



Dirleton Community Association General Meeting (Open) 18th September 2025 Minutes



1. Committee members present: Janice MacLeod (JM), Fred McClintock (FM), Derek Carter (DC), Simon Paterson Brown (SPB), Zena Trendell (ZT) and Mike Howarth (MH)

Apologies: Carl Hamer (CH), Dan Arnold (DA), Rachel Sydeserff (RS), Tracy Lonie (TL)

Members of the DCA/public noted as in attendance: Bob Simpson, James Robertson, Sue Oliver, Margaret Chynawetti, Valerie Nimmo, Paul Du Vivier, Peter Rintoni, Anne Rintoni, Jane Wilson, Steve Wilson, Brian Moody, Carol Drysdale, Tom Drysdale, Nancy Slack, John Thomson, A. Ork, Aiden Stoices
2. Minutes from the previous meeting: 21st August 2025 (subject to minor amendments re: date & attendance) these were approved by Janice MacLeod & Simon Patterson Brown.
3. Matters arising: All matters arising are contained within the agenda.
4. Treasurers report: SPB presented the latest draft accounts dated 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025 (these have not yet been submitted to the independent auditor). Income totalling £10,809.98 was highlighted including member contributions (£92), the Solar Walk (£617.98), fund raising for the heritage lights (£8,010), Fete and Games (£100), and input from Dirleton Good Neighbours towards the village party (JM requested this be explicitly stated within the accounts). SPB will amend as requested.

It was noted there are increased expenses this year relating to the costs associated with the village party (further discussion is required to consider whether this is to be an annual event and how to fund that), public liability insurance increase (Ladbroke), necessary updating/upgrading of the website, fertiliser for the Queen's canopy trees & batteries for the defibrillators.

This led to a discussion regarding the need/possibility of implementing subscriptions. It was noted there are 85 members signed up to the DCA (voting members), however, it is regarded that all individuals within Dirleton, Archerfield and the close surrounding area are considered members. Requirements within the SCIO process meant that formal sign-up was necessary. The Committee strongly urged people to formally join [DCA Membership - Dirleton Village Website](#).

The closing financial balance for the year is £11,795.16, this includes the transition from DVA to DCA that had no financial impact.

ACTION: SPB to amend draft accounts to include DGN's financial contribution (£100) & Scottish Gardens changed to Scotland's Gardens Scheme.

ACTION: It was agreed the Committee will produce & submit a paper for consideration at the next meeting (AGM on 20th November) regarding a potential annual party.

ACTION: It was noted the DCA meeting details on the website are inaccurate. MH to amend.

The Committee thanked everyone that provided a donation during the financial year.



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5. Registration of a Notice of Interest for the Kirk Hall: Tom Drysdale provided an update on progress to complete the registration process for a Notice of Interest to demonstrate the community would like to buy the Kirk Hall should it ever be sold. There followed debate on the need for registration, however, it was highlighted there is no suggestion that the Kirk Hall is currently or in the near future to be sold, rather the Notice of Interest is a preventative measure. Prior to registration there are a number of actions that need to be completed:
- a. A letter from the DCA has been drafted (by DC) & will be sent to the Church of Scotland (by JM) asking for confirmation of the replacement for David Graham & offering our ongoing support for the Kirk in Dirleton.
 - b. Kyle Anderson, Scottish Government is advising on the Community Right to Buy initiative & has suggested changes to the DCA Constitution. SPB & MH will complete the amendments, ensure they are ratified by Kyle Anderson, & initiate a DCA member vote. This will be submitted to OSCR for recognition.
 - c. Building valuation (for non-church use) is necessary.
 - d. A business plan is to be created (to demonstrate financial viability) – the Committee will complete this
 - e. TD to prepare the submission document(s), however, noted there are complex requirements & a full understanding of the process is still underway.

It was observed that decisions regarding the sale of church properties are not managed locally, they are made at 121 George Street, Edinburgh.

All parties want to thank David Graham for his contribution to the community as minister.

6. The Old Village Hall: Reference was made to the presentation given in April 2025 by DC & John Finlay with the option of demolishing the building & replacing it with containers (for the purpose of using these as storage). Since then, a planning application has been submitted to East Lothian Council (ELC). This remains outstanding as ELC has requested bat surveys (an initial one was completed) with a further request for sunrise & winter surveys. Grant applications will be made to secure funding. These will be strengthened by community engagement (via donations & letters of support). At present there is agreement from DGN (£500), Fete and Games (£2k) & the Open Gardens event (see details under AOB). The primary school headmaster (Brian Moody) will write to ELC regarding the use of the containers as storage. The Committee urged all interest groups to submit a letter of support (individual requests have been made). The Committee asked members to approve the proposed DCA investment of £5k (Mollie Ritchie bequest contained within the financial accounts) to the project. This was agreed.
7. Local Place Plan: The Dirleton & Area Local Place Plan has been officially registered by ELC & it is anticipated there will be input to the ELC Local Development Plan. A significant thanks goes to DC for the final revision of the document. The plan can be found here [Dirleton and Area Local Place Plan 2025 | East Lothian Council](#)



