

ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minute of meeting held on Monday 17 October 2016 in Council Chamber,
Town House, Dunbar, at 7 p.m.

Present: Pauline Jaffray BEM DL
S Bunyan; S Anderson; G Robertson; A Swan (Minutes); P Swan;
G Wilson

Others present: C Ritchie (Press)

1. Apologies: G Adams; J Bell; W Collin; H Coutts; Cllr Hampshire; Cllr Veitch;
M Brown

Welcome:

S Bunyan as the former Chairman of the Community Council welcomed the Deputy Lieutenant of East Lothian to the meeting and invited her to take the Chair for the first part of the meeting.

2. Formation of the new Community Council:

The Deputy Lieutenant intimated that there had been nine valid applications and that the following were therefore elected for the next four years.

1. Graham Adams
2. Jacquie Bell
3. Stephen Bunyan
4. Will Collin
5. Herbert Coutts
6. George Robertson
7. Alasdair Swan
8. Pippa Swan
9. Gill Wilson

The Deputy Lieutenant pointed out that there were still three vacancies.

Sue Anderson had applied but her application had not been received in time. Because of her valuable record of leading Civic Week and supporting the Christmas Lights Committee Sue Anderson was unanimously elected as a Councillor with full voting rights for the current term of the Community Council.

It was noted that there are currently no applications for the other two vacancies despite the advertising of the election process.

Appointment of the Office Bearers:

- Chairman: Stephen Bunyan was elected unanimously
- Vice Chairman: George Robertson was proposed and seconded.
It was noted that Jacquie Bell had expressed her willingness to continue in two roles. The meeting considered that it was preferable to spread the duties of the Office Bearers among Council members.
George Robertson expressed his willingness to accept the role of Vice Chairman but only if it was the will of the full Council and he noted that many of the Councillors including Jacquie had not been able to attend this meeting. He therefore asked that a final decision on this appointment be deferred until the next meeting.
- Secretary: Jacquie Bell was elected unanimously and the Council recorded its thanks for the huge amount of work she undertakes every month, attending external meetings on its behalf and preparing for the monthly Council meetings.
- Treasurer: Alasdair Swan was unanimously elected.

Role of the Deputy Lieutenant of East Lothian:

Pauline Jaffray addressed the meeting and outlined her role in what has been an extremely busy year for the Lieutenancy of East Lothian. The Queen's Lieutenant Michael Williams has eight deputies who represent Her Majesty the Queen on appropriate occasions. Their duties include arranging royal visits, presenting medals to those who cannot attend the official functions, sending out congratulatory messages to those attaining the age of 100 or those celebrating a diamond wedding, supporting youth organisations, attending civic activities and producing recommendations for those who might be invited to the Queen's Garden Party.

She is currently actively involved with the visit of the Princess Royal later on this month.

The Deputy Lieutenant asked the Community Council to send names to her at any time for those who should be considered for the Queen's Award for Volunteer Services. She is closely involved with this scheme. **ALL**

In the same way Community Councillors can help by letting the Deputy Lieutenant know whether anyone in the community is approaching 100 or is about to celebrate a Diamond Wedding. **ALL**

The Deputy Lieutenant is also actively involved with the Queen's Award for Enterprise but, in this case, it is the organisation itself that must apply. Details of these awards and how to apply for them are on the web sites.

Pauline will be representing the Queen at Tranent's Remembrance Service this year. She is very honoured to be offered the opportunity to serve in this way and

extended the very best wishes to the Community Council as it approached its new term.

The Deputy Lieutenant invited questions about her role and explained that she will remain in office until she attains the age of 75.

At this point in the meeting Stephen Bunyan assumed the Chair. He thanked the Deputy Chairman for attending this inaugural meeting and for addressing the Community Council. The Deputy Lieutenant left the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 18th September 2016:

These were adopted as a full and proper record.

4. Minutes of sub-committees:

Civic Week –

Sue Anderson intimated that she has issued another call for helpers

Christmas Lights –

Graham Adams had submitted a written report as follows –

1. The licence application for this year's display has been submitted to ELC.
2. Work is progressing towards the put up day on the 6th November.
3. A competition for Dunbar Primary School is being run to design a new light for this year with designs due in on the 25th October.
4. Switch on event preparations are underway for the **27th November**.
5. The Race Night was successful and will now become an annual event.
6. Winter lights materials have started to be ordered and will be fitted after the council work has been completed.

5. Police report:

There was no police report this month.

George Robertson recalled that the main items on this month's CAPP meeting were:

- Issues concerning youth behaviour
- An assault in McDonald's
- Speeding motorists with continuing problems on Brodie Road

6. Treasurer's report:

The monthly report had been circulated in advance.

