

ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 21st August at 7pm in the Council

Chamber, Town House, Dunbar

1) Sederunt/Apologies

Present - Stephen Bunyan (Chair), Jacquie Bell (Secretary/Minutes), Alasdair Swan (Treasurer), Pippa Swan, Herbert Coutts, Will Collin, Gill Wilson, Sarah Beattie-Smith, Ian Hamilton, Graham Adams,

Councillors Present – Cllr Norman Hampshire, Cllr Sue Kempson

Others Present – Kristin Voss (Redcurrant Housing Co-operative), Cameron Ritchie (Press), Mike Shaw, Gareth Morgan

Apologies – George Robertson (Vice-Chair), PC Gavin Ross

a) Tributes

Wilma Brennan. Wilma was the wife of Donald Brennan who for many years taught at the Grammar school. They had moved to Lignieres and were very active with the Twinning with Dunbar. Wilma had died suddenly in July. Stephen Bunyan had sent a message of sympathy to Donald.

Peter Armstrong. Peter had died in August after a period of illness. Although he lived near Spott and was a member of East Lammermuir Community Council he and his wife Jenny were very involved in Dunbar activities. Peter taught French at Belhaven Hill School. He was active in Twinning, Rotary, CAPP, RELBUS and many other things.

b) Resignation

Sue Anderson had resigned. Stephen had sent a note of thanks to her in accepting the resignation. Members noted their sadness regarding the resignation and it was hoped that Sue might return to the Community Council in the future. It was agreed that a gift/card should be arranged as a token of thanks for all her hard work for both the Community Council and Civic Week. Jacquie Bell and Pippa Swan will organise this. **JB/PS**

Stephen noted that the Community Council had 3 options :- to do nothing, advertise for a replacement or co-opt a member without voting rights for particular skills/expertise they may have. Members should consider this for a decision to be made at the September meeting. **ALL**

2) Presentation/Discussion – Redcurrant Housing Co-operative

Kristin Voss gave information on the recently formed Co-operative. Members are currently living in Edinburgh but they are interested in moving to East Lothian and possibly Dunbar. They are exploring possibilities with a view to a property that may be shared by a small group of people. If they came to Dunbar they would be keen to play a part in the local community. A mortgage for a property would be held by the Co-operative as a legal body rather than by individual members. Members would be chosen by the Group on how they fitted with others e.g. skills rather than on the money they had

available to invest. There are similar projects in Edinburgh and other parts of the UK. The Group is aware of the Co-housing group already being developed in East Lothian but the ideas of how they would be set up do differ even though they could offer each other mutual supports. The Community Council will be kept abreast on progress of the project.

3) Minutes of Meeting of July 17th 2017

a) **Genevieve Rabiacz** – had clarified by e mail that the damaged drain/culvert is between Tamar/Rosebank House and not between Tamar and the Cala site.

b) **Will Collin** advised that the wording for the Birthplace Exhibition had been by Duncan Smeed only.

4) Minutes of Sub Committees

Christmas Lights – Graham Adams had circulated a report. Further improvements will be carried out in September and October. Discussions are ongoing with ELC for street closures and permits for this year's works e.g. for erection and switch on. A new Treasurer, John Whelan, is taking over. He is already a bank signatory. Members thanked Graham and the Team for their work with the summer banners and bunting.

Civic Week – Sue Anderson had resigned as Convenor and she will need to be replaced. A small group wishes to carry on. Linda Shardlow of Crossreach had been in contact with Sue and Jacquie regarding a Craftbombing event for Civic Week 2018. Information on this idea will be passed on to the new Civic Week organiser when one is in place. Alasdair Swan noted that Civic Week had made a small surplus which will be carried forward to future years thanks to Sue's management of the budget.

5) Minute Secretary

Stephen had been given the name of a possible replacement for Margaret Brown by Alison Cosgrove of Dunpender Community Council. Jacquie will follow this up to see if the person is interested. **JB**

6) Police Report

Jacquie had circulated a written report from PC Ross on incidents between 17th July and 20th August.

Ward Priorities

Road Safety – no issues

Antisocial Behaviour – Complaints had been received on a number of evenings of youths using the new gazebo at Dunbar Primary John Muir Campus, drinking alcohol and leaving a mess. There have been patrols but no youths have been traced to date. A female had been arrested in Dunbar for breaching the terms of her ASBO and had appeared in court.

Litter – no issues

Theft – There had been a small number of shoplifting reports, mostly for alcohol. There had been one theft of a bottle of spirits from a public house. The suspect had been traced and charged. Clothing had been stolen from the Original Factory Store. The suspect has been identified and will be

traced and charged.

Other issues – The Shows at Winterfield had been very busy on the Friday and Saturday evening. The Police had kept an eye but there were no issues. Pubs had also been busy at the weekend but there were no issues. Generally, the month had been reasonably quiet with few youth related calls.

CAPP Priorities from 27th July

Speeding in Innerwick and Stenton – speed checks to be carried out

Speeding in East Linton

Hedging blocking paths in West Barns and Stenton

Next Meeting – 29th August 2017

7) Treasurer's Report

Alasdair Swan had circulated his Report

The Bank balance stood at £1381-79 from which payments were due for RAGES Subscription, Awards certificates and frames, Awards reception costs.

The General Fund Accounts were ready for independent examination. It was agreed that Alasdair will approach John Sparksman to provide this service again. **AS**

8) Matters Arising

a) Planning Matters

i) *Local Development Plan* – no further information. The Reporter's Inquiry is still to take place.

ii) *SESPLAN – Stage 2 Document* – no further information. In the meantime approval has been given to the Edinburgh City Region application. Cllr Hampshire noted that there will be no funded projects from the City Region deal in the Dunbar area.

iii) *Development at 52 High Street (Lothian Hotel)*. An altered application is still to be submitted. Some members thought the development of this site may be linked to the future of the Abbey Church which is currently in the same ownership.

iv) *Assembly Rooms/Church Street* – Jacquie had circulated Development Guidelines for the site from Paul Zochowski at ELC. Suggested options to allow development of the Assembly Rooms include use of the Coastguard site for parking. In discussion Pippa, suggested that the Assembly Room site was large enough to be developed as a single unit even without the agreement of one owner who cannot be contacted. Other members shared concerns. It was agreed that Paul Zochowski would be invited to attend a future Community Council meeting. **JB**

v) *Viridor* – There is still no end user for the heat. Cllr Hampshire advised that ELC are trying to help Viridor explore possibilities.

vi) *Application at Newtonlees Farm*. This had not come to the August Planning Committee. It may come forward in September. Concerns have been expressed on social media. Members understand the need for further burial ground but remain against the housing proposed to enable it. Herbert Coutts suggested the formation of a small group to look at alternative cemetery sites. It was agreed

that this will involve Herbert, Ian Hamilton and Jacquie. **HC/JB/IH**

vii) Robertson/Avant Homes – Jacquie and Cllr Hampshire had both been seeking information from Scottish Water regarding alternative options for sewage disposal. Bill Elliot of Scottish Water had noted that a Robertson Homes engineer is still working on this. In the meantime, houses are being occupied at the site. Bill Elliot had still not confirmed to Jacquie if the houses should be occupied before sewer infrastructure is in place. Jacquie will continue to chase this matter. **JB**

In the meantime, application 17/00014/OAP had been registered w/c 14th August. This sought to remove the condition for a S75 Educational contribution for the affordable homes at the site. Cllr Hampshire confirmed that this was 60 properties. It was agreed that the Community Council would object to the removal of this condition. It was felt that all units should contribute to the costs of Education infrastructure. Jacquie will advise ELC of the Community Council views. **JB**

viii) Lairds' House, North Road. Jacquie had contacted Emma Taylor at ELC. Approval had been given for demolition of the house and replacement by 3 new houses. However, the house had since been sold for renovation which was the vendor's preferred option. A separate plot of land for one new property had also been sold.

ix) Dunbar Golf Club – no further information

x) Dolphin Hotel – Planning approval had been given w/c 14th August

xi) Hillside Hotel – Still to be determined

xii) Battleblent House – Still to be determined

xiii) Cala Development, Belhaven. Jacquie had circulated a copy of the Landscape Plan agreed with ELC by Cala.

Jacquie had contacted Bill Elliot for clarification as to whether houses could be built before the sewer works were completed (as had been stated by Kirsty Thin of Scottish Water at the March meeting) and was still awaiting a response.

4 way traffic signals were causing problems in the area.

xiv) Planning in Conservation Area – David Taylor at Planning was following up retrospective applications for new signage at McColls, Dunbar Value and Scoobie Snacks as well as repainting of the Flux Gallery.

xv) 17/00323/P – Application by the Ridge for works at the rear of 72-88 High Street – still to be determined.

Xvi) 17/00488/PM – Erection of 73 houses and 8 flats on land south of Brodie Road. Jacquie had submitted the views of the Community Council. Still to be determined.

xvii) 17/00516P – Alterations at 8 Seafield Crescent, Belhaven. Approval had been given to these alterations on 4th August. There was concern that the changes to the listed Arts and Crafts building had been agreed without discussion by the Planning Committee despite objections by both the Community Council and the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland. Jacquie had now submitted objections to a separate application for Listed Building Consent as had AHSS. It was agreed that Jacquie would also write to Historic Environment Scotland with the concerns of the Community

Council.

xviii)17/00585/P Demolition of a fence and erection of a dwelling at Manor Gardens, Belhaven.

Jacquie had circulated information. This plot has been derelict for some years having been a parterre at the Plants from the Past Nursery. There are 5 other infill properties nearby which were erected some years ago and erection of another house would tidy up the area.

Xix) Bear. It was expected that refusal of this application would be appealed to a meeting of the ELC Review Body which is made up of 3 Councillors.

xx) Grammar School Extension. Building work has been delayed. It seems that there has been a delay in completing paperwork for the PPP agreement. Work may not now be completed until summer 2018. Cllr Hampshire noted that it is hoped that there will be as little disruption as possible for pupils and every effort will be made to ensure Health and Safety matters are attended to.

xxi) Jacquie had been granted a free place to attend a Planning Seminar on Priorities for Infrastructure and Planning with the Chief Planner on September 14th.

c)Twinning Links

Lignieres. The Committee had been saddened by the deaths of Wilma Brennan and Peter Armstrong.

Adrian Baert had had a successful visit to Ruchlaw Farm. Clare Mackenzie and Ruth Paterson from DGS had visited Lignieres during the summer.

John Muir Links The book about Muir produced by DPS pupils is to have a refresh and be published in America.

d)East Beach Cllr Hampshire noted that an application for the Marine Licence for the rock armour work on the main sewer pipe had been submitted. It is hoped that work can be completed before Christmas. Pippa noted thanks to Dave Northcott of ELC for his hard work in bringing the improvements forward.

e)20MPH Zone/Speed limits Jacquie and Herbert had met with Ian Malcolm of Aberlady on July 20th. They had spoken to him of the experience in Dunbar of considering a 20mph speed limit in parts of the town as some people in Aberlady are considering a similar project.

Jacquie had circulated information from Peter Forsyth at ELC on proposed speed limit changes between Broxburn and Dunbar and from Belhaven to Eweford (Hospital Road). Formal objections are not yet required as they will be formally advertised for public views. It was agreed that Jacquie would advise Peter Forsyth that the Community Council are supportive of the proposals. JB

f) Winterfield Park – Sue Anderson had had contact on July 20th from Bruce Allison of ELC who had been asked to convene a Stakeholder meeting about the Park. He was aware of Pippa's draft masterplan and wished to consider how it may fit with the ideas of other park users. She had copied in a reply to Jacquie on August 4th. Suggested people for the group are Friends of Winterfield, Neil Clark from Countryside, somebody from Landscape and Benjy Barsanti to represent sport. Jacquie had contacted Bruce to express an interest as a Community Councillor and had asked if Pippa had been invited. Bruce had responded that the stakeholder group was only for the 4 bodies identified. Community Councillors were concerned that both the Community Council and Local Area

Partnership had been left out of the discussions. It was agreed that Jacquie would ask Bruce Allison/Stuart Pryde if Pippa could be included as a rep of both groups and as the person who had drawn up the draft. It was suggested that Angela Leitch might be approached to ensure DCC and LAP were included as the Park is an important part of the town and local people are concerned about it.

JB

g) Corn Exchange. There had been no progress on works to make the building wind and watertight as was discussed earlier in the year. Re-roofing is urgent. Cllr Hampshire noted that Planning may not be keen on corrugated iron roofing rather than slate as had been considered. It was agreed that Pippa will contact Douglas Proudfoot at ELC to see what is happening. There was concern that another winter season is approaching. **PS**

h) Belhaven Hospital. A further Belhaven Forum meeting would be held on August 29th.

There had been discussion at the Local Area Partnership meeting on August 7th. David Small had attended. There was an intention that there would still be a Health and Social Care facility in Dunbar. Part of any development may include extra care housing.

Cllr Fiona O'Donnell and Alison McDonald of NHS will attend the Community Council meeting in October.

Volunteers at Belhaven Community Garden were concerned about the future of the garden area at the hospital. The lease is due for renewal in October 2017

i) Cemetery Issues

i) Parish Churchyard. Will Collin reported on the progress of maintenance over the year. Wild flower seeding had worked well. It is hoped that this will be continued in future years and extended to parts of the cemetery that had been treated with weed killer only.

ii) Deerpark Cemetery. There had been concerns raised on Social Media about the condition of the cemetery. Gavin Wilson who had been in contact with Jacquie had spoken to Gordon Whitelaw of ELC about it. Gavin wished to see a noticeboard at the cemetery, perhaps including a map of plots. Stephen thought that the cemetery was not in too bad a condition.

iii) Cemetery extension. A small working Group will be established (see above)

j) War Memorial Robert [Bob] Heath was drawing up quotations for work. Once they were received a meeting would be arranged for the Working Group to discuss further before bringing ideas to the Community Council which may go forward to the War Memorial Trust for funding.

k) High Street

Work was still outstanding at the one way system near the Abbey Church, the cobbled crossing near the Post Office and other areas. Pippa and Jacquie had both been chasing this.

A High Street Improvements group is to be established as a sub group of the Local Area Partnership.

Pippa advised that ELC have now said that they will not do works on downpipes and guttering as had previously been agreed would be done in 2017. The reason given was multi-ownership of properties.

Jacquie had circulated information from Mike Wilson on a suggested Community Venture – Gala Day

with a Paintbrush. It was thought that this might be tied in with Civic Week or the run up to it.

Kate Darrah of The Ridge had invited members to view works in the Backlands and to discuss future works there and at Black Bull Close. It was agreed to arrange this for 7th September. **JB**

I) Town Maintenance

i) Wall between Hillside Hotel and Newhouse Terrace. Jacquie had had further contact with Jessica Milburn of Lammermuir House who own the wall. Matters had been in the hands of Four Seasons Estates Department in Glasgow but the wall was continuing to deteriorate. Jacquie will continue to chase what is happening. It was also suggested that contact should be made with ELC building Control. **JB**

ii) Jacquie had continued to report pot holes around the town. Some had been repaired e.g. in Westgate but others remained. Pippa noted that repair to Westgate, which is in a very poor condition, was to be a priority for use of the Local Area Partnership Roads budget. Stephen noted that a parishioner at St Anne's had recently had a fall on the pavement there which is also in poor condition.

*iii) Victoria Street Well benches – Alasdair had continued to chase their repair. Cllr Hampshire also agreed to contact ELC officers about their condition. **AS/NH***

iv) Condition of Building Above Pound Shop – Environmental Health were still to follow up repairs to the roof which were identified by Pest Controller, Scott Hood.

v) Condition of garden/property at Fairfield, Beveridge Row. This was becoming more overgrown. A neighbour had advised that the overgrowth was intentional to prevent people from stealing plants and planters. Rubbish had now been removed. Legal processes were underway and the owner would not be returning to the property.

vi) Condition of Hospital Road. Jacquie continued to chase its repair. It was in a dangerous state for cyclists and had seen more traffic since Brodie Road opened up. **JB**

vii) Information Boards at Jubilee Fountain, Brownie Garden and The Glebe. Stephen had spoken to Stuart Pryde at ELC about their repair. **SB**

*viii) Town House Flags – Stephen had e mailed Tam Fowler to see if he can supply replacements **SB***

ix) Information Board about Lochend House Arch This needed further discussion with Isobel Knox at DCWG about a joint project. **JB/SB**

x) Overgrown Gardens at Grahame Place. Following contact by Jacquie with Your Move in Dalkeith grass had been cut. However, Ragwort had been left standing. Jacquie has had further contact with Your Move to ask for the tidying work to be completed, particularly as Ragwort sap is toxic. **JB**

xi) Broken flashing 20 mph sign near Jet Garage. Following contact by Jacquie this had been removed. Jacquie will see if it is to be replaced. **JB**

xii) Overgrown hedge at Lamemrmuir Crescent. This was again blocking the footpath. Jacquie had reported it to Jimmy Wilson, Community Warden. **JB**

xiii) *Broken Bollard , Queens Road* – Jacquie had reported it to ELC and was chasing its repair. **JB**

xiv) *Exposed culvert* – Genevieve Rabiacz had clarified the position of this open culvert which is covered by undergrowth. Jacquie had taken this up with ELC and Scottish Water. **JB**

xv) *Condition of path between Dunbar and Deerpark Cemetery.* Gavin Wilson had raised this as the area had become overgrown and full of rubbish from the nearby building site. Contact with Gordon Whitelaw at ELC had seen some tidying of the area.

xvi) *Drains at Marquette Place.* There were problems with their position as rain water misses them and pools outside Number 19. Jacquie had passed to Scottish Water/ELC. **JB**

m) Bus Stop Information – Jacquie continued to chase provision of timetables by the bus companies **.JB**

n) Parking Contact had been made by a High Street resident about parking issues. Jacquie had advised them that parking may be considered as part of a LAP High Street sub group.

o) Restoration of Provost Portraits. Stephen advised that a Town House meeting would be in September. Herbert Coutts would be interested in attending the meeting. **SB/HC**

p) Pharmacy Hours. Jacquie had spoken to Gordon Coventry the owner of Aitkens. The opening hours are related to the NHS Contract with the Pharmacists. They are contracted to work 5 and a half days a week. In the past they had closed on Wednesday afternoons but as the surgeries are no longer open on Saturdays they close at 1 pm on Saturdays instead. There must be a qualified pharmacist on duty at all times when the shop is open. There is little footfall on Saturday afternoons as the surgeries are closed and commuters can collect in the morning. Herbert queried if the pharmacies could alternate Saturday afternoon opening. However, this would mean one of them having to close on an alternative afternoon in terms of the contract. Jacquie agreed to speak to the pharmacist at Lloyds for their views. **JB**

q) Maria Lyle Jacquie had sent a Congratulations card to Maria to note her bronze medals in the T35 100 and 200 metre races at the World Para Athletic Championships in July.

10) Local Priorities

a) Updates 2017-18 Budget

Dunbar Bowling Club. Alasdair had written to confirm the grant and a note of thanks had been received from the Club.

Coast to Coast Surf School – Plans for the Surf Academy remain active

New Applications

1st Belhaven Brownie Pack - £200 for set up costs approved

Dunbar Community Woodland Group - £750 for woodland works approved

11) Local Area Partnership

The Summer's Cool programme had been very successful.

An Education Monies Advisory Sub Group had been set up.

Work was planned for further improvements to the Coastal Pathway including the Promenade. George Robertson had submitted an application to Viridor Credits.

Jacquie and Pippa had attended an Information Meeting on the work of LAPs for ELC Councillors on August 15th.

LAPs were discussing the appointment of new Chairs and Vice Chairs. It was expected that, locally, the current post holders would remain in place for the next 6 months.

A review of LAPs had recently been completed and a draft report drawn up.