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8. Street Lighting: Following the community contribution to the heritage lighting (£10k via the DCA), ELC completed partial work to upgrade the main cables & lights. Work will restart from 22nd September & it is scheduled to be completed by 19th October. A meeting with the ELC lighting engineer is also being arranged to help address current issues (DC to minute & circulate):
- a. Plan v's actual (including lights now shining into house windows as they are taller than previous lamps & dark areas of village)
 - b. The lamps on the Castle Inn not replaced
 - c. Turret lamps to be completed (x2)
 - d. Replacements stopped short at the East end of the village & at the school
 - e. Festive lights – the connection is now on the opposite side of the road from the original site & a solution is required as to how to light the Christmas tree (discussion then took place regarding the potential for a timer on the Christmas lights – this can not be automated at this time but all solutions will be considered). **ACTION:** FM & MH to discuss further
 - f. Mixed bulbs (white & warm both applied – members prefer the warmer lights throughout for consistency)

Members noted that Scottish Water will also be working on the main road in the village during October (addressing a cracked water pipe previously attempted).

9. Planning: CH provided an update by email (read by FM) stating that the redevelopment of 17/18 Castle mains Place will commence in the middle of October (the old workshops to be converted into supported housing by ELHA). CH also has a meeting scheduled at the end of September with ELC Chief Executive to discuss the removal of a septic tank & greening of the entrance to Castle mains Place (a planning application is intended for submission in October).

There is a current application relating to a premises in Speedwell Gardens, no outcome has been reached yet. The future of Amalfi was discussed & it was recorded that an application for change of use (from commercial to residential was submitted to ELC & was successful). No further details are known at this point.

ACTION: CH to provide a fuller update at November's AGM.

10. Gullane Area Community Council (GACC) Update: Applications for community councillor membership closed today – both SPB & ZT submitted applications.

ACTION: To raise the ongoing closure of the bridge at Myreton (a letter has already been submitted to the Chair, Malcolm Duck regarding the difficulties of access – including for the motor museum).

11. Old telephone box: An update regarding the refurbishment of the telephone box was provided by FM. He is currently in the process of repairing the whole in the base. Keith will kindly donate paint to refresh the box & volunteers are wanted to complete the task. A special thanks was given to Valerie Nimmo for maintaining the telephone box library.



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12. Any Other Business:

- a. Removed post box: There has been little progression regarding the replacement of a post box removed outside of Amalfi (despite support from a local Councillor, Carol MacFarlane). **ACTION:** A formal letter will be submitted to Royal Mail from the DCA to request the post box at Maxwell Road is transferred to the East end of the village – this is intended to provide better coverage although it was highlighted by FM that the use of letters is in decline & it is to be anticipated).
- b. Vandalised bus stops: it was indicated these are to be replaced (by DC)
- c. A new gate has been added to a nearby paddock. No change in function of the area is anticipated.
- d. Open Garden Scheme to be held on 13th & 14th June 2026 (contributions are distributed as 40% to the DCA, 20% to Scotland's Gardens Scheme & 20% to the RNLI)
- e. Date for the diary: Friday 28th November will be the children's Christmas event
- f. Antisocial behaviour: General incidents were raised. For noting following the meeting those experiencing and/or witnessing antisocial behaviour are able to report it to East Lothian Council via the online form [eastlothian-generalforms.oncreate.app/w/webpage/eform-migration-antisocial-behaviour?webpage_token=5d438fdb7a6058ff6bda80f4610ef69089c2853cae87089a7e497ca74767b2e6&expiry=32NmGBxsZw9ERNiFwxPXWSoc&auth=YjNIOTkzMGIzMmM4&id=12004891&context_record_id=12004891](https://generalforms.oncreate.app/w/webpage/eform-migration-antisocial-behaviour?webpage_token=5d438fdb7a6058ff6bda80f4610ef69089c2853cae87089a7e497ca74767b2e6&expiry=32NmGBxsZw9ERNiFwxPXWSoc&auth=YjNIOTkzMGIzMmM4&id=12004891&context_record_id=12004891)
Or by telephone on 01875 824 307

13. The next public meeting is to be held on Thursday 20th November 2025 at 7pm (DCA AGM) in the Castle Inn, Dirleton.