

ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held on Monday 14 December 2015 in

The 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; G. Robertson; A. Swan (Treasurer); P. Swan; G. Wilson

Councillors present: M. Veitch (from 8.15 p.m.)

Others present: P.C. Gavin Ross; S Goodwin, North Light Arts; A. Girling, The Ridge; (M. Brown, Minutes; C. Ritchie, East Lothian Courier)

Total of 16 people present

1. Apologies: A. Massimo; P. Morris

2. Presentation: S. Goodwin. Susie gave an outline of the proposed North Light Arts Growing Tales Project. This Art will involve Artist in residence Hannah Lavery having workshops, working with children etc. It is proposed to have a display of poetry and art along th Garden Close from the High Street to the Co-op. It would complement the work being carried out by The Ridge in the same area. She was looking for a contribution of £400 towards materials etc. It was queried if Planning permission might be needed and permission from property owners. Susie said that this would be investigated.

It was agreed that the Community Council would discuss the funding application later in the meeting and that Susie would be advised of the outcome.

3. Presentation: The Ridge: A Girling Adrian updated on the work at the Backlands so far. Unfortunately there had been a number of problems involving damage to Ridge property, the presence of youths using the area as a meeting place and also drunken adults. The Ridge was investigating whether it would be possible to re-instate the gates at the close and have them closed at night.

PC Ross said that it would be very helpful if residents reported any disturbances as and when they occur to the Police. He was supportive of the flyers that had been produced to distribute to residents. He also offered to visit the Ridge site to give any suggestions on security etc..

Adrian will report back to the Community Council once he has consulted with the Co-op and residents.

There was also further discussion about the funding application by the Ridge. Adrian was advised that the Community Council would discuss the application and advise him of the outcome.

Stephen Bunyan thanked both Susie and Adrian for coming to the meeting.

4.Minutes of Meeting of 16 November 2015: - Accepted

5.Minutes of Sub-Committees: Christmas Lights & Civic Week No minutes were available

Sue Anderson gave a verbal update on the Christmas Lights. She said that the new LED lights were working well. A Financial Report will be available for discussion at the next Community Council meeting on 18 January 2016.

Sue confirmed that Community Windpower had agreed to grant £5000 this year and an application was also being made to Viridor.

6.Police Report:

Incidents reported to police between 14 November and 14 December 2015.

Road Safety:

- A large number of parking tickets have been issued on the High St. as part of an ongoing parking initiative.
- Complaints have been received about vehicles with loud backfiring exhausts on the High St. When sufficient evidence exists fixed penalty tickets shall be issued.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

- A number of reports on ASB have been received regarding the High St. area, mostly relating to youth loitering in the vicinity or stairways of Lauderdale House.

Litter: No issues.

Theft:

- Between 16.30 on 15 November and 10.00 on 16 the rear door at Tippicanoe was forced and cash was stolen.
- Between 00.10 and 10.00 on 16 November the front door of the Chinese Restaurant was forced, cash and bottles of alcohol were stolen.
- Over the weekend 4 – 7 November the Hair Shop at 108 High St. was broken into and cash stolen.
- Between midnight and 05.30 a.m. on 7 December the West Port Chip Shop was broken into. A safe and 3 charity tins were stolen.
- Between 11am and 8 pm on 7 December a house in Belhaven was broken into and jewellery stolen.

Other Issues:

About 12.30 on 15 November police received a number of reports about an unattended suitcase outside the Indian Restaurant on Dunbar High St. Following a multi-agency response the all clear was given by midnight.

On evening of 17 November a youth fired an air gun in Floors Terrace striking the shed of a neighbour when he was standing by it. Two youths were detained and interviewed and one charged.

At 5p.m. on 8th a 9 year old boy was reported missing. Following a large scale search he was traced outside near to his home address at 3a.m. The police officer involved in the incident had noted the excellent response from numerous members of the public offering assistance.

CAPP Priorities:

Dog fouling – Enforcement, signage and publicity throughout ward area.

Dunbar High St. ASB – Leaflet drop encouraging persons to report Anti Social Behaviour etc. Patrols relating to youth related ASB in vennels and post pub dispersal noise nuisance.

Parking Issues – Enforcement of time limit parking in Dunbar & East Linton (especially on Saturday mornings) and assessment of obstructing parking in Stenton following complaints.

