



Dirleton Community Association
General Meeting 20th November 2025 Agenda



General Meeting of the Dirleton Community Association.

Held on **Thursday 20th November 2025**

Start Time: **1900hrs**

Venue: **The Castle Inn, Manse Road, Dirleton - The Function Room**

Chairperson: **Simon Paterson-Brown**

Attendees: S. Paterson-Brown (SPB); C. Hamer (CH); T. Lonie (TL); Z. Trendell (ZT); J. Macleod (JM); F. McClintock (FM); D. Carter (DC); M. & N. Howarth (MJH); C. & T. Drysdale, B. & V. Nimmo; K. & S. Cornwell; A. Soave; S. Oliver; F. Dingwall; P. DuVivier; P. & A. Ringtoul; J. Robertson; N. Steele; M. Chynoweth; A. & A. Stokes

Apologies: H. Wager.

Persons highlighted are Trustees of the DCA.

Chair of Meeting: S. Paterson-Brown (SPB)

1. Opening Remarks

SPB expressed thanks to MJH for his recent contribution to the DCA regarding communications and the website.

2. Minutes of last meeting (Thu 18th Sep 2025)

FM chaired the meeting otherwise correct. Proposed by MH and seconded by FM.

3. Matters Arising from minutes

- a) Annual Party to be discussed - Cost £1,500
- b) Subscriptions to be discussed
- c) Registration of interest in the Kirk Hall – need to update the constitution for compliance with SCIO procedures.

4. Comment on final accounts of DVA.

DVA final accounts – SPB provided a summary of the accounts which are published on the website.

DCA account incl. Molly Ritchie bequest can't be invested in Premium Bonds and can't be put into a high interest account as they need to be regularly accessed.

5. Lighting and Village Electrics (DC)

Street lighting on the north side of the village green is now operational. Pressurising ELC for outstanding repairs that have been reported. Encouraged others to use the ELC portal to report faults. Lighting faults at the west end of the green have been blamed on the SPEN and the change of supply.

Councillor C. MacFarlane became involved and ELC paid an additional contribution to SPEN to resolve the issue. These lights are not in ELC's 2025 budget, but this will be reviewed. Could be upgraded to a priority if there was

DC



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a community contribution. 3 new lights would require c. £6 - £7,000 + c.£1,500 for heritage headers. Members indicated that the lack of lighting is a health & safety concern. There is no longer a supply to the existing light as SPEN cut the cable. JM inquired as to whether community benefit funds might be available. NBCAP have already contributed to prioritising the village green lights. Members are reluctant to contribute DCA funds to what is considered an ELC service paid for through Council Tax. DCA to continue to pressurise SPEN to get the situation resolved.

6. Old Village Hall / Equipment Store Project (DC)

DC provided an overview of the current situation.

Bat survey is complete and report due w/c 24/11/25.

Looking to get planning approval before festive break.

Pledges of £13,000 received with a view to match funding this through grants. Need letters of support from community groups. Some have already been received.

Anticipated 6 months to secure full funding with a view to purchase in summer 2026.

Bat translocation to boxes during hibernation December 2026.

7. Planning Matters and Update on Road Safety Scheme(CH/DC)

[22/01050/P - Change of use and alterations to workshops to form 2 houses, formation of dormers and change of use of open space to garden ground](#)

Construction works ongoing by Platinum Property Services, contractors to R3, who are part of ELHA Group. Part of the village green was sold by ELC to ELHA for private gardens. Properties to be put on the market shortly. ELHA keen to support the landscaping over the disused septic tank and extension of the verge next to the new pavement across Castlemains Place. CH is seeking clarification on the planning requirements / fee as there is no clear definition under which the works would fall. CH told ELHA that the DCA are willing to submit the application and seek funds to undertake the works but not the upfront application fee which might be >£1,000, when the major benefactor will be ELHA in the saleability/value of the properties.

[25/00828/P|Replacement doors|9 Harpenside Crescent Dirleton East Lothian EH39 5DP](#) No comment from DCA. Approved.

[25/01242/P|Alterations, extension to 11 Foreshot Terrace, formation of driveway, hardstanding areas, erection of gate and gate posts](#) Neighbours consulted. No comment from DCA. Gravel driveway within front garden will alleviate on street parking close to Ware Rd junction. Adjoining properties have driveways. Slight loss in character with removal of chimney. Modern extension to rear.

