

ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 16 May 2016 at 7.15 p.m.

**(Unable to gain access to the Town House, the meeting transferred to the Methodist Church Hall,
Victoria Street, Dunbar around 7.15 pm**

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

Others present: G. Adams (Christmas lights); Ross & Margaret Laidlaw; Michael Shaw; C. Ritchie (Press); (M. Brown, Minutes).

{Alberto Massimo came late to the Town House but did not know where the meeting was.}

1.Statement on Coastword – Ross Laidlaw: Mr Laidlaw made a statement, based on his personal experience as a published local author, to the Community Council in connection with the way he felt some local authors are being ignored by Coastword, the Literary Festival being held in the town during May. There was some discussion about this. The Community Council did not feel that it was in their remit to become involved. However it was agreed that Stephen Bunyan, as Chair, would ask Coastword for their terms of reference as the Community Council have been asked to give funding to Coastword events in the past. **SB**

2.Apologies: S. Anderson; P. Morriss; Cllr. Michael Veitch; P.C. Gavin Ross

3.Minutes of meeting of 18 April 2016: The amendments submitted by Sue Anderson after the Minutes had been circulated were homologated and then accepted as a true record.

4.Minutes of Sub-committees: Civic Week – S. Anderson.

- Programme on schedule for delivery on Monday and distribution will start next week.
- About 30 events in the programme.
- Sponsorship – Belhaven have not responded re sponsorship of Civic Week or Christmas Lights.
- Revised financial projections are therefore Income £500, expenditure £3671 so it will run at a loss of just over £3k. This will leave the account with approx. £5k at end of Civic Week.
- Volunteers will be required for the Parade and to help at the Fun Day in the Park.

Christmas Lights – G. Adams.

- Starting to plan Switch-On : Meeting on 29 August
- Graham is seeking sponsors for his fund-raising 100 mile Cycle ride from Carlisle to Dunbar.

- Concerns about funding. Measures require to be put in place to ensure that there are sufficient monies to cover the future infrastructure – Alasdair Swan will produce 5 year plan for discussion at a future meeting. **AS**

5. Police Report:

Road Safety: No specific incidents. Community officers have been out with a speed gun on various roads including Lochend and Brodie Road. Several motorists have been advised regarding the 20mph speed limit.

There have been a couple of reports of parking issues outside the Fire Station causing obstruction to Fire service vehicles.

Anti-social Behaviour:

- A few calls to High Street, West Port.
- Calls regarding litter being left at John Muir Country Park at Bullet Hill on 6/7 May. Plain clothes patrol there on 13 May. Approx. 50-60 youths ranging from 12 – 18 years old. Alcohol disposed of and one female conveyed back to her home address and spoken to in the presence of her mother. Plain clothes patrol on 14 May – no youths present.
- Sometime during evening of 13 May a small footbridge crossing the Biel Water was vandalised – enquiries ongoing.

Litter: No issues.

Theft: There have been a few reports of shoplifting at ASDA – enquiries ongoing.

CAPP priorities:

Youth Vulnerabilities – Following reports of children as young as 12 involved in late night parties and partaking in associated anti social behaviour send a message to all, especially parents, to keep them safe and report issues to appropriate bodies.

Youth ASB at Summerfield Road – Patrols of area surrounding Grammar School before and after school, during breaks and evenings.

Speeding in 20mph zone south of railway line, Dunbar – Speeding enforcement.

Next meeting Tuesday 31 May 2016.

Speeding at Brodie Road – ELC meeting with Transportation had taken place in early April. Request will be made for copy of the speed report. **JB**

Comment was made of PC Ross's excellent rapport with the youths of Dunbar and credit given to his policing. It was agreed to write a Letter of Commendation about him to Police Scotland.

SB

6. Treasurer's Report: A. Swan

Accounts are currently with John Sparksman for annual inspection.

The grant for THE year has been received.

The Christmas Lights balance is healthy. Credit was given to Sue Anderson for all the work she has done to raise grant income.

The Civic Week balance is £8692 which will cover this year's Civic Week.

Local Priorities fund – No transactions have taken place during the Election period. Lilian Pryde is in purdah for the election period. Final balance for 2015-16 to be allocated to Scifest. Battlefield Trust allocated £500. £7800 to be allocated in 2016-17.

The £10 subscription has been paid to RAGES.

