

ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting and AGM held on Monday 19 October 2015

In Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar at 7 p.m.

Present: S. Bunyan (Chair); J. Bell (Vice-chair); S. Anderson; W. Collin; H. Coutts; I. Knox;
A. Swan (Treasurer); P. Swan; G. Wilson

Others present: P. Morriss; (M. Brown, minutes)

Councillors present: Norman Hampshire

1. Apologies: G. Robertson; Cllr. M. Veitch; P.C. G. Ross

2. Annual General Meeting:

Chairman's Report: Stephen Bunyan had circulated his Annual Report for 2015 outlining the decisions which had been taken on behalf of the community and detailing the various aspects/work of the Community Council. This report was approved by the meeting.

As an action from his 2014 report Stephen will buy a new Saltire flag.

Re-election of Office Bearers: The current office-bearers agreed to continue in their present roles. Jacquie Bell also agreed to continue acting as Secretary as well as Vice-Chair. Alasdair Swan had been appointed as Treasurer at a previous meeting. Representatives on other bodies would continue as before.

Finances The Accounts to 31 March 2015 were adopted.

It was hoped to shortly finalise the commemoration to Molly Keith. This would enable the release of the money from the Hippo Account.

Other Matters Stephen mentioned the Martinez Quilt which was on display in the Day Centre. The Day Centre Committee felt that perhaps this exhibit would be better displayed in an alternative venue to enable it to be seen by more people. The John Muir Birthplace or the Town House were both proposed as suitable venues.

3. Casual Vacancies: The full member capacity of the DCC is 12 and there was a vacancy. Penny Morriss had expressed her interest. Penny was invited to give a short resumé of her life/career to date and her reasons for wishing to become a DCC member. In accordance with the Community Council regulations Penny left the meeting to allow the members to discuss her application. The members were in unanimous agreement that Penny would

prove to be a valuable addition to the Council and, on her return, she was duly elected as a full member.

4. Minutes of meeting of 21 September 2015: The minutes of this meeting were taken as read. Approved by Alasdair Swan and seconded by Sue Anderson.

5. Minutes of Sub-committees (Civic Week, Christmas Lights):

Christmas Lights:

The String renewal on the Town House (previous DCC minutes) is not required.

Future of the Christmas Lights

Sue Anderson had previously circulated a short report on the future of the Christmas Lights. Due to some fantastic fund-raising there were sufficient funds to cover this year's Christmas Lights display. However, further fundraising is needed to ensure future financial stability. Sue also spoke about the dedication of the volunteers and in particular Graham Adams and Mark Taylor without whom there would be no display. However, it was unfair to rely solely on the goodwill of Graham and Mark. More volunteers were **URGENTLY** required. It was felt that perhaps the general public had little idea of how much work was involved all year round and also how members of the community could contribute – not just financially. It was agreed to prepare a leaflet informing the community about the lights, the type of commitment needed and also funding- raising. This will be drafted by Sue and, once approved by the Community Council arrangements will be made to distribute copies to every household. Rotary will be approached to assist with distribution. **SA/WC**

There was discussion about the increasing Health and Safety issues of the lights display. Sue will investigate the cost of contracting out the erection/dismantling of the lights although it was felt that this might be financially prohibitive. **SA**

It was also suggested that captions could be added to the photographs at the Tracey Lague Exhibition to be displayed in John Muir's Birthplace in December. (See below)

6. Police Report:

The Police were unable to attend the meeting but a report had been received.

Road Safety:

- 3 traffic tickets were issued
- A complaint was received regarding parking in the disabled bays outside the Primary School campus. Passing attention was given to the area and no offences were detected.

- A complaint was received regarding a lorry causing an obstruction at the Garden Centre on Spott Road. The vehicle had broken down and took some time to move.
- 2 separate reports were made of vehicles driving dangerously. Both were not traced.
- A 40ft lorry was reported to be driving dangerously, south on the A1. The vehicle was eventually found stopped outside Torness. The driver was arrested and found to be drunk. His reading was 5 times over the limit.
- A vehicle accident took place in Countess Road where it hit a lamp-post and failed to stop. The lamp-post was left in a dangerous position and there was a concern for school children. Enquiries were ongoing.

