

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

### **Minutes of meeting held on Monday 19 December, 2016 in**

#### **Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar at 7 p.m.**

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

**Councillors in attendance:** N. Hampshire; M. Veitch

**Others present:** P.C. Gavin Ross; Linda Renton (niece of Jimmy Bain); M. Shaw; C. Ritchie (Press); M. Brown (Minutes)

**1.Apologies:** S. Anderson

**2.Minutes of meeting of 21 November:** These were approved by Alasdair Swan and seconded by Herbert Coutts.

**8 Local Priorities (b): Jimmy Bain Project-** (Discussed at this point to allow Mrs Renton, Jimmy's niece, to leave the meeting as she had travelled from Eyemouth).

Stephen Bunyan had circulated further information from Mark Beattie who had suggested commemoration of his connection to Dunbar with a plaque on The Foresters Arms where his father had been publican and a statue near the music room at the Grammar School where he had studied. Jimmy had had a high profile in the music industry internationally. He started his career in Dunbar before playing with a number of well known rock bands. The Community Council was fully supportive of a commemorative plaque being erected and agreed due consideration would be given to an application for financial assistance once relevant procedures were completed e.g. planning permission is in place. Jacquie Bell noted that a statue may not be so easy to put into place as the Grammar School is administered by FES. Stephen agreed to advise Mark Beattie of the Community Council's views. Mrs Renton said that Jimmy Bain's family and a number of his colleagues in Los Angeles were delighted that he was being recognised in this way and had indicated their willingness to contribute financially to this and any other commemorative project.

**SB**

Herbert was keen that a commemorative plaque scheme should be introduced in the town to celebrate other past residents of renown.

### **3. Minute of Sub-committees: Christmas Lights.**

Graham Adams had circulated a brief update report. He expressed thanks to the Community Council members, Sue Anderson, Pippa Swan, Alasdair Swan and George Robertson, who had assisted as stewards at the Switch On.

Tracey Brown has resigned from the position of Treasurer and thanks were given to her for her work over the last 2 years. John Whelans will take over as Treasurer after a hand over from Tracey.

Take down will be on 8<sup>th</sup> January with Winter Lights being the next priority.

Stephen, on behalf of everyone, congratulated the Christmas Lights Committee and volunteers for the outstanding display.

### **4. Police Report: PC Ross**

Road Safety – The tragic death of a 26yr old local female on the A1 was clearly felt by the whole community and our sympathies go out to her family and friends. Our roads policing colleagues are continuing with their enquiries into this.

There have been numerous reports of minor accidents in the town, some of which have been hit and run accidents and I'd remind people if they are involved in a bump, even minor, to stop and swap details or if the other vehicle is parked and unattended to report it to the police immediately.

Anti-social behaviour - On the evening of Saturday 10 December numerous youths were involved in anti-social behaviour in McDonalds then later on a number of street moving road works and damaging property. Enquiries are ongoing and youths will be charged.

Litter – No issues

Theft – Numerous thefts from local supermarket, all of alcohol and all will lead to charges being preferred.

On 2 December at Church Street a group of youths were seen trying to steal a motorbike. Between 2 and 5 December at the building site at the west end of Brodie Rd. a generator worth £3000 was stolen.

Other issues: On 15 December a report was received of a group of youths trying to pull down part of the Christmas lights at the east end of the High Street.

On 16 December a couple of reports were received of abusive youths on the High Street. Youth issues are clearly a prevalent problem. A number have been detained for thefts, mainly of push bikes, conveyed to Dalkeith, interviewed, arrested and charged. More detentions are planned.

A group of youths are also due to be detained regarding the issues in McDonalds and the ASB that followed.

Community officers are working in partnership with Grammar School staff regarding pupils smoking during the break; many of the youths smoking are also involved in drinking and ASB and local officers will take every opportunity to disrupt their behaviour by any means.

P.C. Ross said that there was a small group of approx. twenty 13-14 year olds who are regularly drinking and causing problems, particularly in the vicinity of McDonalds.

Jacque Bell raised the matter of cyclists who don't have lights on their bicycles in the dark. Many of them are of Grammar School age. PC Ross said this was an ongoing problem and the police did their best to educate such individuals.

On behalf of the Community Council, Stephen thanked the police for their continued actions and offered full support for their endeavours.