Next meeting – Monday 25 January 2016.

7.Treasurer's Report: A. Swan

General Fund :

- Bank balance currently stands at £2,157.
- We received a generous donation from Dunbar Rotary Club for £210 as a contribution towards the distribution of the Christmas Lights flyers.
- The invoice for £420 for the distribution of the Christmas Lights flyers had just been handed to Sue Anderson and will now be paid.
- A payment of £100 for the flyers has been made to Lothian Printers.
- A payment for the Remembrance Day wreath will be accounted for in next month's report.

Christmas Lights and Civic Week Accounts – No updates.

Local Priorities Fund – 13 projects supported this year with grants totalling £6822.56.

- The uncommitted budget brought forward from last year was £4743.48
- The current year's budget is £9170 which can be added to the £4743.48.
- The Local Priorities Budget left to spend on future projects is therefore £7090.92.

Hippo Fund: No response had been received from Bill Axon at Enjoy Leisure. Cllr Veitch agreed to obtain the name of the current Chair so that arrangements can be made to transfer money and establish to what use the last of the money will be put.

AS/MV

8. Matters Arising (Not on Agenda):

a) Planning matters:

i) a) SESPLAN – Main Issues 2 - Nothing to report.

b) ELC Main Issues Report – Special Council Meeting outcome: Cllr. Veitch confirmed that it was expected that the majority of development will take place at the West end of the County as part of a compact strategy of development although the rest of the County will receive a share of new housing. He advised that the land at Eweford had been removed from land zoned for housing. However, Beveridge Row remains a site as the reporter had granted outline planning permission.

ii) Developments in Conservation areas:

Adverts on Royal Mackintosh railing – The Belhaven Bikes sign has been removed. The pink bicycle still in place.

Advert on Pick 'n Choose railings –The WB Taxis advert has been removed.

COG (Church of Gloss) Art Graffiti: The artist, James Page, has written to Stephen Bunyan about his artworks and information had been circulated.

iii) Development at 52 High Street (Lothian Hotel) – No further information.

iv) Beveridge Row – no further information.

v) 1 Shore Road (Cuckoo Wrasse) – No further information.

vi) Robertson Homes – No further information.

vii) Proposal for 9 flats and parking at Church Street – No further information.

viii) Proposal for 9 Flats and 1 house at High St. (former Smith's bakery) – No further information.

ix) Development at Cossar's Wynd – The Community Council had no concerns about this development.

b) Twinning Links: Belhaven, North Carolina – A reply is awaited to Jacquie Bell's letter advising that we will consider forming Sister City links with them and asking if they wish further information about Belhaven and Dunbar.

Narni have been in contact with the Twinning Association.

Lignieres – Plans are being made for a Twinning Association visit to Lignieres in 2016.

c. A1 Safety: George Henry, the civil servant from Transport Scotland, did not attend the December 2015 A1 Safety Action Group on 4 December. Jacquie Bell did attend. Junction safety was discussed as was signage near the July accident where a French motorist had been involved in an accident after becoming confused by the change from dual to single carriageway. Members of the Action Group are concerned with the business case for improving the A1 in southern Scotland as a transport link to the north of England, particularly as the A1 is to be upgraded in Northumberland.

Cllr. Veitch told the meeting that the A1 Safety Action Group is considering detailed work at the junctions. EDF had attended the meeting and are considering improvements near Torness following accidents. He also reported that at a meeting on 9 December the upgrade of the Broxburn junction had been discussed and passed to Amey to obtain estimates etc.

d) East Beach – Pippa Swan reported that it was understood wall head repairs will be carried out in the Spring. Also, Dunbar Shore & Harbour Neighbourhood Group has been successful in obtaining £15,000 from the Civic Pride Fund towards re-provisioning the beach and consultancy regarding the required groin works.

A question was raised about seaweed disposal. Pippa noted issues as farmers are not wanting the seaweed as it contains rocks. Some will now go to landfill and other dumps will be moved by Kevin Thompson to below the sewage piping.

e) Portrait of the Earl of Dunbar: The portrait of the first Provost of Dunbar is now ready for display. The agreed sum of c £150 will be paid from local priorities. Consideration may be given to similar portraits of 2 other early Provosts.

f) Street names: Further suggestions are still required. To avoid duplication, Stephen Bunyan will circulate members with a list of names which have already been used.

g) High Street Issues: A special Area Partnership meeting will be held on 10 March 2016. A flyer had been produced for distribution to encourage residents to report issues.

h) 20s Plenty: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting in the presence of PC Ross.

