

ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held on Monday 18 January 2016

In Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar, at 7 p.m.

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

Councillors in attendance: Norman Hampshire

Others in attendance: Graham Adams (Christmas Lights Committee); Dr Liz Hare;

C. Ritchie (Press); M. Brown (Minutes)

Stephen Bunyan welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the CC in the New Year.

Congratulations were offered to Diane Watt who had been awarded MBE for services to the Children's Panel in Mid & East Lothian. She is a past Chair of Dunbar Grammar School Parent Council.

Obituaries:

Douglas Laird RIBA (1932 – 2015). Member of Dunbar Town Council 1973-75. Died on 9 December 2015.

Rev. Alexander (Sandy) Glass OBE (1932 – 2015). Rector of Dingwall Academy. Dux of Dunbar Grammar School in 1949. Died 25 December 2015.

Resignation: Isobel Knox has stepped down from the Community Council due to other commitments. Stephen Bunyan had written, thanking her for her contribution during her term of office. Isobel's resignation creates a casual vacancy. Also, a replacement substitute member for the Local Area Partnership is needed. It was agreed to defer a decision on the vacancy until a future meeting. Alasdair Swan offered to be the replacement for the LAP and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

1.Apologies: Councillor Michael Veitch.

2.Presentation: **Dr Liz Hare** – **Public Water Fountains.**

Dr Hare was seeking the Community Council's support to re-introduce public drinking water fountains. These had once been a commonplace feature in public spaces but had fallen out of use, partly due to hygiene concerns. Dr Hare showed modern day examples. She suggested suitable locations such as the Bleachingfield Centre and at the start of the John Muir Way at Winterfield Park. There was a general discussion in which members expressed

an interest in considering the idea further. It was noted that a former fountain is situated near the Hillside Hotel and that the Greyfriars Bobby statue in Edinburgh once provided water for both humans and dogs. Dr Hare agreed to produce a short paper for consideration by the Community Council. Cllr Hampshire agreed to check the views of ELC officers e.g. any health and safety issues. Stephen Bunyan thanked Dr Hare for her presentation.

3. Minute of meeting held on 18 December 2015 – Taken as read.

4. Minutes of Sub-committees (Civic Week, Christmas Lights): None available. Civic Week Committee had not met. Christmas Light Committee had just met and minutes are in preparation.

Christmas Lights – Stephen Bunyan expressed thanks to all involved for the successful display over the Festive period, and particularly for their efforts against the elements on the night of the Switch On.

Graham Adams agreed that it had been a challenging year. The new LED lights were a great improvement and required less maintenance. The upgrade had cost £3,345. However, new steel wires across the street were needed as a matter of urgency on the majority of the displays as well as replacement junction boxes. The possible cost of this would be £9,305 plus VAT. The annual running costs have increased considerably. He said that the present team of volunteers were enthused and ready but needed the support of the Community Council.

Sue Anderson explained that whilst there should be sufficient funds to cover costs for this year's display a more permanent form of fund-raising needed to be implemented to enable the continuation of the Lights. Community Windpower had given £5000 this year but this could not be considered to be a regular annual donation. Stephen Bunyan agreed to discuss some possible financial support with Martin Gray at Viridor. Sue suggested that £2000 for Civic Week might be used instead for Christmas Lights.

There was a long discussion about the future funding of Christmas Lights. Some members expressed concern that a large portion of the Local Priorities money might be taken up in funding the lights and thus leave less money for other groups in the town.

It was agreed that the whole matter of financing the Lights needs to be considered further. Sue agreed to draw up and circulate a Budget for 2016-17 showing Revenue and Capital expenditure as well as projection figures for the next 5 years. The Community Council can then consider the information and develop a strategy on how to take the matter forward. Assurances were given that the Community Council was fully committed to supporting the

Christmas Lights Committee. The sum of £3,345 already paid out of the Local Priorities Fund would still be deemed to be committed pro tem. **AS/SA/SB**

5. Police Report: No Police Officer present. Stephen Bunyan had received a report which was read out.

Road Safety: A number of parking tickets have been issued on the High St. as part of an ongoing parking initiative.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

- A number of reports of ASB have been received regarding the High Street area, mostly relating to youths loitering in the vicinity of stairways.
- On 1 January 2016 the Nativity Scene at St Anne's Church was damaged.
- On 7 January a 13 year old male from Dunbar Grammar School was taken to hospital after consuming tablets he had purchased from a 14 year old male. The 13 year old male recovered and the 14 year old has been reported for culpable and reckless conduct.

Litter: No issues.

Theft:

- During the afternoon of 15/12/15 a female was seen by staff to steal a watch and brooch from Cromwell's Jewellery Shop. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.
- On 18/12/15 a shoplifting occurred at ASDA whereby a male was seen to steal electrical items. Enquiries are ongoing to trace and charge the male concerned.
- On 22/12/15 several youths were seen to steal alcohol from the Co-op, Countess Crescent. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.
- On 24/12/15 a BMX bike was stolen from Bowmont Terrace. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.
- On 27/12/15 staff at ASDA reported the theft of clothing. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.
- On 28/12/15 a child's mountain bike was stolen from the rear of 148 High St. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.
- During daytime on 13/1/16 a bottle of vodka was stolen from the Co-op, 21 High Street. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.