Jacque had circulated the CAPP priorities –

*Security of property in East Linton.*

*Festive holidays – anti-social behaviour*

*Link in with ELC regarding various road safety issues associated with the growth of the town.*

Next CAPP meeting – **31 January 2017.**

**5. Treasurer's Report – A. Swan:** Alasdair had circulated this previously - Approved.

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

### **a) Planning Matters.**

- i) Local Development Plan – Cllr Hampshire said development of the Local Development Plan was a lengthy process and the Council officers were currently working through objections. It is anticipated that the plan will be ready for adoption in early 2018. However, it will be possible to consider planning applications in the light of the proposed plan before then.
- ii) SESPLAN – Stage 2 Document – no further information.
- iii) Development at 52 High Street (Lothian Hotel) – Cllr Hampshire noted that discussions are ongoing regarding a fresh application which has now been submitted with some changes from the original. The Community Council will be asked for its views on the new plans in due course.
- iv) Beveridge Row – Jacque had spoken to Linda Ritchie at ELC. The application is not ready for determination this year. SEPA are seeking more information. Information is also being sought on arrangements for social housing and a number of other matters.
- v) Proposal for 9 flats and parking at Church St. – No further information.
- vi) Planning in Conservation areas – Jacque had further contacted David Taylor, Planning Enforcement Officer, about the Belhaven Bikes and Border Roofing ads.
- vii) Application at Newtonlees Farm – no further information.
- viii) Viridor – Jacque has contacted Chris Bruce, Chair of East Lammermuir Community Council about their suggestion of a joint meeting. They will arrange a meeting to which neighbouring Community Councils will be invited.

**b) Twinning Links.**

Lignieres – Jacquie had raised the funding of PVG checks for a proposed visit by the school in Lignieres to Dunbar in May 2017 with ELC/LAP and Strive. Cllr. Veitch had also raised the issue. Alice Tierney at the Grammar School had requested possible host families to come forward but it was unlikely that sufficient families would volunteer to host the 40 French pupils who wish to come. The matter is being progressed by the Twinning Association.

John Muir Connections – nothing to report.

**c) East Beach.** Nothing further at present.

**d) 20 MPH Zone.**

ELC Officers are working on the proposals.

Herbert asked about the 90 mins parking time which has been available on the High Street since 15 September. As yet, there are no signs to indicate this change. He asked how the lack of signage with the correct time information might impact on the public when the new Traffic Wardens commence their duties. Cllr. Veitch expected that the signage will be in place in January 2017. The Traffic Wardens' Statutory functions are expected to begin from 23 January. At present they have been giving advice notices only. The 5 wardens will cover all town centres as well as the coastal car parks.

**e) Winterfield Park.**

Pavilion - Awaiting a revised demolition date.

Orientation Plinth – George had applied to the ELC Civic Pride Fund and it is hoped to have an outcome in January 2017. Stuart Pryde has confirmed that ELC will take care of the VAT.

**f) Corn Exchange** – Pippa, Graham, Stephen, Jacquie, George and Cllr Veitch had attended a meeting on 30 November. The meeting had included a visit to the Corn Exchange. The majority feeling was that this building needed to be made wind and watertight as soon as possible with the roof being the most urgent issue. It was hoped that if the building was eventually renovated it will be used to house the Christmas Lights and also act as a workshop for the Christmas Lights team. Any renovations would need to be done in stages with funding sought for each stage individually. The last estimate for bringing the building up to standard had been in the region of £411,000 in June 2013.

Paul Ianetta of ELC was to discuss the situation further with Liz McLean (Manager: Projects, Estates and Asset Management) who had been unable to attend the meeting.

Herbert felt that alternatives should be considered for the Christmas Lights. However no suggestions were forthcoming at this stage.

**g) Belhaven Hospital.** Jacquie had circulated minutes of the meeting. A further meeting date, provisionally for February 2017, is to be confirmed.

**h) Condition of Parish Churchyard.** Will Collin reported that one drop kerb is now in place. His feeling was that a second would be sufficient. A ramp has also been created for easier access.

**i) War Memorial.**

Herbert gave an update. The sub-committee had contacted the War Memorial Trust in London and Helen Bowman, Conservation Officer for Scotland, will join a meeting to be held at the end of January 2017. A good start had been made to the list of additional names. Council officials have been very supportive. A member of the Local History Society has been asked to join the working group.

