

## **ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of meeting held on Monday 15 August 2016 in Council Chambers, Town House, Dunbar at 7 p.m.**

**Present:** J. Bell (Vice-chair); W. Collin; H. Coutts; G. Robertson; A. Swan (Treasurer); P. Swan.

**Councillors present:** Norman Hampshire; Michael Veitch

**Others present:** G. Adams (Christmas Lights); C. Ritchie (Press); M. Brown (Minutes)

**1.Apologies:** S. Bunyan (Chair); Police Constable G. Ross

Jacque Bell intimated that, due to other commitments, Penny Morriss had tendered her resignation from the Community Council. Thanks were expressed for her contributions. It was agreed that given the proximity of the Community Council elections the vacancy will not be advertised. Jacque will advise Lilian Pryde that Penny has resigned. **JB**

Jacque advised that Alberto Massimo has now missed 3 meetings without submitting apologies. Constitutionally he is automatically demitted from the Community Council. Jacque will contact Lilian Pryde at ELC and Stephen Bunyan as to how to proceed given the proximity of the Community Council elections. **JB**

**2.Minutes of meeting of 18 July 2016:** These were taken as a true record.

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

**Civic Week:**

Jacque said that Andrew Brown of Rotary had spoken to Stephen Bunyan and others regarding Rotary giving some funding/practical assistance for Civic Week bunting and banners. Stephen had advised Jacque that Andrew wished to speak to the Community Council about this. Jacque had invited Andrew but she had had no response from him. Pippa Swan noted that the Local Area Partnership is planning to work on enhancement of the High Street at times both during and outwith the Civic Week and Christmas Lights events. Some funding may come from Viridor but Rotary support would be welcome. Pippa will contact Andrew about this. **PS**

**Christmas Lights:** Graham Adams reported that permission had been received to erect a string from the Town House across the High Street. Work on replacing all steel wires in the High Street will commence on w/c 29 August 2016. The Order for closing the High Street whilst this work is being carried out has been applied for.

#### **4. Police Report:**

PC Gavin Ross was not in attendance but a report had been submitted and circulated.

Incidents reported to police between 1 July and 11 August 2016 in Dunbar Community Council area.

#### **Road Safety:**

- On 10 July a moped was stolen from outside Lauderdale House. Subsequently recovered on the beach after the tide had been over it. One male charged with theft and driving without insurance.
- Double yellow lines are to be repainted and extended in the very near future on Countess Road. This is a CAPP priority for enforcement.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour:**

- Generally far fewer incidents during the school summer break than prior to it. Groups of youths have been smaller and there have been more reports of them socialising within home addresses than in public places. One recent incident of underage drinking resulted in 2 drunk females in their early teens being conveyed home and 3 social work referrals completed.

Litter: No issues

#### **Theft:**

- 3 shoplifting reports at ASDA. No reports from any other stores.
- Between 12 and 14 July a power boat was stolen from Dunbar Sea Cadets compound. To date no success in tracing the boat or culprits but enquiries are ongoing.
- Overnight between 14 & 15 July a van parked in Queens Place was broken into and tools worth over £1700 were stolen.
- Between 1400 and 1900 on 20 July 26 bottles of wine were stolen from a storage unit to the rear of the Castle Hotel. A positive line of enquiry is being followed.

#### **Other issues:**

- On 2 July a male was arrested and charged with a disorder offence as well as resisting arrest at Dunbar High Street.
- On 2 July a serious assault took place on West Port. Enquiries are ongoing by CID.
- On 11 July a male was arrested and charged regarding threatening behaviour in Dunbar Medical Centre.

### CAPP Priorities:

1. Speeding on Brodie Road, Dunbar – Conduct hand held speed gun enforcement on Brodie Road following reports of increases in speeding traffic. Dunbar Community Policing Team.
2. Parking on double yellow lines, Countess Road – New double yellow lines will be painted on Countess Rd in the very near future. Conduct enforcement once they are done. – Dunbar Community Policing Team.
3. Anti-Social Behaviour and vandalism at East Linton Park – Patrol and identify youths using the park and the toilets following reports of vandalism. – Dunbar Community Policing Team. Community Warden.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 28 September 2016.

Jacque said that PC Ross had raised at CAPP meetings the benefit of a dedicated speed gun for Ward 7 use. Speeding is a regular priority for the CAPP across the Ward. He wondered if the Local Area Partnership might assist with funding. George Robertson noted the amount of shift time taken in Police from Dunbar travelling to Haddington to collect a gun, calibrate it in Haddington and return it to Haddington the same day after use. Having a device in Dunbar Police Station could give some flexibility for speed checks. There were mixed views from Community Councillors about the purchase of such a gun (approximate cost £3-4,000). Pippa and others were concerned that Police doing speed checks have to wear high visibility jackets. Some thought speed reactive signs were more useful in slowing people down. Will Collin suggested that the 6 area partnerships (7 wards) might fund a 2<sup>nd</sup> gun for across the county. Jacque will raise the request at the Local Area Partnership meeting on 5 September.