- There has been no movement in the General Fund
- The Local Priorities fund at just over £4,600 is close to 50% of the annual award half way through the year.

7. Planning matters:

The *Local Consultation on the South East Scotland Plan (SES)* has been extended to 7th November.

It was felt that the principle of developing settlements close to Edinburgh was the correct one and that a policy of disbursement should be resisted.

The housing development proposed for Dunbar contains no surprises. It was noted that there is no suggestion of development between Newtonlees Farm and Broxburn and this was felt to be the correct decision.

There is also no suggestion that the Deer Park Cemetery should be developed anywhere other than on the side of the road where it currently stands. This again was considered to be a correct decision.

Pippa was asked to draft a response on these points on behalf of the Council. **PS**
George Robertson has a useful summary of the Plan's recommendation as they affect Dunbar and he will circulate this to the Councillors. **GR**

There was continuing concern about the infrastructure requirements that are associated with the SES. Alasdair said that he had received considerable comfort after discussing the future development of Dunbar's schools with Cllr Hampshire and it was agreed that Cllr Hampshire would be invited to address the next meeting to help Community Councillors to allay any unnecessary fears. Attention can then be given to those infrastructure challenges to which there is currently no solution. **AS**

Development at 52 High Street (Lothian Hotel).

Jacque Bell has submitted DCC views. The application is not yet ready for consideration. It was agreed to remove this from future agendas until and unless there is some further action.

Beveridge Row –

Jacque Bell has submitted concerns to Planning. Jacque has also had contact with Scottish Water and SEPA about Flooding and Drainage issues.

Proposal for 9 flats and parking at Church Street. –

Keith Dingwall has advised that there is still no Planning Committee date.

Planning in the Conservation areas –

The multiple adverts on the railings outside Pick and Choose have been removed. The Belhaven Bikes advert is back on the Royal McIntosh Hotel and it has been reported.

Manor House Belhaven was checked and the colour is one of those allowed in a conservation area.

A Border Roofing Sign has appeared on the Bowling Club in Station Road and has been reported.

Application at Newtonlees Farm –

No further information.

8.Twinning Links:

Lignieres - Jacque is currently in Lignieres with a delegation from the Twinning Association and Dunbar Grammar School.

John Muir Connections – Michael Portillo visited the birthplace on 7th October as part of his great railway journey TV series. It is hoped that will be a stimulus to the tourist business in Dunbar.

9. East Beach:

Pippa noted that there was now an abnormal kelp dump on both beaches.

10. 20 MPH zone:

This is currently with ELC Transportation. A meeting to discuss speeding on Brodie Road in the current 20 mph zone will be held in the first week of November at the Bleachingfield Centre, date to be confirmed. **JB**

The next stage will be the drafting of a Traffic Regulation Order and this will be followed by further public consultation.

11. Winterfield Park:

Pavilion demolition:

Tenders were due to be returned by 10th October. Work is expected to start shortly.

Orientation plinth –

George Robertson's recommendation for the plinth was adopted.

The colour chosen for it was the light blue. Although slightly less legible than the black alternative, the colour was considered to be more subtle and interesting.

An application for the VAT exclusive cost of £750 will be made to the Civic Pride fund in due course. **GR**

12. Corn Exchange:

Cllr Veitch has written to ELC's Officers but, as yet, neither DCC nor Cllr Veitch have received a reply.

13. East Lothian Community Hospital:

Building will commence in October

14. Belhaven Hospital:

A Forum meeting scheduled for 13th October was cancelled at short notice and will be rearranged.

15. Condition of Parish Churchyard:

Will Collin had circulated the following information about the start of the maintenance trial. He has sent the same information to The Courier.

The number of headstones in Dunbar cemetery, which have toppled in recent years, has caused serious concern. The problem has been made worse by East Lothian's budget restrictions reducing the hours available to maintain the cemetery to former standards. One of the casualties has been the frequency of trimming the grass. Rather than allowing the grass to grow around the bases of the stones, the decision was taken to control this by using weed killer. As well as surface vegetation disappearing, roots binding the soil have also gone. Unfortunately this has led to soil erosion which has exposed the foundations of many stones to the elements. A combination of wind, water and frost has resulted in stones

leaning and some eventually toppling and sometimes separating into sections.

Representatives of Dunbar Community Council, Dunbar Parish Church and Dunbar History Society met with ELC's Principal Amenity Officer Stuart Pryde at the end of May, the meeting convened by ELC councillor Michael Veitch. It was agreed that a trial change of procedure would be applied to the two areas to the left and right of the roadway through the main gate and up to the church building. Spraying of those areas would stop with immediate effect.