Other Issues:

- During the daytime on 20/12/15 a vehicle was damaged whilst parked within Splash Car Park. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.
- At closing time on 20/12/15 staff at ASDA called Police in relation to a male who appeared confused and could not speak English. He was taken to Dalkeith Police Station where he was identified by fingerprint and found to be an illegal immigrant from Iran. He was handed over to the UK Borders Agency.
- During the evening of 24/12/15 youths were seen damaging the windscreen and bonnet of a parked vehicle in Victoria Street. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.
- On 27/12/15 a male was issued with a Fixed Penalty ticket for drinking alcohol in public whilst another male was arrested for a breach of the peace.
- Overnight between 29/12/15 and 30/12/15 a fire was discovered in a shed at the rear of Belhaven Parish Church causing over £1300 damage to tables and chairs within. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.
- Overnight between 16/1/16 and 17/1/16 several parked cars in North Road had wing mirrors damaged. Enquiries are ongoing to trace potential culprits.

CAPP Priorities

Dog fouling – enforcement, signage & publicity throughout Ward area.

Dunbar High Street ASB – leaflet drop encouraging persons to report Anti- Social Behaviour etc. Patrols relating to youth related ASB in vennels and post pub dispersal noise nuisance.

Parking issue – enforcement of time limit parking in Dunbar and East Linton (especially on Saturday mornings) and assessment of obstructive parking in Stenton following complaints.

Next CAPP meeting Monday 25 January 2016.

Jacquie Bell had received a number of complaints regarding inconsiderate parking in the Car Park at Dunbar Primary School. She had passed these on to PC Ross and the issue will be raised at the CAPP meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report: A. Swan.

1. Molly Keith Fund – carried forward to the next meeting.
2. The General Fund balance is £351.34.
3. Financial reports from the Christmas Lights and Civic Week committees were requested.
4. 15 projects have been supported from Local Priorities this year with grants totalling £8,527.56. Cllr. Hampshire agreed to check whether the Rugby Club request is still required. Alasdair Swan will also check the situation with Lilian Pryde. **AS/NH**

7. Matters arising (Not on Agenda):

a). Planning matters –

- i) SESPLAN – Main Issues 2 – no further information.
- ii) Development at 52 High Street (Lothian Hotel) - no further information.
- iii) Beveridge Row – This has been included as a development area following the special ELC Main Issues Report meeting. Jacquie Bell reported that the area had been flooded since December, particularly over Christmas/New Year.
- iv) 1 Shore Road (Cuckoo Wrasse) – no further information.
- v) Robertson Homes – no further information.
- vi) Proposal for 9 flats and parking at Church Street – Jacquie Bell had again contacted Keith Dingwall who advises that there is still no Planning Committee date. Cllr Hampshire noted that there are issues in that the applicant does not own the land they wish to develop on.
- vii) Proposal for 9 flats and 1 house at High Street (formerly Smith's bakery) – no further information.

b) Twinning Links:

Lignieres – AGM 23 February

Correspondence from Belhaven, North Carolina. Jacquie Bell has written and is waiting for a response.

c) A1 Safety: Cllr Veitch not present and thus no update on junction improvements etc.

d) East Beach: Pippa has requested a Project Team meeting to take the matter forward. There has been considerable erosion to the sea wall and Lamer Street is vulnerable. Consideration is to be given to a groin which could be used to regulate sand imported from elsewhere. **PS/NH**

e) Street names: There is a proposal to consider the names of former Provosts which have not been used previously. Stephen Bunyan will circulate a list of existing street names to avoid duplication. **SB**

f) High Street issues : Area Partnership meeting is now on 10 March at Dunbar Grammar School.

g) 20s Plenty:

Herbert Coutts circulated a first draft of the proposed survey which was approved with minor amendments. The Sub-committee will meet to take the matter forward and to make arrangements for a Public Meeting towards the end of February. Local Councillors, Police, and an official from East Lothian Council will be invited to attend. It was also suggested that an official or Councillor from Edinburgh City Council might be asked to come to give an idea of the development of 20 mph areas in Edinburgh.

A Public opinion survey (on the street and through shops/other public places will also be carried out and letters will be written to the Parent Councils of both Dunbar Primary and Grammar Schools. The use of Survey Monkey was also discussed.

h) Winterfield Pavilion: Demolition has been agreed by ELC. It was noted that an On Line petition had been set up concerned at the loss of the building. Sue Anderson said that she had met with Ruth Elford, a local resident, who had set up the petition and she has been invited to attend the next Friends of Winterfield meeting.

i) Station Car Park: Cllr Veitch not present to give any update.

j) Council Chamber Table: Jacquie Bell had contacted Jo Moulin re repair/replacement. Will Collin had suggested use of the Common Good Fund to finance this. Jo had responded that she had checked the Common Good and that there was nothing left in the current year's budget and so an application could not be made until 1st April. In the meantime she was investigating options for obsolete ELC furniture to see if anything might be suitable. She was also looking into new furniture options. However, furniture must be light enough to be moved by one person to allow full use of the Council Chamber for marriage ceremonies and other events which are a valuable source of income.

k) Dunbar Common Good - Jacquie Bell had written via Cllr Veitch for information on the current Common Good Fund which is financially limited and of which the 3 local councillors are the Trustees. Cath McKenzie had written on behalf of Cllr Veitch who is away to say that she was looking into this and that Cllr Veitch would be able to provide more information once there was feedback from ELC officials. Jacquie had also raised for consideration Community Council concerns regarding the maintenance of Common Good properties like the Corn Exchange and Winterfield Pavilion.

