

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

### **Minutes of meeting held on Monday 17 August 2015 in Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar, at 7 p.m.**

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

**Councillors Present:** N. Hampshire; M. Veitch

**Others present:** George Kerevan M P & Angela Wrapson; P.C. Gavin Ross.

**1.Apologies:** W. Collin; A. Massimo;

The meeting opened by taking a few minutes to remember all those who had died or suffered cruelty and imprisonment in the war with Japan during the Second World War. This follows the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day.

The Chair introduced George Kerevan MP for East Lothian. He advised that he is visiting as many Community Councils as possible to learn what is happening in East Lothian. He also advised that he has a dedicated office in Haddington for anyone wishing to contact him.

**2. Minutes of meeting of 20 July 2015:** These were taken as a true record with the exception that Isobel Knox had submitted her apologies for that meeting. Her e mail had not been picked up until afterwards.

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

No minutes received. Sue will be attending the Civic Week meeting arranged for next week and will report back.

**4. Police Report:** P.C. Gavin Ross

PC Ross apologised that there had been no Report or Officer present for the July 2015 meeting.

During the period since the last Police Report in June 2015 there have been a few incidents of note. There are more incidents but due to the nature of these or ongoing investigations full details cannot be given.

**Road Safety:**

- Complaints received regarding parking in West Port. Tickets have been issued and officers will be giving this area full attention.

- Prior to the schools breaking up a number of speed checks were conducted on Kellie Road. No offences detected.
- A female was issued with an ASBO warning for failing to stop as directed by a Road Crossing Supervisor.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

There have been a number of issues at the harbour, theft from boats, damage to boats and in the last fortnight a number of complaints regarding youths jumping into the harbour in a dangerous manner including swimming close to turning propellers.

Litter: No issues.

Theft: There have been 5 shoplifting incidents from Co-op premises and 2 from ASDA.

Other issues:

- In early July agencies were involved in an incident when a suicidal male was threatening to jump from the cliff by the harbour entrance. He was eventually talked down.
- Lifeboat Day passed without incident.
- In late July there were 2 suspicious fires in a close off the High Street. CID enquiries are ongoing.
- Police have assisted in searches for a missing puppy from Beachmont Place.
- Travellers have returned to Newtonlees. ELC progressing with eviction process.

**CAPP priorities:** Next meeting will take place on Wednesday 26 August 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

PC Ross intimated the early, tragic death of Ross Lumsden who had long served the community as Traffic Warden. Those present expressed their sympathy to his family.

- a) Pippa spoke about incidents of under-15's drinking and taking drugs in the Floors Terrace area and asked what the procedure was in such cases. PC Ross explained that the policy was to take the individual to their home, speak to an adult and also make a Social Work referral.
- b) ASB issues in Parsonspool - The Police, EL C and Anti-bullying Unit are dealing with this.
- c) Corn Exchange Security – ELC are to further improve security of the building. Jacquie noted her difficulties in reporting an attempted break in at the building via 101. PC Ross noted that calls may not go through to a call centre other than Bilston and thus there may be less local knowledge. It may be necessary to revisit the idea of gates on the close although it is a public right of way.

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

A new bank mandate will be completed at end of this meeting.

Jacque has been refunded for RAGES membership.

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

### **a) Planning Matters:**

i) East Lothian Development Plan Main Issues Report: Has been approved by ELC.

Pippa reported that the MIR Report is moving on.

SESPLAN 2 is a further layer of Development Plan alongside the ELC Local Area Plan. There is an extensive demand for housing in East Lothian including additional housing for Dunbar. Members expressed concern as to how local infrastructure might be developed to meet such large demands. There were also concerns for local green areas. It was agreed that Pippa should complete the online questionnaire outlining the views and concerns of DCC which relate to those expressed as response to the MIR. **PS**

Consideration will be given at a later date as to whether to hold a Public meeting.

ii) Developments in conservation areas (various):

Adverts on Lauderdale House and Royal Mackintosh railings – ELC are investigating. The advert for the Bayswell Hotel at Lauderdale House has been removed.

iii) Beveridge Row =- no further information.

iv) 1 Shore Road (Cuckoo Wrasse) – SEPA have issues regarding flooding. Neighbouring properties have not been known to flood. DCC members again supported a change of use to residential to enable the listed property to be preserved. ELC Planning, SEPA and the Scottish Flood Forum are involved in discussions with the owner to try and move things forward.

v) Robertson Homes – Nothing further heard following information session on 20 May.

vi) Planning at Lawson Place – DCC views have been submitted to ELC. Cllr. Hampshire reported that there was ongoing discussion regarding whether the application is for affordable/ private housing as this will affect the number of parking spaces provided.

vii) Planning application by The Ridge - The application has been passed by ELC.

viii) Proposal for 9 flats and parking in Church Street. There is considerable local opposition. DCC objection had been submitted by Jacque. Pippa has objected on behalf of Dunbar Shore & Harbour Group. The application is linked to development of the Assembly Rooms.

The Report will not be ready for the September Planning Committee. It may be discussed at the Planning Committee in October.

**b) Twinning Links:**

Visitors from Lignieres came 30 July – 5 August and had visited “Lignieres Way” where a small celebration took place. A fund-raising Quiz Night will be held at the British Legion on 27 August.

There has been further correspondence from Belhaven, North Carolina who are interested in forming Sister City links. Jacquie has advised that we will consider this.

**c)A1 Safety:** There is still No response to Jacquie’s letter. She has written back to the Civil Servant following December A1 Safety Forum convened by Cllr Veitch to note that concerns are about safety South of Dunbar. Sign near Thistley Cross remains damaged. Jacquie attended the Safety Forum on 30 June and chased this up. There has been no further consideration of a bridge at Innerwick. The next A1 Forum will be on 4 December. Cllr. Veitch said that the Chief Executive of ELC was meeting with various agencies including Borders Council.

**d) Flags Policy:** ELC document was circulated and agreed at last meeting. Stephen reiterated that the ELC policy for building with 2 poles will be adhered to. There had been some coverage on the Heart of Dunbar Facebook Page and in “East Lothian Courier”..

**e) East Beach:** Pippa reported that a stone groin has been designed and guidance being taken from an engineer. The groin would need planning permission. Marine Scotland would need to agree to its erection. A groin would cost at least £100K Discussion is taking place on possible re-profiling of beach to hide the pipeline in the short term.

Kevin Thompson has a contract for kelp clearance at the beach.

**f) Community Resilience Planning:** Pippa advised that plans are in hand for a Resilience Day to be held at the Bleachingfield Centre on Saturday 24 October from 1 – 4p.m.

**g) Portrait of the Earl of Dunbar:** Stephen reported on progress being made to produce a photo of portrait held at Paxton House.

**h) Street Names:** Further suggestions are required as soon as possible. Jacquie suggested that some reference might be made to Black Agnes.

**i) Toilets:** There had been some negative coverage on the Heart of Dunbar Facebook page as some of their posters thought all shops/traders were to be involved – not just pubs and café which already provide toilets for their customers. It was agreed that the matter will be left to individual businesses if approached by members of the public in an emergency e.g when public toilets are closed as they were at Easter.

Toilet at Lauderdale Café – Cllr Veitch will chase up as to what plans were in hand for an external access to the toilets to be available during hours of closure.

Access to the public toilets at the Bleachingfield Centre was discussed. Again an issue when the building is closed as there is no external access.

Some posters on Heart of Dunbar had queried more availability of the Town House toilets to the public. Stephen noted that there are issues due to the need for staff to be on site due to the geography of the building as the toilets are on an upper floor.

**j) Waterloo Anniversary:** An E-mail had been circulated to members who had agreed that a shield to be given to the Artillery Unit who came to Dunbar for the event. Stephen reported that this is in hand. There had been some coverage in The Gunner and East Lothian Life.

**k) High Street Issues –** nothing further to report.

**l) 20's Plenty:** Herbert noted that there had been no progress due to the holiday period. A meeting will be arranged.

**m) Community Windpower:** There was consideration about a presentation on general matters e.g. Community Benefits following e mail communication from Dalry Community Council. It was agreed that this matter be dealt with under the Local Area Partnership as all local Community Councils are involved, particularly East Lammermuir.

It was also agreed to invite Anouska Woods, Project Co-ordinator for Be Green, to a future meeting for an update on the Be Green Project which includes advice on reducing energy consumption. **JB**

**n) Scottish Heritage Angels:** The nomination of Dunbar History Society by Will had not been successful.

## **7. Local Priorities: 2014 – 15 Budget.**

### **a. Updates**

i) Information boards –

Parish Church – This has been ordered. Planning Permission has been applied for.

Harbour – this has been re-done by Peter Blood.

Gun – this has also been re-done. The Gun itself may need further renovation in the future.

Pippa expressed enormous thanks to Stephen and Pauline for the hard work involved in the preparation of these boards. This was endorsed by the other members of the Community Council

ii) First Responders – Stephen had circulated a form after the last meeting and funding had been agreed.

Kilbungo Partnership – funding had been agreed at the last meeting. Sadly the team had been unable to travel due to Visa issues. The money will be held onto whilst the situation becomes clearer as the Rwandans would like to come at another time.

Benches at Yeomanry Memorial – Pippa and Alasdair will make a Civic Pride application.

**PS/AS**

**b. New Applications:** None

#### **8. Local Area Partnership:** Pippa

Meetings will be held on 20 and 31 August. Representatives have copies of the draft plan and it is intended to ratify this at the 31<sup>st</sup> August meeting. Pippa advised that she will have to step down as a Community Council representative as she is already Chair of LAP. Stephen will become full member. Another Community Council member is required as a 2<sup>nd</sup> substitute.

Pippa had circulated a Community Contacts list for corrections/additions.