[25/00593/CAC Demolition of Community Hall](#) & [25/00594/P Siting of 2 storage containers and associated works Castle Park](#) DCA Application supported by members.



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[25/01195/P The Water Tower Village Green Road](#) Part change of use of dwelling to short term let. No comment from DCA as no change to the architecture of the building.

[25/01151/P Redcote Manse Road](#) Installation of awning. No comment from DCA

[25/01216/P](#) & [25/01217/LBC](#) Alterations, extension to Dirleton House, Manse Road and formation of hardstanding area, steps, walls, raised terrace and part demolition of building and log store. Proposed architecture in keeping with existing buildings. Neighbours and HES consulted through separate LBC application. No comment from DCA.

Update on Proposed Road Safety Scheme

ELC have responded to the DVA's request to consider traffic management / pedestrian access on Manse Road and adjacent to the castle turret. Improved signed for no exit at the Castle Inn but not enforced one way. Widened footpath around the turret by narrowing the road and removal of the grass verge and new kerb. DCA to request a plan and respond to what are considered over the top measures.

DC

8. Membership Fees

The DCA has had increased expenditure and needs c.£600 p.a. running costs for insurance, website, defibrillator maintenance etc. Garden's Open donations have allowed subscriptions to remain suspended since 2023. Currently there are 92 members with c.250 on the email register. To reduce the risk of reliance on donations the following subscriptions are proposed to cover costs: £10 adult, £5 concessions and £1 for anyone on benefits. Subs would be collected by BACS / Standing Order to minimise processing cash payments and administration chasing payments. E-mail reminders would be sent at the end of the DCA financial year in September and encouraging non-members to join. MJH confirmed that an automated system would be set up to log payments. All members encouraged to spread the word to a small minority without email. SCIO regulations are applied to membership (see below).

9. Village Postbox update.

The post office had confirmed they had undertaken an assessment of usage and considering that 98% of residents live within 0.5mile of the remaining PO boxes, and therefore no requirement for a replacement. Suggest to request moving the Maxwell Road post box to the eastern end of the village to even out access distances. Maxwell Road residents to be consulted.

10. Constitution Changes (MJH)

The constitution has been upgraded to comply with OSCR regulations that enable land/property ownership. Reference now made to various laws, acts and events. Definition of Community previously mentioned the village and named surrounding



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hamlets. A slightly larger area is now defined by 52 post codes; a plan was shown to the members.

All documents are published on the website.

11. DCA Trustees and AGM

There are currently 2 trustees CH and FM. There will be a minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 elected trustees and 3 co-opted trustees (Treasurer (SPB), Membership secretary (JM) and Minutes Secretary (vacant). Elected trustees will always be in the majority. Trustees will also form sub-committees for operations and projects. General meetings will require 50% of trustees to attend for quoracy. The chair of the DCA will need to be voted by elected trustees but there will be no change to the rolling chair of meetings. Voting will be restricted to members, with the option of a proxy vote either online or via an appointed person. If a young person representative comes forward then trustees can co-opt them or set up a junior committee. All documents are published on the website.

12. Any Other Business

The Open Arms is now under new ownership. The DCA wishes them well.

Christmas lights will be turned on **Friday 28th November**. The tree has been ordered by FM and paid for by the Fete & Games. Hopefully the lighting supply will be resolved. The event will start with mulled wine at the Kirk Hall followed by carols around the tree supported by the Gullane & Aberlady choir. Hot chocolate, mulled wine, mince pies and pizza on offer funded by the Dirleton Good Neighbours, Market on the Green and Primary School.

Christmas Lunch Hub on **3rd December 12 -2pm**.

VN expressed thanks to the Primary School for War Memorial contributions.

FM informed members that the door to the community library in the phone box has been made watertight and greased. He will request funding from the F&G to fabricate a new hardwood surround for the door

13. Date of next meetings

General meeting 8th December 6.30pm at the Castle Inn with mince pies and drinks on offer paid for by DCA. **Followed by the AGM** which be limited to formal requirements.

14. Closing Remarks.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm (approx)

Actions:

DC to follow-up with ELC regarding the missed street lights.

DC to liaise with HES and a response to ELC regarding road safety proposals

Notes: