



**Dirleton Community Association**  
Minutes of  
General Meeting (open) held 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026



**General Meeting of the Dirleton Community Association.**

Held on: **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**  
 Start Time: 1930hrs  
 Venue: The Castle Inn, Manse Road, Dirleton - The Function Room  
 Chairperson: Mike Howarth (MJH)  
 Attendees:

Fred McClintock (FM), Janice MacLeod (JM), Derek Carter (DC), Aiden Stokes (AS), Felicity Dingwall (FD), Tom & Carol Drysdale, Margaret Chynoweth, John & Christian Lindsay, Steve & Jane Wilson, Simon Patterson-Brown (SPB), Valerie Nimmo, Naomi Howarth, Dan Arnold (DA), Paul Du Vivier

		Action Points
DCA-GM-25/26-14.	<p><u>Apologies:</u></p> <p>Zena Trendell, Valerie Nimmo, Carl Hamer, Nancy Steele.</p>	
DCA-GM-25/26-15.	<p><u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u></p> <p>These have been circulated; AS stated that the gap between the Open Gardens and the village Fete and Games was one week (this year) and not two (as in previous years). MH to amend then sign off the minutes as factually correct.</p>	MJH
DCA-GM-25/26-16.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>All matters arising are discussed within the meeting</p>	
DCA-GM-25/26-17.	<p><u>Treasurers Report - SPB</u></p> <p>Flurry of donations on the back of membership renewals, totalling £300 +            Expenditure is £1031, comprising:            -website renewal £300            -DCA expenditure £731 including donations to mini French classes for the after school club, donation to the solar walk website and name            Account balance is at £11,085.</p>	



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DCA-GM-25/26-18.	<p><u>Membership - JM</u></p> <p>Email to revalidate current membership has been sent out and 66 members have revalidated. MH to send out a reminder email on the 30<sup>th</sup> April to those who have not replied to initial contact.</p>	MJH
DCA-GM-25/26-19.	<p><u>Dirleton Good Neighbours – JM</u></p> <p>There have been three activities to report on_</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Bite and Blether held in the Open Arms in February was very well received and attended.</li><li>- The Born and Bred in Dirleton event held in conjunction with Dirleton School was a wonderful intergenerational event.</li><li>- The May Lunch Hub will not take place next month due to the council requiring access to the Kirk Hall to set up the polling station for the elections on the following day. The lunch hub will be back in June.</li></ul>	
DCA-GM-25/26-20.	<p><u>Planning Updates – MJH (pp Carl Hamer)</u></p> <p>Speedwell planning approved.</p>	
DCA-GM-25/26-21.	<p><u>Fete &amp; Games 2026 – FM</u></p> <p>Fete &amp; Games will take place on Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026. Donations of bric-a-brac and books are requested and uplift from doorsteps are scheduled to take place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June from 18:30.</p> <p>The plea is out for people to help set up stalls on the Saturday morning and also for people to help pack away gazebos and tidy up between 5pm and 6pm at the end of the event.</p> <p>Donations of plants are also requested.</p> <p>FM asked FD for some advice about the plant stall. FD reminded the meeting that she is no longer running the plant stall - it will be Lucy Millar this year – but asks that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- All donated plants are clearly labelled!</li><li>- Veg plants are quite popular as well as flowers, but tomato plants are only really useful if they are quite mature and about to produce fruit.</li></ul> <p>DA asked if there was anything that the school could get involved with growing for the stall; FD</p>	



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	<p>replies that they are already doing the sweetpea competition and involved in growing herbs.</p> <p>DA states that as the parents of schoolchildren are running the tea tent, they will be willing to help FA with more general set-up / takedown duties as they will already be onsite.</p>	
DCA-GM-25/26-22.	<p><u>Project Update - Heritage Lighting – DC</u></p> <p>Last information available is that SPEN are to do all the work needed, but still no confirmation from SPEN directly. Scottish Transport website has marked in that works are to start between June and September re: village lights.</p> <p>DCA has extracted a written promise of two new heritage style street lights on Manse Road. More fundraising would be required to replace street lights beyond the school and Harpenden Crescent with the heritage style lamps.</p>	
DCA-GM-25/26-23.	<p><u>Project Update - Road Safety Works – DC</u></p> <p>Adjustments to the pavement width around the castle turret and the corresponding road markings have been completed, and the road and pavement surfaces replaced. Grass seed had not been applied to the new verges nor had the white signage been put in place outside The Castle Inn. Both these actions are to be completed within one month.</p> <p>TD asks if the bus stop outside The Castle Inn can be re-signed on the road, because of some people using the space as a carpark.</p> <p>DC states that as there is a clear bus stop sign, we should wait to see if this would be necessary.</p> <p>MH reports that the electrical ducting is in place under the road near the farm entrance such that the wiring can be re-installed for the xmas lights on the tree at the east end of the village green.</p>	
DCA-GM-25/26-24.	<p><u>Project Update - Old Village Hall- DC</u></p> <p>DC reports that the DCA have planning permission for five years for temporary structures on the sight of the old village hall. DCA will have to keep applying to renew this planning application every five years.</p>	



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Tenders for grants to support this project MUST be in by the end of May; we have been waiting for the quote from the 4<sup>th</sup> contractor since February.