**ALL**

There will be an East Lothian On the Move event at the Bleachingfield on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. 3-6.30 drop in and 6.30-8 Open Workshop. This will feed into the ELC Transport Strategy. It is noted that a number of groups like Sustaining Dunbar, RELBUS and RAGES have already done much work on this area.

**9. Casual Vacancies – Process:** Sue agreed to prepare an article for the local press informing the community that there were vacancies on the Community Council and outlining the skills required to enhance its work. Jacquie noted that she had had some approaches and she will ask those people to give more information on what skills they may have to bring to the Community Council. **SA/JB**

#### **10. Local Councillors' Reports:**

**N.Hampshire:**

Cllr Hampshire referred to the recent incident of sewage discharge at Belhaven Bay. This had taken place on 26/7. Scottish Water had not told SEPA until 31<sup>st</sup> July. SEPA had advised Neil Clark at ELC on 1/8 but had not tested the water until 3/8. Nick had advised Sam Christofferson at the Surf school. Cllr Hampshire, along with an ELC Environmental Health Officer and Neil Clark had met with SEPA and Scottish Water on Monday 10 August to discuss the matter. Scottish Water & SEPA were not happy that the public had been informed. According to Scottish Water & SEPA incidents fall into categories 1 – 5 and that there is no obligation to notify the public of anything between categories 1 -3. This particular incident had been categorised as a 3. It seems that this was according to a new protocol agreed by Scottish Water, SEPA and City of Edinburgh Council of which ELC were unaware. The Community Council felt that this was unacceptable and any leakage of sewage which might endanger health should be made public.

The Community Council agreed to raise this matter with the Scottish Environment Minister and Iain Gray MSP. Cllr Hampshire will give further detail to Jacquie of the incident.

**JB**

**M. Veitch:**

(a) **Parking at Station.** Scotrail has now taken over. There had been discussions in the past with Network Rail about extending parking at Foggos Yard. Cllr Veitch has a meeting with Scotrail in a few weeks' time to discuss car parking issues including the extension and removing/reducing the charge. Dunbar is the only Scotrail car park where there is a charge. Sue will attend this meeting and hopefully Stephen and Herbert (commitments permitting). Jacquie will also send a letter on behalf of the Community Council to Scotrail.

**JB**

b) **Leaflet on High Street closes** - is almost ready and Cllr Veitch hopes to bring copies to the next meeting.

**Cllr McLennan** – no report

Will Collin (by e mail) had raised the question of the condition of The Promenade. This will be included in the LAP.

Better use of the Town House will also be included in the LAP. It is noted that there is a community room which can be booked for meetings.

## **11. Reports from Committees/Meetings attended:**

**Day Centre: Gill. Wilson:** Registration with the Care Commission is dependent on certain alterations being carried out. Funding is being sought from ELC. However, a decision on this is being delayed until the Council is able to collate all information from all Day Centres at a meeting to be held on 2 September 2015.

**NHS Lothian Board Annual Review** Gill had attended this meeting which had highlighted the shortage of GPs, nurses and Health visitors amongst other issues.

## **12. Correspondence – previously circulated:**

Anouska Woods – Be Green Co-ordinator – further contact as Will had been to see her following publication of the unapproved July minutes. Jacquie had advised that DCC would discuss whether to have at a normal meeting or a special meeting to which other Community Councils in the Ward might be invited.

Dalry Community Council – Community Windpower community benefit issues.

Brake newsletters.

Scottish Government – Consultation on Creating a Fairer Society. Event in Glasgow on 16 September from 10.30 – 4 .

ELC – Scottish Older People Assembly Events in East Lothian.

ELC – Boundary Commission consultation. East Lothian to reduce from 23 – 22 Councillors. Dunbar and East Linton Wards unaffected. ELC have objected.

ELC – Recycling Advisor update.



Via Website – Calum Robertson – had heard of leaflets about a managed office initiative. Jacquie had advised she was not aware of this. Sue Anderson was aware of the office. Jacquie will give Sue contact details for Mr Robertson.

Via Website – Penny Morriss – seeking information on meetings/DCC – information had been supplied by Jacquie

Dunbar Traders – copy of letter to The Ridge re planning application

ELC – East Lothian On the Move, Dunbar Event

### **13. Any Other Business:**

1. Roads – Jacquie had reported a number of severe potholes and broken speed bumps around Belhaven which have been filled in/repaired.

2. Naomi Barnes – Had asked about a party of German school children being received at the Town House on Monday 3 October at 9 a.m. (Isabel will attend and possibly Stephen and Herbert) **IK**

3. Missing Tobys in High Street & elsewhere. Jacquie will contact Bill Elliot at Scottish Water about this. **JB**

4. Birds. Sue asked if there was a Council policy for the removal of seagull and magpie nests. A number of members noted an increased issue with the birds this year with the seagulls in particular, proving to be a great nuisance. Isobel will contact ELC.

**14. Date of next meeting:** Monday 21 September, 2015 at 7 p.m. in Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar.

Jacquie intimated apologies for this meeting.

