

Dirleton Village Association
Meeting on 21 August in the Kirk Hall

Present: Bill McNie, Rebecca Fowler, Gordon Duncan, Nigel Bruce, Sonia Bruce,
John Fergie, Mary McCall, Bill Nimmo, Neil Rankin
Apologies: Sandy Steel, Stuart McKinnon

Previous Minutes (June meeting): Approved by Gordon Duncan, subject to substitution of Jim Oliver for John Fergie in respect of the comment on the plaque for Klaus Frommel.

Matters Arising: BMcN said that the Ranger talk in July had been very successful, with attendance in the high 30s. He thanked GD for the provision of drinks. He had:

- 1 written to Nick Morgan about priorities for signs after the discussion in June;
- 2 received a reply from Renaissance Golf asking to re-contact them in August;
- 3 informed OSCR about the proposed change in financial year-end and received a reply;
- 4 spoken to John Chaundler about village maps- he had agreed to do what he could before he retired at end-September.

Community Councillor's Report: There was no report, but it is expected that Anne Moffat will attend its August meeting in Aberlady, and at its September meeting in Dirleton there will be a presentation on the proposed sewage and associated works at Fenton Barns.

Councillor's Report: S McK was unable to attend but had provided a written report, and NR elaborated on it. As regards the programme of **PO closures**, only Drem was affected within the NB Coastal Ward. The submissions from ELC had had a considerable and beneficial effect. The DVA was relieved that Dirleton PO was not among the proposed closures- that would have given rise to serious problems. The DVA would write in support of keeping Dirleton PO open, and individual members might wish to do likewise. The closing date is 29 September, and the address for comments is Sally Buchanan, Network Development Manager, c/o National consultation team, FREEPOST CONSULTATION TEAM. **Action: BMcN to write**

As regards a further **visit to Archerfield**, a time of 12.00-14.00 was most convenient, and NR undertook to take back to SMcK dates of 8, 15 and 22 September in that order. When a date is confirmed, a list for those wishing to attend the visit would be placed in the shop. **Action: NR, SMcK**

Treasurer's Report. RF reported that Mrs Molly Ritchie had made a very generous legacy of £10,000 to the DVA. JF recalled that Molly Ritchie, along with her husband Ian and her sister-in-law Jean, had been part of the original team setting up the DVA. It was agreed, following comments from JF and BN, that it would be desirable to have a substantive memorial to Mrs Ritchie.

Subscriptions were at 126, compared to 129 last year. Funds in the bank accounts were £12,608.

Projects: JF reported that he had finally received a response from ELC regarding the proposed publication for the centenary of Dirleton School in 2012. It was agreed that this would be acceptable use for the money for a per cent arts project arising from the Cala Homes development. The next stage was to put forward a formal proposal. After some discussion, it was agreed that BMcN would bring a proposal to the next meeting, in consultation with JF and MMcC. **Action: BMcN**

BMcN also asked members to consider possible projects for CC funds this year.

Coastal Car Parks Consultation: SMcK's note reported that the Consultation Period had been extended to 30/9/08. Comments were sought, and no decision to proceed had yet been made. NR said that in his view users should make payment for use. The local taxpayer would be relieved of existing spend on the car parks under these proposals. Without a separate Act, the revenue from charges had to be reinvested in the car parks.

There would be benefits from improved facilities and security. Most of the comments from members indicated no objection to charging in principle provided :

- i. residents could access seasonal charges which were kept at modest levels(£20 or less);
- ii. charges applied to all coastal car parks in East Lothian;
- iii. the improvements proposed at Yellowcraig were effective in achieving security and preventing the damage to the area experienced in recent years.

If it was feasible, varying the daily charges to be higher at weekends might be helpful; NR indicated there could be problems with varying by time of day or time of year. The state of the path beside the road from Dirleton to Yellowcraig was also raised, and a re-commitment to improve and then maintain the path was sought. Finally, it would be necessary to prevent parking along the road to avoid charges at Yellowcraig.

Action: BMcN

Gullane Surgery: SMcK noted that there had been little support at the public meeting for a new medical centre east of Gullane. NR elaborated on the problems of the site being unzoned for development. The Day Centre was being considered separately, with funding available in 2-3 years, probably on the existing site. Options for a surgery within the village were being considered and a report by the NHS partnership to the Community Council was expected in 3 months.

School Report: MMcC indicated that a cheque had been received from the Open Gardens Scheme. The school would apply for a Green Flag award this year, probably in October.

Membership of Committee: It was agreed that Mary McCall should be co-opted onto the Committee.

AOCB: SB had been exploring why Dirleton was one of only two primary schools in East Lothian without a nursery class.

BN expressed his concern both about fencing and strimming in the common strip. He had contacted ELC, and would copy to SMcK. He was also disappointed about the scale of changes being permitted to houses in Archerfield. NB noted that he had written to ELC about this, and had not received a response.

BMcN reported on the stall at the Fete and Games. A limited number of new members had been recruited, but he felt that this was not well suited to the purpose, and that the experiment should not be repeated next year. The winner of the quiz conducted on the day was Mr A Sharp.

There was a discussion about the cessation of the Dirleton Flyer covering events and issues in Dirleton. It was agreed to ask via these minutes whether anyone in the village would be willing to take on the production of a Newsletter.

Next Meeting THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM IN THE CHURCH HALL