Broadly speaking:

demolish existing structure and add two containers.

(£42,900)

Add two containers (£7000)

Cap existing electricity/water services (£1000)

Cost of licenced bat handler to move roosting bat to safety during works

Asbestos removal compliance (blue and white asbestos)

Capital works costs

Insurance costs – cannot get a quote until the building has been purchased

Will need client insurance whilst the project is ongoing

Bowling Club have stated that we could use their kitchen and loos instead of renting a portacabin for the duration of the project IF they can have the path to their building resurfaced with tarmac.

MH points out that there are rules regarding VAT on a temporary building that would have to be observed.

DA asks if it would be possible to separate costs in order to claim back VAT.

DC reports that the community has £12,800 pledged to the project made up of:

Fete & Games £2000

MOTG £200

Private Donations £5000

Bowling Club £100

DGN £500

School £?

DCA £5000 (from Molly Ritchie fund)

DA states that he cannot commit to a school donation

Until after a meeting has confirmed.

DC states that a quote for tarmacking the footpath is still needed for the overall calculations.

FM asked if the container could be used as office space; DC replied that that was not possible as it would require a habitation rather than a demolition planning application.



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DCA-GM-25/26-25.	<p><u>Post Box (Maxwell Road) - JM</u></p> <p>JM reports that a written survey of the residents of Maxwell Road regarding the repositioning of the postbox to the east end of the village had 18 total responses; 16 in favour of the move and 2 against. JM to write to the Post Office to request they resite the postbox from Maxwell Road to the vicinity of the Amalfi streetlight.</p>	.JM
DCA-GM-25/26-26.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>MH asked for any update on the situation regarding the Kirk Hall Wi-Fi proposal; AS states “nothing to share”.</p> <p>JM shares copies of leaflet that is being distributed to the Dirleton over the coming weekend regarding upcoming event to publicise and inspire activities for older people. Dates for event are Mon 27th April to Sun May 3<sup>rd</sup> and are invitations to try out possible new activities to promote healthy living and social interaction (e.g. various arts and exercise classes and groups)</p> <p>DA reports that the Edinburgh Science Festival “Wonders of Space” family event at Archerfield was a great success. It sold 600 tickets and that there would hopefully be some money coming to Dirleton from that event.</p> <p>Children also took part in the “Spot the Alien” walk that had been installed on the fairy trail in Archerfield as part of the Science event.</p> <p>FM asks whether a way to encourage more attendance at the DCA open meetings would be to resume the half hour speakers before the main meeting, e.g. Glenkinchie Whisky Distillery.</p> <p>DA also suggests the North Berwick Gin Distillery could be approached as a potential speaker. However, DA also points out the difficulties for parents of younger children to attend meetings as the timings often clash with family routines. JM to canvas opinion about getting speakers to come by emailing around membership.</p> <p>DA and SPB report that they have been in discussion with Cormac re: possible music concerts in Dirleton Castle, possibly initially in July or August of this year. The idea would be to try to tie in with the North</p>	JM



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	<p>Berwick Fringe by the Sea, to attract artists to perform in Dirleton as well.</p> <p>DA has a friend who runs the Dunbar Festival and is willing to help explore acoustics of the venue. Rachael from Historic Scotland can organise red carpet, seating and lighting for use in the castle.</p> <p>Historic Scotland are agreeable to the use of the castle and /or vault for the community in principle.</p> <p>As there is no alcohol to be consumed on the site, hence the discussions with Cormac of the Castle Inn about how to use this opportunity for mutual benefit. The vault can seat 65 max and the outside space can take 100 max.</p> <p>DA is exploring insurance costs and the use of a ticketing platform (he can use the same one as Dunbar festival).</p> <p>DA and SPB are looking at initial ticket price of £10.</p>	DA, SPB
DCA-GM-25/26-27.	<p>The next public meeting is to be held on Thursday 11th June 2026 at 1930HRS in the Castle Inn, Dirleton.</p>	

Signed as an accurate representation of the meeting .....

Print Name ..... Dated .....

**Notes:**