**JB**

George Robertson raised the matter of children “tombstoning” at Dunbar Harbour. He had witnessed this dangerous practice with youngsters jumping from the cliffs at risk of landing on the Quay rather than in the water. He had reported the matter to the police via 101. Alasdair Swan said that the Harbour Trust and the Harbourmaster were very much aware of the practice taking place on a regular basis despite no swimming signs. The Harbourmaster did his best to warn these youths of the dangers. However, youngsters involved can be cheeky to him and others who try to intervene. The Police have instructed that anyone witnessing such incidents should immediately telephone 999 rather than 101 for a faster response.

### **5. Treasurer’s Report: A. Swan.**

The report had been circulated previously.

Alasdair Swan reported that the Accounts are available for signing off and he now has authority to carry this out. He also said that the Hippo (Pool) Account had now been closed. The bank balance at end of July stood at £952.

Christmas Lights Committee & Civic Week Accounts – Alasdair was making arrangements to be added as a signatory to these account. It had been thought that Tracy Brown was intending to stand down as Christmas Lights treasurer and Alasdair was to have taken over the role. However, Tracy will be continuing in post.

Local Priorities Account - £5,709.96 available for allocation.

## **6.Matters Arising (Not on Agenda):**

### **a)Planning matters.**

i) SESPLAN – Main Issues 2 – this is still progressing. Cllr Hampshire reported that the document (which is available online) will be ratified by ELC on 23 August.

A special meeting to discuss the new ELC Local Development Plan will be held on 6 September. The new plan will run for 5 years once agreed. At present the concentration of new housing will be in the west around Musselburgh and Wallyford. However, development will be needed in all areas.

Cllr Hampshire noted that East Lothian hopes to get some funding for housing development from the Edinburgh City Deal. This could enable the development of a new 6,000 population town at Blindwells. However, the deal may require a faster pace of development than ELC might like which could have implications for infrastructure.

ii) Development at 52 High Street (Lothian Hotel). Community Council views were submitted by Jacquie Bell some months ago. The application is not yet ready for consideration.

iii) Beveridge Row – Cala Homes are to submit the application for planning. Jacquie Bell noted concerns expressed by local residents and had had circulated correspondence from Alistair Colley, former Secretary of West Barns Community Council, showing the extent of flooding at the site. Once the detailed plans are registered and available for comment it was agreed that Jacquie Bell will draft a Community Council response highlighting concerns including flooding and drainage, transportation infrastructure and traffic management.

**JB**

iv) Proposal for 9 flats and parking at Church Street – Keith Dingwall advises still no Planning Committee date.

v) Planning in Conservation Area – multiple adverts are on the railings outside Pick n Choose. David Taylor (Enforcement) is involved. The Belhaven Bikes advert is back on the Royal Macintosh Hotel and David Taylor has been informed.

vi) Application at Newtonlees Farm. Information had been received from Gladman Developments regarding an exhibition at the Dunmuir Hotel on 6 September from 3 – 7p.m. This development, for an unknown number of homes and a cemetery, is outwith the current Local Development Plan and is not included in the new Plan to be ratified on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Jacquie had circulated an e mail from Stuart Pryde of ELC regarding the cemetery provision at the site. The current Deerpark cemetery is running out of lair space. Cllrs Veitch and Hampshire noted that although it had been hoped to extend the cemetery of ground owned by Dunbar Golf Club this had proved difficult to bring to fruition as land available had not offered sufficient capacity.

Concerns were expressed about this speculative application. Cllr Veitch agreed to ascertain the situation regarding the Dunbar Golf Club development (housing and new club house) which had lapsed. It was felt that any extension to the Deer Park Cemetery should be on the same side of the road and amidst new housing at Newtonlees. It was also felt that further housing in this area, following the recent agreement to the 240 homes at the neighbouring Robertson Homes site, should not be considered without the possibility of reopening the old A1 at Broxburn as further houses will add to pressures on Queens Road, Spott Road and the cement works junction. Concerns were also raised about the general pressure on health and education infrastructure in the town. **MV**

#### **b.Twinning Links.**

Lignieres – Stephen Bunyan had sent a letter of sympathy to Lignieres and the neighbouring cantons, translated into French by Richard Smeed following the terror attack in Nice.

Arrangements are being made to visit Lignieres from 15-22 October. People should contact Richard Smeed if interested. Jacquie Bell will be going.