Herbert Coutts reported on a meeting with East Lothian Council Officials and Cllr. Veitch. Colin Baird has started a process of taking measurement of traffic speeds in the proposed area. It was agreed that public opinion should be sought. The working party will meet prior to the next Community Council meeting to make arrangements for a public meeting as well as preparing a survey to assess the mood of local people. This item could also be included at the Local Area Partnership meeting in March.

HC & others

- i) Winterfield Pavilion:** Stephen had received confirmation that the Corporate Asset Group has approved demolition of this building due to its dangerous state. This course of action was accepted by the meeting.

Sue Anderson and Pippa Swan raised concerns about ELCs maintenance of Common Good properties in the town including the Pavilion and the Corn Exchange.

j) Saltire Donation: Saltires from Major Tam Fowler had been received and flown on St Andrew's Day.

k) Station Car Park/Station Improvements: Cllr Veitch advised that discussions are ongoing.

l) Dunbar Leisure Pool: Molly Keith Memorial – A reply is awaited from Bill Axon at Enjoy Leisure.

9. Local Priorities: 2014-15 Budget.

a) Updates

Information Boards – Parish Church. The work is in hand. Stephen Bunyan intimated that consideration may be given in 2016 for a Cromwell Memorial.

Rugby Club - Nothing further has been heard.

Benches at Yeomanry Memorial –The Civic Pride application had been unsuccessful. An alternative option for funding has been made available. A donation of **£500** from the Community Council was agreed. It was noted that the benches are already away for repair.

b) New Applications:

The Ridge – It was agreed to grant the sum of **£1215** for the purchase of the Polytunnel.

North Lights Art Group – Growing Tales project at Backlands. It was agreed to defer a decision until more information was received about the actual work to be involved in the project. Members felt that at present it was a concept rather than a project with clear ideas on materials needed, costs etc.

RAGES – request for funding. Allison Cosgrove of RAGES had made a further appeal for monies. There was further discussion. It was not clear what the money might be used for as a specific campaign was not detailed. The request seemed to be for help towards general running costs which are specifically not fundable within the Community Council policy for Local Priority grants. It was again felt that as RAGES covers an area wider than Dunbar the Area Partnership may be a more relevant body to consider financial support. Therefore it was agreed that Dunbar Community Council will not give a grant to RAGES. The Community Council is already a corporate member of the group.

10. Local Area Partnership:

A public Meeting will be held on 11 January 2016.

A High Street meeting will be held on 10 March 2016.

11. Consultations:

ELC – Children & Young People’s Services – closed 13 December.

ELC Health & Social Care Integration 2nd draft – closes 23 January.

Scottish Government Police Service Priorities – closes 12 February. It was agreed that members will read the circulated document for a discussion at the meeting on January 18 2016.

12. Dunbar Harbour Bylaws: Alasdair Swan advised that there was no update. It was agreed to remove this item from further agendas.

13. Local Councillors’ Reports:

M. Veitch.

1. Area Partnership issues – The garden behind the Town House is to be developed and also the lighting in Corn Exchange close and Craig’s Close is to be improved.

2. Discussions are taking place regarding speed restrictions on Brodie Road.

3. Jacquie Bell raised the matter of the Coastal Car Parking charges and the lack of income generated since their introduction. With the removal of Traffic Wardens by Police Scotland and with the need for local Police to attend to other matters there was little regulation of parking payments. ELC need to decriminalise parking before ELC employed staff can enforce the charges. Thus many people are parking without paying. This seemed unfair on Season Ticket Holders who had paid a fee of £40. There was concern that the reason for introducing the charges was to invest in car park improvements and yet money would be used to fund staff to collect charges from 2016. There was no evidence of any improvements in 2015 e.g. the Linkfield car park is full of pot holes. There is little scope for improvement at Whitesands and Barns Ness. Cllr Veitch said that Dunbar and area did seem to have been disproportionately affected by having 5 coastal car parks with charging in place.

N Hampshire – no report

P McLennan – no report

14, Reports from Committees/Meetings attended:

Twinning – A visit to Lignieres visit being considered for Autumn 2016.

