

Minutes of Dirleton Village Association AGM

6th November 2008. 7.30pm, The Open Arms Hotel, Dirleton

Present: John Fergie, Rebecca Fowler, Bill & Mary McNie, Jim Oliver, Nigel and Norma Bruce, Maureen Mabon, Marion and David Steward, Alison Jones, Bill and Valerie Nimmo, Shona Collins, Jamie Wood, Elizabeth Sutherland, John Smith, Gordon Duncan, Alison Wolfe Murray, Janice & Malcolm MacLeod, Graeme Robertson, Sandy Stephen, Nancy & Sandy Steel, Robert Baldock, Felicity & John Dingwall, Paul du Vivier, Robin & Diana Murray, Councillor Neil Rankin, Bob Simpson, Gillian MacDonald, Stuart Brown, Mary McLeish, Betty Barnes, Amy Imrie, and Jon & Rebecca Gorringer.

(1) Apologies: Mary McCall and Councillor S MacKinnon.

(2) Minutes of the AGM on 21st November 2007:

As copies of the minutes had been circulated the Chairman asked for their approval and they were proposed by Norma Bruce and seconded by David Steward.

(3) Matters Arising:

The Chairman informed the meeting that last year's accounts, which were the first to come under the full OSCR regulations, were approved at the Association's meeting on the 17th of January 2008. As a result of this timing difficulty, the decision was taken to shorten the current financial year to 10 months. This means that the end of the financial year will now fall approximately 2 months before the constitution requires that the AGM be held.

(4) Report & Accounts:

Copies of the Report on the Association's Activities along with the accounts had been circulated to the meeting. The Chairman indicated that he would highlight some of the main points :-

- The local plan came into force last month.
- A successful result from the consultation exercise means the village Post Office is still functioning.
- East Lothian's alcohol byelaws came into force in July 2008. They are designed to prevent drinking outside and the DVA went along with the views of North Berwick and Gullane in this matter. It should be noted that there is an exception for the Fete & Games.
- The Association had not objected totally to Car Parking Charges but had sought a variety of conditions. It would appear from the local Press that they have been shelved.
- We have had two very enjoyable visits to Archerfield House and hope to have more next year. The Chairman asked for names of anybody who was interested to be given to him after the meeting.

Among current issues were: the entry to the east end of the village where several accidents have occurred; the ongoing matter of a new Doctors Surgery in Gullane; and the damage to Yellowcraigs when the travellers arrive.

Bill McNie thanked the committee for their service. In particular, Sandy Steel was representing us on the Community Council; Rebecca Fowler had worked hard on the accounts; and Nigel Bruce had continued in the Chair until May at which time he had been able to take over. He was grateful for the contribution of Sonia Bruce who was retiring from the Committee. He also thanked Councillors Rankin and MacKinnon for their help and attendance at our meetings. His final thanks were to The Open Arms for so generously allowing the association to hold its AGM in the excellent Marquee Room and for providing refreshments.

He then asked Rebecca to report on the accounts. The main sources of income were £477 in subscriptions, £100 from the Caravan Club, £600 from Cala, Bank Interest and Quiz £274.81 and an unexpected but very generous legacy from Mrs Molly Ritchie of £10,000.

On the expenditure side, the association had made donations of £600 to the School, £600 to the Play Group, £250 to Fidra Stores, prizes for the Pensioner's Night Out and a plaque for a bench on the green commemorating Brigid Frömmel.

The association's funds stood at £12477.34.

The Chairman reported that the accounts had been examined by Gordon Ruffle CA and that he had found them to be satisfactory. The Chairman therefore asked the meeting to adopt these accounts, which it did (proposed by John Fergie and seconded by Jim Oliver).

The report and accounts duly signed by the office bearers and independent examiner will now go to OSCR.

(5) Committee Members:

Office Bearers

Bill McNie stated his willingness to continue as Chair, and Rebecca Fowler had agreed to continue as Treasurer for the ensuing year. The meeting indicated its approval.

Committee

Bill said that Joan Earle had agreed to serve on the committee, and her appointment was proposed by Norma Bruce and seconded by Jim Oliver.

Maureen Mabon and Mary McCall were co-opted during the course of the year and Sonia Bruce was resigning. The remainder of the committee comprising Gordon Duncan, Jim Oliver, Nigel Bruce and Shona Collins agreed to serve for the next year.

As there was a further vacancy, the Chairman asked for volunteers but none were forthcoming at the time.

(6) Appointment of Independent Examiner:

The Chairman stated that Gordon Ruffle had had some difficulties in finding the time to examine the accounts amongst a number of other commitments and, as a consequence, he had asked Sandy Kirkwood if he would take on the task. He had agreed to do this. His appointment was approved (proposed by Shona Collins and seconded by Valerie Nimmo).

(7) AOCB:

Diana Murray suggested that a plaque should be suitably sited as a memorial to Mrs Molly Ritchie. The Chairman replied agreeing that there definitely should be some kind of memorial for Mrs Ritchie the Committee had agreed that there should be a substantive memorial, but the form had not yet been decided.

(8) Characters in the Dirleton Area:

Jim Oliver then gave a short but amusing talk on characters in the village that he had met in his 34 years as a resident and businessman in the village. He mentioned a number of people past and present who had not only been well known as individuals but also had contributed significantly to the general benefit of the village. He spent a few minutes recounting highly amusing incidents relating to his work in the area as a builder and joiner and finally commented on the changes he had seen. He stressed the importance of the DVA to village life. His talk was extremely well received and at that point the Chairman thanked him and closed the meeting. He encouraged people to stay and mix with each other.