At the end of this year's growing season, the missing topsoil around the bases of the headstones in those areas would be replaced with a layer of poorer quality earth so that returning vegetation would not be too vigorous. This would be topped with better quality soil. In the section to the left (east), vegetation would be allowed to return naturally; to the right (west), wild flowers will be sown around the stones. This work will get underway in the next few weeks.

Hopefully this will go some way to reducing the issues of the stability of the headstones until such time as ELC can find a permanent solution to that problem. If the trial is successful it will likely be extended to other areas of the cemetery. It should be remembered that any resulting 'untidiness' around the stones during the trial period is not due to the Council failing to deliver its grass cutting to the established standard.

Will has subsequently been very impressed by the black metal seats around the war memorial at Callander. Ogilvie Street Furniture of Kilmarnock manufactured them.

Work has begun at the cemetery with initial fill of the 'troughs' around the bases of the stones to the left and right of the main gate now complete. There is also a ramp from the cobbled area to the right of the church tower onto the path network beyond the church. This will be of use to buggy drivers. However the three 'drop kerbs' needed for access for wheelchair users is dependent on funding as they would be installed by 'transportation' who would bill 'amenities' for the work done.

It was agreed that DCC should write to Stuart Pryde to see whether Landscape & Countryside will have the resources to provide disabled access to the Parish Church cemetery. **SB**

16. War Memorial:

There are legal restrictions on adding names from conflicts post March 1949. George has circulated information from Roy Pugh, showing how complex and

sensitive this issue is. There are many names that could have been appropriately remembered in Dunbar. Most of these names are on memorials elsewhere. Even where a name is apparently missing, and where known relatives are still in the town, there is a lack of knowledge as to why the apparent omission occurred in the first place. No decision was taken at the meeting, as it is known that Herbert Coutts does not agree with the proposal that was placed before the Community Council. The matter will be carried forward to the next meeting when Herbert will be present to give his views. **HC**

17. Dunbar High Street:

Works will begin on October 18th and last about 5 weeks. Residents have been informed.

This is an Area Partnership project, so responsibility for arranging planning permission for the seating lies with the AP. However DCC can expect to see repairs to the pavements and lampposts being completed shortly and the winter lights will supplement the Christmas Lights this year as planned.

The Peace Garden proposal outside St Anne's has been discussed by the Vestry who asked for the DCC's support in principle before they took the project further. This was granted at the meeting. Both the Nativity Scene and the Christmas tree are accommodated in the plan that provides an opportunity for power to be introduced into that part of the High Street. ELC has agreed to maintain the garden.

It was agreed to send a letter of support to St Anne's. **PS**

18. Viridor:

Keith Dingwall and SEPA have written to the DCC. The plant is on track to provide electricity for the grid. For the Heat Plan to be effective some users need to come up with a plan to take the heat from Viridor's boundary to the place of use at their own expense. This is extremely unlikely to happen.

19. Town Maintenance:

Tobies – repairs are due to commence October 27th following further contacts with Scottish Water by Jacquie.

Wall between Hillside Hotel and Newhouse Terrace. It was agreed that a letter highlighting the state of disrepair of the wall would be sent to ELC. At least part, if not all, of this wall is owned by the Council. The wall along Church Street was repaired after the Shore & Harbour Neighbourhood Group pointed out the risk to life and health if it was allowed to deteriorate further. This may be a role that the DCC can now play with regard to the wall leading south from the Hillside Hotel. **JB**

Wall at Belhaven School – The work has been completed.

Cliff path and railings outside the Rocks Hotel. Sue Anderson asked that congratulations be passed on to the Area partnership for leading such a

successful project that had made a huge difference to the town. Thanks should also be extended to ELC for its key role in the partnership. **PS**

20. Local Priorities:

New Applications 2016-17 budget –

Dunbar Primary School –

Dunbar Unplugs and Reads is a project that aims to increase the amount of reading that pupils take part in at home, replacing time spent on computers, games consoles, mobile phones, watching DVDs or TV, with reading for pleasure.

The project engages with parents and the wider community. It involves book swaps, reading trails, Family Book Quiz and community books.

The grant will be used for the 'Big Prize Draw' in November. DCC was delighted to unanimously approve the request for a £300 grant for this purpose and wished the project every success.

The Chairman offered to write to Helen Gillanders with the news, seeking the school's bank account details. **SB**

Hallhill Ltd –

An application has just been received from Hallhill Ltd, dated 15th August 2016, asking for £500 for organising the Pipe Band Competition last May.