Litter: No issues.

Theft:

- Lobster pots were reported to have been stolen from the Harbour. CCTV of the incident has been captured and enquiries are ongoing.
- There have been a number of incidents at Lochend Woods including theft of wood, damage to trees and a male acting suspiciously. A known criminal was detained and released without charge.
- There were a number of thefts of alcohol from the Co-op in the High St. and ASDA. The incident at ASDA is believed to be a known gang of thieves who travel the country stealing large amounts of alcohol. Enquiries continuing.
- There was a theft of a bicycle from an unlocked garage in Belhaven Road. Enquiries ongoing.

Anti Social Behaviour:

- There were a number of calls to the High St. regarding an ongoing neighbour dispute. Both parties have been involved in ASB and minor vandalisms. Advice has been given to both parties where appropriate and other agencies are aware.
- A number of bins were set alight within a stair at West Port. Also a bin at the Sports Centre. Unfortunately the CCTV at the Centre was unavailable. Enquiries continuing.
- 3 MDA warrants were executed and 2 were positive. During one of the searches a few items of clothing were recovered believed to be connected to a recent fire-raising.
- There were 3 positive drug searches of individuals.
- There were a number of calls regarding caravans parking at Newtonlees and attempts were being made to obtain an eviction notice.
- The Grammar School made a few calls regarding an ex pupil attending there giving cause for concern. On each occasion the pupil was traced and assisted by the medical services.
- A small boat was cut loose from its mooring and vandalised in the Harbour. Enquiries ongoing.

- There were a number of calls regarding youths causing annoyance. One occasion they were in the grounds of Belhaven School. No trace on arrival of police.
- Children were found playing on the railway line. All traced and warned regarding danger.
- Youths were reported to have damaged a number of cars in North Rd. Wing mirrors kicked off and dent to roofs.
- 1 ASB FPT was issued.

Other issues:

A search warrant was executed in respect of illegal fish (salmon/ sea trout) nets. Nothing recovered however enquiry ongoing.

CAAP Priorities: Next meeting 25 November 2015.

Priorities for the month; Dog fouling; Visibility of cyclists. Speeding.

7. Treasurer's Report: Alasdair Swan.

General Fund:

- The bank balance remains unchanged at £2,132. No income or expenditure since the last meeting.
- East Lothian Council has obtained Public Liability insurance for Community Councils with Zurich which offers increased cover at a lower cost. The Council pays the premium for insurance for each CC therefore DCC will not be invoiced for standard cover.
- In respect of Risk Assessments required for erection of Christmas Lights and any high risk activities, there is no change. Sue confirmed that a Risk Assessment had been carried out for the Christmas Lights. Cllr. Hampshire said that Dunbar's Risk Assessment template was now being used by other towns in the County.

Christmas Lights Account:

- Bank balance at end of September was £4,426.
- Projected future expenditure for the 2015 lights is £5,625.
- The shortfall will be made up through Community fundraising.
- The Committee expects to run out of funds in the first quarter of 2016.
- Fuller details have already been circulated by Sue Anderson.

Civic Week Account:

- Bank balance towards end of August was £6,332.
- Further payments have been made.
- There are no financial concerns to raise.

Local Priorities Fund:

- 12 projects have been supported this year with grants totalling £6,622.56.
- The Dunbar Local Priorities Fund carried forward from 2014/15 into the current year was £9,415.48. Of this 2 projects had been approved for future expenditure amounting to £4,675. This leaves an uncommitted budget of £4,743.48 from last year. The 2015/16 Budget is a further £9,170 which can be added to the £4,743.48.
- We have spent (or committed) £6,622.56 leaving a maximum of £7,290.92 to spend in the current year (plus probably the refunded Kilbungo £150).
- A further application from the Christmas Lights Committee should be considered for early 2016 in the light of its perilous financial position, at which time we should have given fair consideration to all other local priority projects.

