



Tuesday 9th April 2019 at 7.30pm.
At Lynedoch House, Edinburgh

1). **Apologies:** - Apologies were received from Charlie Hughes, Brian and Lissa Smith.

2). **Minutes of the AGM held on 10th April 2018:** - The minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting were accepted by those present.

3). **Matters arising:** - There were no matters arising.

4). **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on the planning applications that were continuing: -

- a) 14 Belford Road (19/00031/FUL (change of use to domestic residential for two flats), 19/00555/FUL (change of use to self-centred holiday apartments), 19/00550FUL (change of use to 28 bed hostel)). The chairman had attended a meeting of Belford Road residents who expressed concern over the noise and pollution likely to be caused by these applications. Subsequently many objections were sent to the Planning Committee. DVA has been informed that the applications for holiday apartments and a hostel have been rejected. The remaining application would be considered at the next planning meeting. *(Also rejected 10/04/2019)*
- b) Belford House and Douglas House: (14/04512/FUL): - No action.
- c) Conversion of RMJM offices into residential dwellings (14/05243/FUL). Conversion has been completed, and several residences occupied.
- d) 3 / 4 Belford Road: - (14/04445/CLP) - No further development has occurred.

The pavement at the top of Belford Mews was being widened by one metre. Lorries and vans turning there sometimes had impacted with the first floor overhang of the flats at 56 Belford Road, causing damage to both.

5). **Acting Secretary's report**

Dean Valley Regeneration: - The Dean Valley Regeneration Ltd. has completed two surveys of the area along the Water of Leith between Stockbridge and the Dean footbridge, and identified many changes that are deemed necessary. Both surveys may be seen on their website. A joint committee with the City of Edinburgh Council has been set up. Discussions are on-going as to the best way forward.

Environment: - after discussions with Link Housing and property owners along the riverbank, the vegetation along the south bank has been cleared from the western end as far as halfway through the Link land. One thousand snowdrops had been planted. Further planting of natural indigenous species will be carried out shortly. Don Jardine has carried out much work in the area of Hawthornbank, including reharling the Turret and replacing coping stones and installing a green street light. Don will describe his work after the end of the meeting.

Landslip: - Caroline Paterson, Natural Heritage Officer, has informed DVA that discussions between the property owner and the Council were nearing completion. Then engineers will carry out further tests and the best way forward will be decided. In the meantime, the safety of passers-by is paramount, and all should take the diversions signed.

Tours: - Three cemetery tours and three village tours were conducted in the summer. In addition themed tours were conducted for several groups, and have proved very popular. Tours based on the historic architecture were conducted for students from the University of Edinburgh.

6). Treasurer's report

The income for this year was £2020.33, made up mainly of membership subscriptions (£577), walks (£1064), donations (£2822) and advertising in Dean Village News (40). Expenditure for the year was £1096.80, considerably less than last year when DVA paid £1700 for Dorothy Forrester's bench, and £433 for the Dean Village News, which is now printed as a service by Capital Document Solutions. The end of year balance in the bank accounts was £11050.92, an increase of £923.59 from the previous year. The accounts would be presented to OSCR shortly.

7). Election of Committee Members for the year 2019 - 2020

The following were elected: -

Chairperson:-	Barry Mackay
Vice-Chairperson:-	Javier Albert
Secretary:-	Don Jardine
Treasurer:-	Bob Morley

Committee members: - Caroline Gerard, Conrad Hughes, Charlie Hughes, Patrick McCole, David Perry, Pat Sinclair, Evelyn Whitfield

8). Membership fees

Membership fees would remain the same, which are

Annual membership:	£7 single,	£10 couple
Concession:	£3 single,	£5 couple
Life membership:	£50 single,	£75 couple
Company membership:	£75 p.a.	

9). Inverleith Partnership and NW Locality meetings

Dean Village is on the western edge of the Inverleith Partnership, represented by councillors Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell, Hal Osler and Iain Whyte. Until 2015 the Partnership held meetings locally at either the Blackhall or Stockbridge Libraries. Dean Village residents could attend these meetings. During that time Dean Village benefited with many environmental improvements. But then the Inverleith Partnership was merged with Forth to form the NW Locality, which covers a huge area. Meetings were now held in the City Chambers, and local contact has been lost. The City of Edinburgh Council is considering a change so that small localities may be heard.

Councillors Mitchell and Whyte were present and invited to address the meeting. The NW Locality area was huge and encompassed a population almost as much as the City of Dundee. The needs of the various groups within this area differed widely. The Council must provide community planning fair to all. A plan was being considered to introduce a network which would provide communication between local groups and their Locality.

Members took the opportunity to bring the problem of overflowing bins and erratic collection schedules to the attention of the councillors. People had complained on the website, with no result. Max Mitchell said that any complaints could be directed to him, and he would take any appropriate action.

A question was raised regarding the legality of estate agents placing their notices on public properties. This practice is forbidden, but action is rarely taken.

10). Dean Village Environmental matters

Playground: Visitors often leave the gate open, which could allow dogs to get in. The Secretary had put up a "No Dogs" notice from time to time, but they soon get torn down. More sturdy and official notices are required.

Car Parking: - DVA had received notification that Zone 1 parking along Belford Road would be changed to Zone 5, giving residents better parking facilities.

11) Events

Water of Leith Clean-up: - will take place on Sunday 2nd June. Volunteers to meet at 2pm by the old bridge.

Village Fair: - A member has suggested that DVA hold a village fair in the summer. The committee would welcome a volunteer to oversee this project. Anyone interested should contact the Secretary.

St. Bernard's Well: - The DVA will be opening the Well on the first Sundays of the summer months, and Doors Open Sunday.

Tours: - Three cemetery tours and three village tours will be conducted in the summer. In addition themed tours will be conducted on request.

12). Any other business:-

Several members had met Wang Yang, the Glasgow Ph.D. student who was investigating resident's attitudes to their environment. These interviews would continue until completion of his studies, which he could present at the AGM next year.

The main business of the meeting concluded at 20.20. There followed a short break.

Don Jardine showed photos of the work he had done in the village and within the Hawthornbank estate. Patrick McCole related his memories of Dean Village, illustrated by his own photos and some obtained from Capital Collections.