7. Matters arising (Not on Agenda):

a) Planning Matters –

- i) SESPLAN Main Issues 2 – this is still progressing.
- ii) Development at 52 High Street (Lothian Hotel). Dunbar Community Council views were submitted by Jacquie Bell. The application is not yet ready for Planning Committee. Further information is awaited on education issues (\$75 contribution).
- iii) Beveridge Row – included as a development area following the Main Issues Special ELC meeting. The area was badly flooded in December and has been wet for much of 2016 to date. A possible application is to be submitted in 2016 by CALA Homes. As yet, no formal application has been submitted. Concerns about development at this site continue.
- iv) 1 Shore Road (Cuckoo Wrasse) – Planning Consent is not yet granted. It is more than 2 years since the application was registered. The application still needs to be considered by Scottish Ministers before a final decision is made.
- v) Robertson Homes – DCC views were submitted by Jacquie Bell. Issues have arisen e.g. regarding safe route to school There is still no date for the Planning Committee.
- vi) Proposal for 9 flats and parking at Church Street – Keith Dingwall advises that there is still no Planning Committee date. A meeting is to be held to discuss way forward for the Assembly Rooms site which is linked to this one.
- vii) Proposal for 9 flats and 1 house at High Street (former Smith's bakery). Jacquie Bell had submitted Dunbar Community Council views in October 2015. The application was on the Councillors' expedited list in April 2016. Information was being sought on the education contribution and affordable housing. Councillors had not called it in and thus it is likely to go

through. It was decided to e-mail the local councillors expressing the Community Council's concern that the application had not been called this in despite the concerns of the Community Council being submitted to Planning and Councillors having been present at Community Council meetings where the concerns have been discussed/having received minutes of meetings noting the concerns.

JB

b) Twinning Links:

a) Lignieres – nothing to report.

b) John Muir Connections – Will Collin reported that Lee Stetson's performance as John Muir in Dunbar Parish Church had been reasonably well attended. This had produced good publicity for the town.

c) **A1 Safety** – The A1 Safety Group met on 20 April and Jacquie Bell had attended. Jacquie said that discussions continue about junction improvements. Dualling continues to be discussed – it is thought to be important for economic development and tourism as well as safety. There are litter problems and clarification is needed as to who is responsible. Transport Scotland are not happy about the proposed Bear statue at Spott Road Roundabout.

d) **East Beach** - Pippa reported that the Consultants were in the process of designing new groynes. East Lothian Council has approached Scottish Water regarding the purchase of concrete matting to try and haunch the sewage pipe. The Beach will be re-profiled this Summer.

ELC will pay for the groyne, pipe haunching and beach reprofiling. Funding to repair the sea defences and major beach recharge will need to be found from elsewhere.

Forth Estuary Forum will host a seminar to discuss coastal erosion at the Dunmuir Hotel on 2nd June from 6 pm.

There have been some complaints about Kelp and flies. At present farmers cannot take seaweed as it becomes mixed with other things. The options are to wash it in the sea or take it to landfill.

e) **20s Plenty** – Herbert Coutts reported that the sub-committee had met recently. The Questionnaire is to be posted on Survey Monkey at a cost of £26 per month for possibly 2 months. It was also agreed to obtain printing costs for 500 Questionnaires. **HC/GR**

The plan is to distribute Questionnaires in a number of areas in the town and a Street Survey is planned for early June.

Will Collin has approached the local schools. Dunbar Grammar will distribute Questionnaire to all staff/pupils and will also include in their weekly Newsheet to parents.

A Public meeting will be held at Dunbar Grammar School on 21 June.

f) **Winterfield Park/Bear** – Herbert Coutts is still to contact Andy Scott the artist. Pippa Swann has not heard from Hallhill Developments.

g) Corn Exchange – Building health check – nothing further at present. No Councillors were present.

h) East Lothian Community Hospital – Jacquie Bell has had no reply from Health regarding the lack of minor injury provision. As well as no Minor Injuries Unit it is now advised that there will be no Day Surgery at the new hospital. This was considered unacceptable. On behalf of the Community Council Jacquie will write to Iain Gray MSP, with copies to the new Minister for Health and also to NHS Lothian, outlining their views. **JB**

i) Condition of Parish Churchyard – A meeting is to be held on 24 May at 10 am at Dunbar Parish Church.

j) Methodist Church. Stephen Bunyan had written to the Methodist Circuit. It is now understood that no firm decision will be taken for another year and efforts need to be made to make the building more viable. It is noted that St Anne’s congregation is currently using the building whilst their own building works are taking place.

k) War Memorial – Cllr. Veitch had sent information on appropriate trusts that the Community Council can apply to. The costs of the repairs will be needed to make an application.

l) Taxi rank at Waverley – A response had been received from Allison Cosgrove of RAGES. However, the issues of taxi access continue.