8.Matters arising:

a) Planning matters

i) SESPLAN – Main Issues 2 No further information.

ii) Development in Conservation areas:

Adverts on Royal Mackintosh railings – The advertisers have been asked to remove them by ELC without success. David Taylor had contacted the hotel directly to ask for their removal as they are in breach of planning regulations in the Conservation area. However, they are still in place. Jacquie noted that a pink bike had appeared on the railing. However, this may be part of an art project.

Advert on Pick ‘n Choose railings – Jacquie will raise this with Planning Enforcement. **JB**

Cog Art had appeared on the former Dolphin Hotel, on the rear gate of Port Lodge in Church Street and in Bayswell Road. It was thought that this Art was not with the agreement of the owner.

There had been contact from Stephen Hill of Dunbar Trades about conservation area planning. Stephen Bunyan had spoken to him about the regulations.

iii) Development at 52 High Street (Lothian Hotel). DCC views were submitted by J. Bell.

iv) Beveridge Row – no further information.

v) 1 Shore Road (Cuckoo Wrasse): A Flood Forum report had received and will go to Planning. It recommends flood prevention measures e.g. flood gates. It was hoped that the owner will now be granted planning permission to convert the property into a house.

vi) Robertson Homes - DCC views had been submitted by Jacquie Bell. Cllr Hampshire spoke about the need to consider further school extension and the transportation issues for both pedestrians and vehicles. There was discussion about the pressures the development could put on Spott Road and Queens Road. Cllr Hampshire noted that the Scottish Government is reviewing Section 75 which requires developers to make contributions towards infrastructure like education. At present the system is unfair as a developer for a small scheme has to pay the same contribution as the big developers.

vii) Proposal for 9 flats and parking at Church St. A Planning Committee date is still awaited. Keith Dingwall, the Planner involved, is on holiday.

viii) Proposal for 9 flats and 1 house at High Street (former Smith's bakery). A previous application had been withdrawn. A DCC response was needed on modified plans for fewer properties. Jacquie Bell will write to express concerns regarding the size of the development, character of the development in relation to surrounding buildings, sensitivity of the site, historical interest with connections to John Muir, plans to breach a historical Rigg wall, emergency vehicular access. Stephen had circulated a letter from Bill Dodd of the Architectural Heritage Society regarding the Muir links as the garden ground was the garden of Muir's mother.

JB

b) Twinning Links:

Lignieres – Discussions are in progress for the 2017 programme.

Correspondence from Belhaven, North Carolina - Jacquie Bell had advised that we will make contact.

Narni have been in contact with Richard Smeed at Dunbar Twinning Association. The contact in Narni has been asked to forward their proposals.

Martinez – Will Collin had circulated an update. Best wishes had been sent to Martinez via the John Muir Association

German Visit – Isobel Knox had met 16 young people at the Town House who were on a work experience. The Head of Education for East Lothian and Paul Raffaelli from Dunbar Grammar School had also been present. It had been a very successful visit and the young people were enjoying their work experience.

c) A1 Safety

There is still no response to Jacquie Bell's letter from George Henry the Civil Servant at Transport Scotland. The broken sign near Thistly Cross has been repaired! There has been no further consideration of a bridge at Innerwick. CAPP have raised concerns about a recent accident at Skateraw. Jacquie has written to Transport Scotland, the Minister and Cllr Veitch

regarding issues on safety at the change to single carriageway and junction lighting. The next A1 Forum is on 4 December. Jacquie will attend.

d) East Beach

Pippa Swan had been told by ELC that the tenders had been too expensive. She is trying to find from Dave Northcott at ELC what was contained in the tender documentation. There is concern that there is still no work planned for a major sea defence.

e) Community Resilience Planning Event on 24 October.