4 pupils have travelled to Lignieres over the summer with scholarships from the Twinning Association.

John Muir Connections – Will Collin reported that there had been a considerable number of people visiting the Birthplace which included quite a lot of walkers doing the complete John Muir Way who get a certificate on completion. There has been an increase in American visitors. There have also been some VIP visitors and 10 Sierra Club members were expected on Thursday 18/8.

Will and his wife had visited California recently and had been made very welcome. George Kerevan MP and his wife had also had a very successful visit meeting a number of Sierra Club officials and sites. The Chair of the John Muir Trust is also to make a visit to California.

A reception is to take place on 25 August (11-2) celebrating the centenary of the US National Park Service and Will advised that all Community Council members are invited to attend. The speaker will be George Kerevan MP.

**c.East Beach.** Pippa Swan reported on progress. Cllr Hampshire circulated pictures of the deterioration particularly over the past 3 years. There was a general discussion about the erosion and possible measures to ameliorate it. It was agreed that a quotation should be obtained from the Consultants for the installation of a concrete groyne and matting to cover the sewer pipe and recharging of sand. This would be an experimental programme but hopefully would help to bring the sand back onto the beach. A Marine Licence will be required and ELC will need to apply for planning permission. Funding will be from ELC and Scottish Water.

**d.20MPH Zone** – Herbert has contacted ELC Transportation with the results of the consultation and a meeting is to be arranged to discuss the trial.

**e,Winterfield Park/Bear** – Demolition of the pavilion is still awaiting and Cllr Veitch is waiting on a response from Liz McLean of ELC.

Herbert Coutts had not heard from sculptor, Andy Scott, about the Bear.

George Robertson suggested replacement of the Compass Rose close to the park. This is on the Promenade and outwith the remit of Friends of Winterfield but it was considered a worthwhile project and George will get a quotation for consideration by the Community Council.

**GR/HC**

**f.Corn Exchange** - Pippa Swan will carry out a health survey on Wednesday 17 August.

**PS**

**g.East Lothian Community Hospital** – Jacquie had heard from David Small at NHS. Some day surgery under local anaesthetic will continue. Possible procedures are still to be finalised.

**h.Belhaven Hospital** – Jacquie had circulated a response from a Civil Servant on behalf of Shona Robison MSP the Health Minister. Following the recent public meeting a steering group has been set up by Cllr. McLennan and met on 8 August. Pippa and Gill Wilson had attended along with Cllr McLennan and Dr Black.

The suggestion by Health/Scottish Government is that ELSIE (hospital at home) can give the same level of support as Ward 2 but GPs feel that this is not the case. It is suggested that Ward 2 services (9 beds) can be moved to Ward 3 (12 beds) but Ward 3 is full and has a waiting list. Jacquie reported that David Small is considering public engagement which will

include the Community Council and he is also considering restarting the Belhaven Forum which last met in November 2012.

Jacquie had seen Cllr Donald Grant (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and Chair of the East Lothian Integrated Joint Board) and Ian Gray MSP whilst at the Scottish Older People's Assembly in Tranent today and had discussed the issues with them.

Concerns were shared about any proposal to reduce services at the hospital, particularly with the increasing population of the area including increasing numbers of frail older people. The hospital is also used for palliative care in the absence of a local hospital for people under 65.

It was agreed that the Community Council should press for the Belhaven Forum to resume to consider the future provision to meet health care needs in the local community. Cllr Hampshire said that as part of the planning process he had suggested zoning of some land at the hospital site for extra care rather than general housing. However, consideration is also needed for other health and social care needs. A public meeting, organised by the Community Council, should also be considered to update the community on what is happening.

Jacquie Bell had contacted the neighbouring Community Councils in the Ward who will also be affected by any reduction in/changes to services at Belhaven.

Jacquie will discuss further with Stephen Bunyan when he returns.

Cllr Veitch will take the matter up further with David Small and note the importance of consultation and communication with the community.

**JB/MV/SB**

**i.Condition of Parish Churchyard** - Will Collin had circulated correspondence with Stuart Pryde at ELC. Copies of a map and aerial view were also distributed. A trial will take place over the winter months from the Main gate up to the Church. This will mean that the Council will stop spraying those areas with immediate effect, get the topsoil replaced over the Winter with poorer quality soil so the vegetation growth is less vigorous. This will allow the gardeners to see what grows naturally and they will also sow some wild flowers around the stones. It is hoped that this may stabilise stones. Will was concerned that seeing grass grow may perturb some residents and others visiting the church yard. Will asked that any concerns raised with Community Council members by the public should be passed to him. It was suggested that a sign could be put up at the churchyard to inform people that the trial is taking place.

