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. This year, following a previous resolution, the DVA will cease to exist after this AGM and instead become a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) as Dirleton Community Association (DCA). The outgoing committee introduced themselves.

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 (Xmas Lights 🌟), Tracy Lonie; Ex Officio: Zena Trendell (Community Councillor).

Sheila Low resigned during the year. The DVA are indebted to Sheila for the amount of time spent in developing the SCIO application to The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

The State of the Association

Subscriptions

Last year it was decided to suspend membership subscriptions with the hope that this would attract more residents to attend meetings and recognise anyone in the Dirleton Ward area as members.

Communications and Public Involvement

The Association held meetings every bimonthly throughout the year to which all DVA members (and now residents) were invited with Committee members having a business meeting on alternate months. The village website (www.dirletonvillage.org) has been completely rebuilt and has been working efficiently thanks to Mike Howarth and Carl Hamer. Along with the new email system thanks again to Mike Howarth and Janice MacLeod. The DVA committee has also used a new Facebook page which is run by Tracy Lonie and links to the Community Council through Zena Trendell. 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 last year and is now delivered to all new residents as well as being available on the website. The welcome pack will be updated when we become the Dirleton Community Association

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.

- Castlemains Place: Work on the site is now nearing completion, and we welcome all new residents to the village and the new DCA.
- Newmains Farm. Building on this development site has stopped and its future remains 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.

Other Activities and Achievements

Solar Walk: Thanks to D. Arnold, Herriot Watt University and Dirleton Primary School pupils for providing the solar walk between the East Lodge and Archerfield Walled Garden. We look forward to the proposed "Dark Skies" event at Easter 2025.

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP): **FM** (Lead representative) from the DVA committee has been attending the NBCAP meetings regularly on behalf of the community. *Dirleton Local Place Plan 2024:* The Local Place Plan led from consultation to submission to East Lothian Council by **ZT** and **DC**. The LLP is undergoing yet another revision to comply with ELC's

requirements. The DVA would like to acknowledge the amount of time and expertise required for undertaking this piece of work.

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

Village Hall: Following feedback from the Community Day, the DVA committee 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 after undertaking a valuation report the Council have offered it to us for £2,000. In the light of potential significant renovation required access has been arranged on 28th November to undertake a structural survey to enable more accurate costing of repairs. The findings will be reported back to the DCA in the New Year.

Curling Pond: **CH** gave a brief outline of proposals for creating a permanent waterbody at the former curling pond. A more detailed presentation will be given at a future meeting.

Fete & Games: A well-attended and successful event

Open Gardens: Very successful and thanks was given to the contribution to the DVA.

Mobile Phones: Consultation is ongoing regarding the placement of a new mobile phone mast to improve reception in the village.

Street Lighting: Thanks to **DC** for the organising the heritage street lighting fittings around the Kirk and Village Greens. Works are still to be completed on Manse Road between the Castle Inn and the East Lodge. ELC have indicated an e/o cost of £850 per lamp to extend the scheme out to the western end of the village. This does not fall within their budget and a contribution would be required. A request will be made to the membership for pledges and the value pledged will be used as a guide to the taking this forward.

5. Treasurer's Report

A copy of the final accounts certified by an independent examiner, Michael McFee, was distributed to the membership by e-mail on 11th November 2024 and printed copies were made available for review. The account for Sept 2023 - Aug 2024 show that the account stands at £13,904.66, of which the £10,000 bequest from Molly Richie is ring-fenced specifically for the Dirleton village. Income was £2,489.91 and expenditure was £2,222.38. The DVA are very grateful to the Open Gardens scheme, coordinated by Carol Drysdale, for their donation of £1,177.91.

BT suggested that the accounting for the DCA as a SCIO might be more expensive when considering future outgoings.

6. Election of Office Bearers and Committee for the DCA

No nominations were received for the role of chairperson. The committee proposed to continue with a rolling chairperson for each meeting as this has proved successful. The schedule of

chairperson would be agreed prior to the next meeting. The following nominations were proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

Position	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Treasurer	Simon Paterson-Brown	Janice MacLeod	Carl Hamer
Membership Secretary	Janice MacLeod	Mary Ann Cosgrove	Mary Carter
Minute Secretary	Carl Hamer	Simon Paterson-Brown	Janice MacLeod
Committee Member	Tracy Lonie	Fred McClintock	Carl Hamer
Committee Member	Brian Ford	Fred McClintock	Tracy Lonie
Committee Member	Fred McClintock	Carl Hamer	Janice MacLeod
Committee Member	Zena Trendell	Fred McClintock	Simon Paterson-Brown
Committee Member	Dan Arnold	Derek Carter	Simon Paterson-Brown
Committee Member	Derek Carter	Simon Paterson-Brown	Carl Hamer

7. Dirleton Community Association

The e-mail and website systems will be switched to the DCA. Members will be asked if they want to be included on the DCA mailing list and will be removed if requested. The system will be discussed at the first meeting. Meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month in the function room of the Castle Inn, with a one month break in summer.

Sub-Group Meetings 2025	DCA Meetings 2025
16 th January	20 th February
20 th March	24 th April
15 th May	19 th June
21 st August	18 th September
23 rd October	20 th November (AGM)

AOCB:

- **AB** provided details of fund-raising activities for a Primary School trip to see a panto. Pupils will form a lit procession from the Kirk Green to the Christmas Tree prior to the switch on of the Festive Lights and carol singing, drinks and food from 5pm on Friday 29th November. A flier was distributed to members via e-mail. There will be a wreath making session at the Kirk Hall from 4pm on Friday 29th November.
- **BM** notified members of a Coffee Morning at the Primary School on the Friday 29th November.

- Flowers are being placed at the memorial tree opposite the Castle Inn. It is understood these are in memory of a former member of staff. No disrespect is meant in removing the flowers once they have gone over.