Day Centre – Gill Wilson reported that a new Depute Manager had been appointed and will commence duties on 5 January 2016. There was still concern about the low numbers attending and also the lack of referrals. Gill is arranging to meet local doctors and health visitors to encourage referrals. Jacquie Bell noted that one reason for low referrals could be the ongoing issue of people who may potentially attend being delayed in hospital by the lack of care packages to support them at home.

Bus Forum/RELBUS AGM – Jacquie Bell had attended both meetings. The Bus Forum is also attended by ELC officials and the Bus providers. Most Bus providers seemed to be doing a good job. Integrated timetables are being considered. There is still an issue in Dunbar about a lack of timetable information at some stops. A Passenger Charter developed by RELBUS is in place.

Viridor Credits – Applications will now come from all over Scotland. The Dunbar Steering Group had heard of a plan to amalgamate it with the West of Scotland Group and for panel meetings to be held centrally at Eurocentral near Glasgow. Dunbar Steering Group members had raised concerns about this as most would be unable to travel to centralised meetings and a request had been made for the 2 panels to continue. If this proposal is not accepted the last Dunbar meeting will be in February. The amount of grant money available has been reduced.

The plant was going through a good phase. Stephen Bunyan circulated details of progress with the Energy from Waste facility.

A1 Safety Action Group – already discussed.

National Conversation on a Healthier Scotland: Jacquie Bell and Gill Wilson had attended. The Scottish Health Minister, Shona Robison had been present. The emphasis on helping Scotland to be healthier. Discussions had taken place on the difficulties of recruiting and retaining care staff, mental health and services for people with learning difficulties. Jacquie noted that there is an ongoing Scottish Government consultation and information had been circulated so that Community Council members can contribute if they wish to do so.

Battle of Dunbar Soldiers: Stephen Bunyan and other Community Councillors had attended a Public talk. 2 further meetings had also been held which had proved extremely interesting. The remains of at least 17 bodies had been discovered. DNA testing is taking place. There is debate on where the bones should be interred. Plans are being made for this to be at a church in Durham near where they were found as per English law. Some Community Councillors felt that they should be returned to Scotland. A petition is ongoing requesting their return to Scotland.

Bleachingfield Committee – A new legal framework is awaited.

15. Correspondence – previously circulated:

Our Locality – survey of local website users.

Meriel Deans via Lilian Pryde – National Conversation Café on a Healthier Scotland at Eskmills – 7 December.

Via website – Philip Immirzi – complaints about Satellite dishes in the conservation area.

University of Durham Archaeology Department -Invitation to Consultation event on the soldiers from the Battle of Dunbar 1650. - Dunmuir Hotel 30 December.

Torness Community Liaison – seeking Alberto’s address – passed on.

Lafarge – new Manager appointed – Allan Ruxton. He is former pupil of Dunbar Grammar.

Dunbar School of Dancing – past pupil from North Berwick is starring in “Billy Elliot” in London.

ELC, Bill Laird – Lighting at Dunbar Leisure Pool.

ELC – Turning down of Civic Pride application to fund Yeomanry benches.

Dr Liz Hare – water fountains. She will come to the January meeting.

James Page – information on COG Art Graffiti.

Brake – newsletters.

Tam Fowler – Petition re Veterans medal. Stephen has info.

Scottish Civic Trust – “My Place” Awards,

Lilian Pryde – Scottish Government Consultation on Policing.

Lilian Pryde – ELC Consultation on Integration of Health & Social Care, Consultation on National Standards in Community Engagement, Wellbeing Passports.

Lilian Pryde – Consultation on Children & Young People’s Services (closed on 13 Dec.)

ELC – Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement.

Lilian Pryde – Q & A responses at Fairer Scotland Community Council Event.

16. Any Other Competent Business:

Jacquie Bell has reported a number of road and lighting faults.

Pippa Swan noted that the main table used for the Community Council meetings has large cracks in it. Jacquie Bell will raise this with ELC staff. **JB**

17. Date of next meeting: This will be held in the Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar on **Monday 18 January 2016 at 7 p.m.**

It was noted that the Town House Janitor will be on holiday on that date. Jacquie Bell will contact ELC staff to ask for cover to ensure that the building is open for the meeting. **JB**

The meeting closed at 10 p.m.