There were no financial details with the application to explain why running this competition cost £2,000 or what revenue was generated on the day.

The Treasurer was asked to write to Keith Nicholson to seek more details so that the matter could be considered again at the next meeting. **AS**

It was noted that the DCC does not normally award grants for past events.

A more favourable response may be forthcoming if DCC is approached at this time for financial support for next year's Pipe Band Competition.

It was agreed that the Pipe Band Competition is a highlight of the Dunbar calendar and will merit DCC support once it is clear whom we are supporting and why.

21. Local Area Partnership:

The next meeting is scheduled for 29th November.

The additional meeting to discuss application for the Educational Attainment monies will be held from 2 p.m. on 31st October and will be attended by Pippa, Stephen and Jacquie.

It was agreed that the Area Partnership minutes would be circulated to all DCC Councillors. **PS**

22. Community Engagement by DCC

A local graphic designer called Claire Bewsey has been in contact kindly offering her services to the Community Council. It was considered unnecessary at this time to receive a presentation from her at a Council Meeting but the DCC would greatly appreciate receiving a summary of the services that she currently offers. The question was also asked whether Claire was offering her design services on a voluntary or paid basis. This is to be clarified. **JB**

23. Local Councillors Reports:

Councillors Veitch and Hampshire were not present.

24. Reports from Committees/Meetings Attended:

East Lothian Housing Association AGM –Jacquie attended. ELHA is the main local registered social landlord (RSL) Tenants are now being given the chance to have solar panels which will reduce heating costs. New homes are being built including in Dunbar. If tenants sign up to on line tenancy management they can have a reduction on their rent.

Day Centre – 40th anniversary party was held on 12th October. The Committee have agreed to change from an SCO (Scottish Charitable Organisation) to a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Staff have begun dementia training. New Management Committee members would be welcome. The Day Centre is one of the local groups that can benefit from the Coop community fund that is linked to the new style Co-op member cards.

Gill reported that the alteration to the kitchen area is coming soon. The Day Centre is likely to close in January or, at best, offer diminished services. Contingency plans are being developed to look after the users during this period.

A1 Action Group – Jacquie attended the meeting on 26th September. There had been much discussion about junction safety. Jacquie had raised issues about the pressure on local junctions by planned and proposed housing developments. She had raised questions about Ragwort (a controlled plant) and litter. Stephen added his concern about the false entry marked for Pinkerton.

Lafarge – 27th September meeting was cancelled at very short notice

Health – Big Conversation. Jacquie attended on 3rd October. There had been interesting group case studies using actors based on the Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan. They all showed a need for joined up thinking between statutory and voluntary services as well as wider communities to support people and time for staff to talk to service users.

Social Enterprise Network – Jacquie attended a meeting on 7th October at the Fashion School. There were presentations from a range of East Lothian Social Enterprises including the Fashion School as well as information from organisations that support them including on how communities can buy out public buildings and facilities.

John Muir Country Park Advisory Committee – Stephen Bunyan had chaired and Will Collin had attended.

25. Correspondence – previously circulated

Lilian Pryde – confirmation of Community Council Membership

Brake – newsletters

John Muir Working Group – update

Day Centre – invitation to 40th anniversary party on 12th October

Pauline Jaffray DL – wishing to attend a DCC meeting. Invited to Chair tonight's meeting

Pauline Jaffray – to discuss DTA banners and their use in the High Street. **PS**

Miriam Anderson – start of Community Hospital building works

Helen Gillanders , Dunbar Primary School. - Request for donation towards prizes for reading project

Clare Bewsey – graphic designer. Offering to help with publications.

Via website – Philip Immirzi – positive comments on the work at the Parish churchyard.

Lilian Pryde – information on Planning Aid Scotland

Lilian Pryde – consultation on removal of public phone boxes

There was a discussion about this and, with some regret for these remnants of the past, it was agreed that these phone boxes now serve no useful purpose and should be removed from the High Street. Reply to Lilian. **JB**

RAGES – electronic Rag regarding no services from Edinburgh to Berwick on 8th and 15th October. Request to contact MSP re reopening of stations.

Stuart Gibb – High Street works

Via website – East Coast Buses night services to start at weekends

26. AOCB:

Best wishes are to be conveyed to Rev Lawrence Twaddle who is to step down from Belhaven Parish Church after nearly 40 years. **SB**

Similarly our appreciation should be expressed at this time to Councillor Veitch who has given Dunbar exceptional service during his time in office. Although he takes up his charge in Northumberland in the New Year he will continue to serve Dunbar until the next election.

27. Date of Next Meeting –

November 21st at 7 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.