George expressed his opinion that it was not necessary to add further names to the Memorial and it should only be refurbished as it stands.

**j) Dunbar High Street.**

Pippa reported that the improvements funded by the Local Area Partnership are completed. Graham reported that power points will be installed early next year for the Winter Lights display.

**k) Town Maintenance.**

- i) Tobies – Jacquie is continuing to chase Scottish Water about repairs.
- ii) Street Lights – Jacquie has reported a number of faulty lights which have been repaired. Jimmy Wilson, Community Warden, has also been checking for faulty lights after discussion at CAPP.
- iii) Wall between Hillside Hotel and Newhouse Terrace. Jacquie had further contacted Paul Zochowski at ELC who had contacted Roads about the state of the wall. Jacquie had also chased Roads about the situation. She has now heard from Dave Northcott at ELC who has advised that part of the wall is the property of Lammermuir House. The Manager has been contacted and they will ask the Estates Dept. of Four Seasons Care Homes to look to repair the wall. Jacquie had also contacted Four Seasons Head Office direct about the matter.
- iv) Overgrown hedge at Lammermuir Crescent. The tenant had been advised by the ELC Housing Officer that they were in infringement of their tenancy regulations by virtue of the hedge blocking the pavement. Part of the hedge has now been cut back. The situation will be monitored by ELC staff.
- v) Self sown bushes in the wall at The Sycamores (Bleachingfield). Residents at the flats had also complained to Dundas Estates, the developers, about the bushes which are rooted in the retaining wall cement and potentially weakening the structure. Sales Office staff had said they would ask for the bushes to be removed. The situation will be monitored.

vi) Scottish Water had done further work to the water system at Edinburgh Rd/Shore Rd resulting in local road closures and temporary traffic lights. Jacquie had had contact with residents, Scottish Water and NHS management about the situation.

vii) Vandalised bench at corner of Belhaven Rd/Knockenhair Rd. This has been removed and a replacement is awaited. This is expected to be in the New Year.

#### **l) Street naming.**

It was noted that the name The Sycamores had been given as a postal address to the flats at the Bleachingfield development without reference to the Community Council. Cllr Veitch agreed to investigate as to how this had happened. **MV**

#### **m) Bear Sculpture.**

Herbert, Stephen, Jacquie, George and Gill Wilson had met with Ken Ross. The Bear proposed for a Hallhill Developments owned site near the A1 is well advanced and a planning application will be made soon. Cllr. Hampshire confirmed that Transport Scotland will be involved in the process.

Mr Ross is willing to consider another artwork related to planning gain funding for art at a future development and is willing to consider, with the community, an appropriate siting for that work e.g. Winterfield Park.

George had circulated maps and Jacquie a note of the meeting. It was agreed that Jacquie would forward the meeting notes to Mr Ross as he had requested. **JB**

#### **n) Bowe Cup Award.**

Will Collin reported that he had spoken to Mr Raffaelli and a sub group of Dunbar Grammar School staff with a Dunbar background will be formed to consider possible pupils to be nominated for the award. A decision should be made by the end of March 2017. Alasdair noted that nominations should be from other groups as well as those achieving in sport. It was noted that the 2016 winner, Heather Cameron had been awarded the cup for her voluntary work and other winners had achieved in drama and dance. Community Councillors were also reminded that the award can be given to young adults and to those who may attend schools other than Dunbar Grammar.

**o) 2 Casual Vacancies.** It was agreed to defer action until the New Year.

### **8. Local Priorities**

#### **a) Updates:**

*Dunbar Pipe Band Competition* – further information had been requested on this application which had been submitted nearly 6 months after the event. As no information has been forthcoming the 2016 application will not be considered further. The applicants may make

an application for 2017 which should be submitted well in advance of the competition due to be held in May.

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

*Mark Beattie - Jimmy Bain Project:* discussed earlier and noted above

*Dementia Friendly Dunbar Carers' Group* – request for £250 towards refreshments for the Carers' Group meetings. Agreed.

**9. Local Area Partnership.**

Next meeting to be held on 23 January 2017.

Education Attainment monies had been agreed. A Director post for the Summer School project will be advertised soon.

**10. Community Engagement by DCC.**

Jacque had contacted Claire Bewsey, the graphic designer, to advise that Dunbar Community Council did not wish to use her services at the present time.