12) East Lothian Plan Consultation

Jacquie had circulated the draft plan. She had attended a drop in session in Haddington on August 21st and made some comments. Some members had submitted their own on line views. It was agreed that rather than one response from the Community Council other members who wished to do so would submit their on line views.

13) Licensing

Micropub. Jacquie had circulated an application for a change of layout plan. She had noted to ELC that the Community Council supported the proposal.

14)Local Councillors' Reports

Cllr Hampshire – Many large planning applications were going through the system

Proposals were being made by the Scottish Government to set up new Regional Education bodies. Members had mixed views about the effect such a change would have on local schooling. The ideas were currently subject to national consultation by the Scottish Government.

Cllr Kempson – no report

Cllr McLennan – no report

15)Town Sites At Risk

Horse Mill – Stephen had spoken to Ian Torrance. He would like to improve the building but the owners were not willing for him to do so.

Former Amusement Arcade – no further information

Abbey Church – it was thought that the building was to be sold by auction again.

16) Reports from Committees/Meetings Attended.

a) Day Centre A farewell gathering had been held for Alison Lange, the Manager, on August 18th. Gill, Jacquie and Stephen had attended. Alison's post had been awarded to Jamie McNeil who had previously been the Deputy Manager. A replacement for Jamie would now need to be considered.

b) Scottish Sentencing Council. Jacquie had attended a Focus Group in Haddington on July 25th set up by this body established in 2015 to provide guidelines on sentencing to ensure consistency across the Scottish Court system. They also conduct research on sentencing issues. The Focus Group had

looked at Youth Crime and sentencing and was one of a number of groups being held across Scotland. Findings would be used to draw up guidelines which would be distributed for consultation before being implemented.

c) Sustaining Dunbar. The AGM had been on August 8th. Elisabeth Wilson remains as Chair and Jacquie and Sarah are Trustees.

A Development Manager, Osbert Lancaster, had been appointed on a short term basis to consider future projects for the group.

17)Correspondence – previously circulated

Via Facebook – Heather Kilfara. Asking if Summer School places were still available. Jacquie had responded that all places had been taken.

Torness – newsletters

Torness – Information on proposed fire practice

Via Website – Mrs Hutchison. Concerns about the noise from the Avant Homes site. Jacquie had clarified the operating hours as laid down by Environmental Health. The family had spoken to Colin Clark at ELC who was to speak to the Site Manager.

Pauline Jaffray – Seeking information on the outcome of the Cala meeting. Jacquie had supplied information.

Lilian Pryde – Bags of Help Fund

Lilian Pryde – Edinburgh Airport Airspace Change Programme – outcome of consultation

Paths for All – 2017 Volunteer Awards

Via Website – Mike Wilson – Gala Day with a Paintbrush

Christine Dora ELC – Consultation on East Lothian Local Plan

Kate Darrah, The Ridge – request to present an update on their work and information on the Black Bull Close project and consultation event.

Hilary Smith – Planning Training with Planning Aid – 15th August in North Berwick

Brake – Newsletters

Local People Leading – Newsletters

Via website – Harry Richardson – seeking information on paths around the woodland. Jacquie had given information and contact details for DCWG.

Genevieve Rabiacz – clarification on the dangerous open culvert in Belhaven

Twinning Association – Newsletter

Via Website – Jake Maxwell. High Street issues including parking. Jacquie had advised that LAP are to look at High Street concerns.

Via Facebook – Gavin Wilson. Concerns about Deerpark Cemetery

Paul Zochowski – Development Guidelines for the Assembly Rooms site

Co-housing Group – minutes of August meeting

Sue Northcott, Dementia Friendly East Lothian – Newsletter

Peter Forsyth, ELC – Speed limit amendments

Peter Hodges – Route of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain Cycling Route in East Lothian

Linda Shardlow, Cross reach – Craftbombing proposal for Civic Week

18) AOCB

Pippa noted that artist Gordon Jenkinson had produced a picture of the Town House. She agreed to circulate the image for members to consider if the Community Council should consider its purchase for the community if it were still for sale.

19) Date of Next Meeting – September 25th