Pippa Swan reported that this will take place from 1 – 4 p.m. and most of the emergency services will be attending. There has been publicity in the local press. If Community Councillors wish to attend they should contact Pippa so that a name badge can be prepared.

f) Portrait of the Earl of Dunbar. Stephen Bunyan reported that the original portrait is in the ownership of the Scottish National Gallery. Arrangements are in hand to secure a high grade photograph which would be framed as indicated previously to match that of another Provost. It was agreed to go ahead with this project. Funding will come from Local Priorities. Pauline Smeed's help with this matter was noted.

g) Street names

Further suggestions are still required. A list of former Provosts names will be drawn up and those that have not been used could be. Black Agnes is still a possibility. The public are welcome to make suggestions.

h) High Street issues – no update

i) 20s Plenty

Herbert Coutts reported on the initial meeting which had been held on 15 October and he distributed a plan of suggested areas and a map of past accident sites. Members will consider these and discuss further at the next meeting. Jacquie noted that some potential areas like the Tree Scheme and old Belhaven were not on the map but may benefit from consideration. Herbert felt that ELC should re-visit their policy on this matter. Cllr Hampshire said that the Council will support any area proposed by a community as a 20mph zone.

j) Community Windpower

Annouska Woods will come to the November meeting.

k) Sewage at Belhaven Bay

A response to Jacquie Bell's letter had come from Scottish Water and been circulated. It was understood that the protocol on sewage outflow incidents was being reviewed.

l) Station Car Park

Jacquie Bell had contacted Scotrail and had circulated a response from Chris Hassall had responded. He had contacted East Coast about the car park expansion plans. Jacquie had noted to him that past negotiation was with Network Rail. There are no current plans to reduce/remove the parking charge.

m) Bird Pests

Scott Hood from ELC will attend the November meeting.

n) Broken Tobys

Jacquie Bell had reported these to Scottish Water

o) Website-

George Robertson is reviewing this.

9. Licensing:

Variation of licence at Dunbar Golf Club

Jacquie Bell had sent DCC views to the Licensing Board. No concerns had been raised by DCC members.

10. Winterfield Pagoda – options paper:

An options paper by Liz Mclean, ELC Strategic Asset and Capital Plan Manager, on the future of this iconic Common Good building had been circulated. There was a long discussion about the recommendations of the report.

The Pagoda has not been used for over 20 years. It is in a hazardous condition and, despite Heras fencing, people are breaking into it. ELC has no operational need for the Pagoda and no budget is available to repair or maintain it. Despite attempts to find a use for the building there has been no viable business case put forward from those who have expressed an interest in using it for a business. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill allows communities to take control of assets and buildings. However, to date there has been no proposal expressed for the transfer of the building from any community organisation able to raise the large capital and operational costs to put it to any use. The Pagoda is not a listed building but is held on the Common Good. Legal advice is that the wording of ELC's title to the property, together with the fact that there has not been community use of the building

for over 20 years suggests that the Pagoda, whilst a Common Good asset, would appear to be alienable which means that options for re-use, disposal or removal are not restricted. Given this the recommendation of ELC is that the building should be demolished.

The Community Council, received the paper, read it with interest and concern and, with a heavy heart, sadly accepted the Council's recommendation.

As part of the discussion members noted the condition of other Common Good buildings in the town including St Margaret's at the Golf Course. Jackie Bell noted that this too had been subject to much discussion over a number of years over its condition and future.

It was agreed that every endeavour should be made to work with ELC and local organisations to come up with proposals for Winterfield Park embracing the golf course. There was concern that this area of Dunbar lies along the John Muir Way. The hard work of Friends of Winterfield in making improvements to the park was appreciated. It was noted that Councillor Veitch intends to convene a meeting.

11. Local Priorities: 2014/15 Budget:

a) Updates-

Information Boards – Parish Church –The board should be ready next week and installation should be in hand asap.

Benches at Yeomanry Memorial – Civic Pride application – still awaiting result.

b) New applications:-

i,) Tracey Largue – Photographic exhibition of Christmas Lights. £200 was agreed to assist with purchase of prints and frames. It was felt that the exhibition would give publicity to the work of the Christmas Lights team as discussed earlier. It was also agreed that it would be good if the exhibition could be extended over the period of the Christmas Lights rather than just the 2 weeks originally proposed if this could be arranged. It was suggested that the John Muir Birthplace may be a better venue than the Town House which has restricted opening hours in Winter. Stephen Bunyan and Will Collin will explore this option with Museums staff.