Website/Social media – George had re-vamped the Website with assistance from Philip Immirzi. The new site is now live and feeds into Facebook and Twitter. The web address remains the same. George was thanked for his work on this.

Jacque had attended an interesting taster session on Video media engagement for community groups arranged by Jo McNamara. This may become a longer term project which the Community Council may be able to make use of.

**11. Local Councillors' Reports**

Neither Cllr Veitch or Cllr Hampshire had anything to report.

1. Jacque noted the continued lack of availability of Perryman's bus timetable information at bus stops, particularly around Belhaven and including the main shelter at Belhaven High Street. This was an issue as there had been a significant change in bus timings from 12<sup>th</sup> December. She had contacted Perryman's via their website about the matter. Cllr Veitch was not aware that there was a problem but agreed to investigate.

**MV**

2. Work at Spott Road railway bridge – Cllr Hampshire advised that the work was for the creation of a Pelican type crossing. ELC Transportation is also looking at ways of reducing the speed of traffic on this road.

**Cllr McLennan** – no report

## **12. Town Structures at risk.**

**St Anne's Church Hall -** Proposal for Arts Studio. Pippa had circulated correspondence from Kevin Heffernan regarding the possibility of using St Anne's Church Hall as studio space for artists. Stephen had circulated a letter on behalf of St Anne's Church. The Church had had planning permission granted in 2016 to demolish the hall and for the erection of a bungalow on the site. All relevant permissions had been granted e.g. by Historic Scotland.

**Horse Mill** – Pippa had been contacted by a member of the public about the very poor state of this structure which had been restored a number of years ago. It is currently fenced off. Paul Zochowski has confirmed that it is in private ownership (ITEC) and that the owner is responsible for the maintenance of this listed structure. Stephen will contact Ian Torrance indicating the Community Councils interest. **SB**

## **13. Reports from Committees/Meetings attended.**

**Day Centre** – Alterations to the building have been deferred. The Management Committee is in discussions with the Care Inspectorate/ELC regarding inspection requirements which may impinge on the service provided for more able users of the Centre. Jacquie, Stephen and Gill and fellow Trustee, Andrew Brown, had met service users with Bryan Davies and Julia White of ELC to discuss the implications of Registration.

**Community Councillor Training** – Jacquie and George had attended this useful evening.

**Safe and Vibrant Communities Partnership Meeting** - Jacquie had attended. She had circulated information from presentations on the Community Empowerment Act and on the East Lothian Volunteer Project and Strategy which is being led by Strive. There had also been discussion on road safety and Jacquie will now be included in the quarterly ELC Road Safety meetings at the invitation of Alan Stubbs of Transportation.

## **14. Correspondence – previously circulated.**

**Miriam Anderson** – Community Hospital update

**Lilian Pryde** – Scottish Civic Trust Awards.

**Lilian Pryde** – Seasonal greetings.

**Tracey Largue** – Christmas Lights Exhibition – opening event invitation.

**Sandy Baptie ELC** – Winter preparations

**Sandy Baptie** – Weather forecast to enable seasonal planning

**Donald Budge (Dunbar Traders/Dunbar Lyric)** – Seeking information on the Corn Exchange meeting.

**RAGES Rag**

**Edinburgh Airport** – set up of Edinburgh Noise Monitoring Board.

**Brake Newsletter**



**Simon Glover** – request for letter of support for Dunbar Waste Innovation Centre (Zero Waste Dunbar). Pippa had already sent a letter of support from the Local Area Partnership.

**Sophie Daniels** – Outcome of the consultation on the soldiers of Dunbar 1650 Battle

**Kevin Hefferman** – future of St Anne’s Church Hall.

**Perryman’s Buses** – new vehicles and new 253 timetable.

**Improvement Service Community Council Project** – Scottish Government Consultation on Barriers to Community Participation in the Planning System

**ELHA** – Winter newsletter.

**Scottish Soldiers’ Project** – Seasonal greetings.

**Rev Keith Mills** – Seasonal greetings from Dunbar Baptist Church

**15. Any Other Competent Business:**

Stephen wished all members well for Christmas and the forthcoming New Year.

**16 Date of next meeting: Monday 16 January 2017.**

The meeting closed at 8.55p.m.