8. Local Priorities: 2015-16 Budget.

a) Updates.

Benches at Yeomanry Memorial –The Work is in hand and £500 from the Community Council has been agreed. ELC have taken them away for restoration.

Portrait of the Earl of Dunbar- Framing is completed. A location has to be agreed.

North Light Arts – Susie Goodwin and Hannah Lavery had been asked to attend tonight for further discussion on the application presented in December 2015. Nothing further had been heard.

Christmas Lights -£3345 has been used to underwrite costs

Rugby Club – no further information. Cllr Hampshire will check if the £500 is still needed. **NH**

b) New Applications:

Youth Music – request for **£350** for repairs and maintenance of instruments. Agreed.

Dementia Friendly Dunbar – request for **£250** for the provision of teas, biscuits etc. at weekly carers meetings. Agreed.

9. Scottish Government Police Service Consultation:

Community Councillors noted a number of concerns e.g. reduction in Community Beat Officers, Community Officers having a wider remit of tasks, Community Officers no longer able to always be present at Community Council meetings, issues in contacting 101. It was agreed that Pippa Swan will submit the views of the Community Council to the consultation.

PS

10. Local Area Partnership:

The Annual Public Meeting on 11 January had seen a reasonable attendance. Posters and information are now at the Bleachingfield Centre as well as comment cards for the public to express their views on the proposals in the Local Area Plan and actions to date.

The High Street meeting is on 10 March at the Grammar School.

11. Licensing:

Application for Premises Licence by Dunbar Garden Centre. Jacquie Bell had sent a response based on the replies from Community Council members.

12. Local Councillors' Reports:

N. Hampshire

1. The Council has been considering the Annual Budget. Difficult choices will need to be made. It is hoped to protect as many services as possible but cuts will be unavoidable.
2. Petition opposing Council's recycling boxes – Cllr Hampshire said that the boxes had been chosen in preference to wheelie bins which have been found to have issues in other areas. Boxes allow a clearer view of what is being recycled. This reduces the time spent sorting and improves the quality of materials and the revenue from sale. If materials become mixed and contaminated they may need to go to landfill. Penny Morriss raised the question of flimsy covers on the boxes. It was suggested that perhaps the "used" covers could be replaced automatically. Cllr. Hampshire said that the Council is trying its best to improve the service and maintain the standard of recycling so that targets can be reached.

M Veitch – no report. He has been on holiday

P McLennan – no report

13. Reports from Committees/Meetings attended:

Day Centre – Gill Wilson reported that a new Depute Manager (formerly Asst. Co-ordinator) has been appointed. There was still great concern about the lack of new referrals. Manager Alison Lange has been asked to report daily vacancies on a weekly basis to Julia White at the Integrated Partnership.

Viridor Credits – Viridor Credits HQ in Taunton remain unwilling to change from their plan to set up a centralised panel meeting at Eurocentral. Jacquie Bell had written to John Lockwood the Chairman with concern that local members will not be able to continue and thus there will be a loss of local knowledge for applications from East Lothian and Berwickshire. She had suggested the continuation of 2 panels looking at Scotland wide applications. However, the response had been negative. The last meeting as presently constituted will be in February. Herbert Coutts suggested that Iain Gray MSP should be informed of the situation.

JB

Viridor Liaison – Stephen Bunyan reported on the running of the plant and on the Energy from Waste Plant construction of which is progressing well.

14. Correspondence – previously circulated:

Christmas greetings received from:- Provost Broun-Lindsay; Be Green; Lilian Pryde and RAGES.

SP Energy Network – information on cableworks near Torness.

Zero Waste Dunbar – update.

Lilian Pryde – information on Carers Identification Event, GP Scottish Patient Participation Group and Scottish Health Council.

Via website – Complaint from Colin Cassidy that Saltire is no longer being flown from the Town Hall.

Via website – Complaint from Edie Barbour that Saltire is no longer being flown.

It was noted by Stephen Bunyan that two Saltires had flown on St Andrew's day and one every day since.

ELC Licensing – application for premises licence at Dunbar Garden Centre. (see above)

RAGES Rag.

Via Website – Dunbar Golf Club seeking Civic Week dates – supplied.

Association of East Lothian Community Councils – information. Meeting on 28 January.

Tam Fowler -Veterans Medal – application forms for badges in support of this campaign.

15. AOCB:

Jacquie has reported a number of road and lighting faults.

Thanks were expressed to George Robertson for his work in improving the Community Council's website.

16. Date of next meeting: This will take place at **7 p.m. on Monday 15 February 2016** in Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.