8. Local Priorities:

2015 – 16 Budget

a) Updates

Information Boards – Parish Church – They will hopefully be in place within the next week.

Traditional Music Festival – Jacquie had circulated more information on the programme. A grant of £500 was agreed.

b) New Applications 2016 – 17 Budget.

Dunbar Colts - £200 granted to assist with entry fees to a footballing competition.

9. Local Area Partnership:

Broadband Event on 10 May. No members had attended.

Chairs/Vice-chairs “Taking Stock” Event – 12 May. Jacquie Bell and Pippa Swan had attended. There was useful discussion with ELC Chief Executive Angela Leitch and other staff and members of Area Partnerships.

Dunbar Grammar Event – 13 May – Thus was attended by Jacquie Bell & Pippa Swan who were very impressed with all the pupils who had taken part. It was a very successful event which raised a number of issues for the Area Partnership to take forward e.g. access to activities for out of Dunbar pupils, cycle route safety, need for social spaces.

Next meeting: 27 June.

10. Community Engagement by Dunbar Community Council Penny Morriss’s willingness to take this forward was welcomed. Discussion was deferred until the July meeting.

11. Condition of Dunbar High Street: George Robertson had noted concerns about the poor fabric condition and cleanliness of the High Street buildings and pavements. This had been an area of concern at the Local Area partnership public meeting on the High Street in March. Jacquie Bell advised that she had sent photos to ELC of dangerous pavements and missing cobbles in the High Street. It was understood that ELC is setting up a programme of repairs. It was felt that a robust meeting with ELC needed to be arranged to implement a maintenance plan. £50,000 is to be allocated to Dunbar High Street from the Local Area Partnership for roads.

12. Community Council Awards:

Community Council Cup – It was agreed to award this to Keith McShane for Public Services.

Bowe Cup – It was agreed to award it to Heather Cameron for Community work.

Certificates of merit: It was agreed to award these to P.C. Gavin Ross; Euan & Alastair Campbell, (Badminton); Rebecca Craig (Karate) and to the Head Boy & Head Girl of Dunbar Grammar School - Oisín Strachan and Kirsten Fell.

13. Local Councillors’ Reports: None available.

14. Reports from Committees/Meetings attended:

Sustaining Dunbar – (Jacquie) AGM was held on Monday 9 May. The Zero Waste Town project continues to develop.

Bakery AGM - (Jacquie) A new baker has been appointed and a different range, including cheaper items, is being introduced.

Torness Liaison (Alberto not present) – no report.

Viridor Credits Grants panel – (Jacquie) A Meeting had been held at Bargeddie Lanarkshire. Only 2 members of the old Dunbar panel had attended. The Old West Panel were resistant to meeting more centrally and it is expected that meetings will continue to be held in Lanarkshire, at Eurocentral. Money had been given to some local projects.

Bus Forum – (Jacquie) – Issues had been raised regarding lack of information at bus stops including due to vandalism. The condition of buses, particularly of First Bus, leading to reliability issues was discussed. There is likely to be a review of the Passenger Charter. Joint ticketing remains an issue. There are plans to trial community transport around Garvald and if successful it could be tried in places like Oldhamstocks which currently have no bus service.

Friends of Winterfield – (Jacquie) The current committee continues. Planting projects will be going ahead. The Pavilion had been discussed and it was noted that there is no date yet for its demolition. Members were concerned about what would happen to the site after the demolition. There had been discussion about installation of the Bear statue at the park.

15. Correspondence – previously circulated:

Roads – TTRO – Lamer Street closed for John Muir Event.

Roads – Traffic restrictions for Pipe Band Festival.

Area Partnership – Broadband Event on 10 May.

Lilian Pryde – request for new members of Integrated Joint Board.

Via Website – James Thompson – query re Church information boards.

Dunbar Trades Association – concerns about election activities.

Street Furnishing – advert re seating, bins etc.

16. Any Other Competent Business:

Jacquie has reported potholes, signage and lighting faults.

Day Centre – Gill Wilson reported that money had been received in connection with the Queen's Birthday Celebrations. This will be used to hold an "Open House" on 10 June 10a.m.-3p.m.

TRO – Herbert Coutts was pleased to see that this had finally been agreed and had come into operation on 15 May. It was important that the public be made aware that parking in the Town Centre has been increased to 90 minutes in line with other towns in East Lothian.

17. Date of next meeting: Monday 20 June – Awards Night.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.