Will also expressed concerns about poor disabled access around the graveyard. He has passed this on to Stuart Pryde and will follow it up. **WC**

**j.War Memorial** – George Robertson has taken photos and has made enquiries with Robertson Memorials about a quote for repairs. He will follow this up. Funding support may be available from the War Memorials Trust. Herbert Coutts had spoken to Paul Zochowski at ELC about planning requirements. A sub-committee meeting of various members of the Community Council will take place in early September and an invitation extended to the British Legion to send a representative.

It was queried by Herbert if the names of anyone who has died in conflicts post World War 2 might be added to the memorial whilst renovations are being carried out. It was not certain if there are any names to add or if names that should be on the memorial have been omitted. It was thought that the Legion or History Society may have information.

**k.Condition of Dunbar High Street**- The Area Partnership has given funding for repairs.

**l.Bus services**- Lothian East Coast Buses commenced services on 14 August. However, day tickets to include Edinburgh bus and tram fares are only available from Haddington. Perrymans have increased their service. The RELBUS AGM will be on 3 August at 7p.m. in Haddington Town House.

**m.Heritage Angels** – Alasdair Swan has submitted paperwork.

**n. Rail Services** – Cllr Veitch advised that discussions are ongoing with the Scottish Government regarding the reopening of East Linton Station and service improvements to Dunbar. The RAGES AGM will be 7pm on 12<sup>th</sup> September at Reston Village Hall.

**o.Viridor** – Jacquie had had contact from Keith Dingwall and SEPA (circulated). The plant is on track to provide electricity for the grid. There is not a Heat Plan but one needs to be approved by Head of Planning before the plant starts operating. The SEPA contact will update information once she has visited the plant on a forthcoming planned visit.

**p.Scottish Battlefield Trust**- Stephen Bunyan had sent a letter of support to Visit Scotland.

## **7. Local Priorities:**

**a)**- Updates

referred to under Treasurer report.

**b) New Applications 2016-17 Budget.**

i) Jamie Wilson – request to help sponsor studies in Canada. He had also approached the Local Area Partnership who had advised him to contact the East Lothian Educational Trust. Community Councillors agreed that it is not in their remit to fund students. Applications in the past have been declined. Jacquie will advise him to contact the Educational Trust which can give repeat grants depending on parental/applicant income.

ii) Scottish Battlefields Trust – request for £2000 to assist with Re-enactment of the 1650 Battle of Dunbar 17/18 September 2016. This request had only been submitted this afternoon and not all information was available at the meeting. Due to the lateness of the submission, the financial size of the application and the fact that not all members of the Community Council were present it was agreed that members would return their comments to Jacquie by Friday of this week. Herbert Coutts declared an interest in the application through his involvement with the Trust.

**8. Local Area Partnership** – next meeting 5 September.

**9. Community Engagement by DCC** – this matter deferred due to the resignation of Penny Morriss.

**10. Names required for 4 streets at the Robertson Homes Development** – The names of 4 past Provosts will be submitted by Jacquie. **JB**

**11. Local Councillors' Reports** – No reports. Cllrs Veitch and Hampshire had left the meeting.

**12. Reports from Committees/Meetings Attended**

Jacquie Bell had attended the Scottish Older People's Assembly in Tranent today. There had been discussion on a range of issues affecting older people in East Lothian including delayed discharge, shortage of care at home services, benefit issues, rural isolation.

**13. Correspondence – previously circulated.**

Dunbar Day Centre – thanks for grant.

George Kerevan – SNP MPs Annual Report

Lilian Pryde – Community Council elections.

Lilian Pryde – NHS Lothian Review changed from 31/08 to 10/10. 2-3p.m. at Waverley Gate.

Lilian Pryde – Scottish Resilient Communities Conference- 7 October at Victoria Quay.

RAGES – update on rail services. AGM Calling Notice.

RELBUS – AGM Calling Notice

Brake newsletter

Greenman Developments – information on planning proposal at Newtonlees Farm.  
Jamie Wilson – request for funding support.  
Stuart Gibb ELC – new Council homes at Fall Avenue and Yosemite Park  
Gordon Norrie, ELC – 4 names needed for streets at the Robertson Homes development  
Edinburgh Airport – flight path Consultation.

**14. Any other competent business:**

Overgrown paths at Deer Park – George Robertson had raised this with Dunbar Golf Club who own the land and it will be dealt with.

Jacquie Bell has further raised the dangerous condition of Hospital Road with ELC. She has again reported broken toby's in Belhaven to Scottish Water. She has advised ELC that some bus stops around Belhaven do not have all required timetable information following the service changes.

**15. Date of next meeting:** This will take place on Monday 19 September 2016 at 7p.m.in Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar. (Apologies J. Bell).

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.