SB WC

ii)The Ridge – poly tunnel etc. : This was postponed until the November meeting. Adrian Girling will be asked to submit the request on a DCC form. Isobel Knox agreed to contact him about this. **IK**

12. Local Area Partnership:

Pippa Swan has circulated a draft LAP plan.

Pippa had circulated a community contacts list for corrections/additions.

East Lothian on the Move. There will be a Workshop at the Bleachingfield from 6 -8 pm on 5th November to give feedback on the consultation.

Roads/Speeds reactive signs. LAP funding for roads projects have been/will be used to purchase new sockets and signs for identified sites. Signs will continue to move around socket sites.

Business Support Assistants Caroline Murray and Lorna McLennan have been appointed.

Next meeting 9 November.

13 Dunbar Harbour Bylaws:

Gavin Ross is looking into this from a Police perspective and Alasdair Swan reported that ELC had offered assistance on the legal side. Alasdair also mentioned that Dunbar Harbour Trust was leading this initiative and had been contacted by several other Harbours for information/guidance.

14. Local Councillors' Reports:

N. Hampshire.

This had been covered under **8a**

M Veitch - No report

P McLennan - No report

15. Reports from Committees/Meetings attended:

Twining – As at 8b. Further committee members would be welcome.

Day Centre

A Quiz Night will be held on 13 November.

Registration is progressing. Gill explained that there was a shortage of staff. The Assistant. Co-ordinator vacancy will be advertised and a member of staff is on anticipated long-term sickness. There is a Staff Bank. However, both staff on the Bank work at the Lynton Centre. The person who supported Day Centres across the county and administered the staff bank is no longer in post

Dunbar for Syrians

Jacquie Bell has been attending meetings. Money is being raised for local UNICEF. Some people are offering to host Syrian families. However, at present ELC are looking to house them. There is a need for co-ordination of offers of support and practical help. A Further meeting will be held at The Rocks on 21 October at 7 p.m.

There is also a new group called “East Lothian Welcomes Refugees” which is holding a meeting at 7.30p.m. on 24 October in Haddington Corn Exchange. Jacquie will attend.

As yet it is not known how many refugees may come to East Lothian. Some may come to Dunbar and DCC may have a role in enabling them to feel welcome and settle in the community.

Lafarge Liaison

This had met in September but DCC reps were not notified. Jacquie Bell is taking this up with Lafarge who are now called Tarmac. September meeting minutes had been circulated by Jacquie.

East Lothian Housing Association AGM

Jacquie Bell had attended. Robert McNeill continues as Chair. They are looking for other management committee members.

Viridor Liaison

Stephen Bunyan had attended.

An employment fair had recently been held

The construction of the Energy from Waste plant is proceeding. The piling programme is well on schedule. There will be 350 jobs during the construction period

The Leachade plant has been put on hold. .

16. Correspondence – previously circulated:

Via website Pippa Johnston – wishing a stall at Lights Switch On. Passed to Sue by Jacquie

Via website Leslie McKellar - wishing a stall at Lights Switch On. Passed to Sue by Jacquie

Iain Campbell – response to flag protocol information.

Stephen Hill – planning in Conservation area.

Brake – Newsletters.

ELC Licensing Board- variation of Dunbar Golf Club Licence.

RAGES RAGS – possible trains to London airports (not stopping in East Lothian) could affect introduction of local services. A Network Rail Interim Report due in July has been delayed which delays decisions on the new stations at East Linton and Reston.

Scottish Civic Trust – Annual Conference.

Stuart Gibb – European Restart a Heart Day.

Scottish Water – response to letter about sewage discharge at Belhaven Bay.

Scotrail – response to letter about car parking at Dunbar Station.

Police – Sgt Aitchison has moved to North Berwick. He has been replaced at Dunbar by Sgt. Teresa (Terri) Gorman.

17. AOCB

Jacquie Bell has reported various potholes, broken street lights and continued lack of bus timetable information on bus stops.

18. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place in the Council Chamber, Town House on **Monday 16 November 2015 at 7 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.