

# **ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar**

### **1) Sederunt/Apologies**

**Present** - Stephen Bunyan (SB) (Chair), George Robertson (GR)(Vice-Chair), Jacquie Bell (JB)(Secretary), Herbert Coutts (HC), Will Collin (WC), Gill Wilson (GW), Sarah Beattie-Smith (SBS), Ian Hamilton (IH), Graham Adams (GA)

**Councillors Present** – Cllr Norman Hampshire

**Others Present** – PC J. Stewart, Paul Zochowski (ELC), Cameron Ritchie (press), Ian Dane (DSHNG), Jan Green, Mike Shaw (DSHNG), Jill Taylor (Minutes)

**Apologies** – Alasdair Swan (AS) (Treasurer), Pippa Swan (PS), Cllr Sue Kempson

### **Tributes**

Tommy Craig – Race horse trainer. His family had been based in Dunbar

Clive Nicholas – Member at Dunbar Parish Church and involved with religious issues in Dunbar for many years. Clive had been a keen member of Probus. He had been in frail health for a long time. His memorial will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 2.30pm in Dunbar Parish Church.

Mary Miller - Long-time member of West Barns Community Council

Tam Fowler – Benefactor who had given Dunbar Community Council 2 sets of flags for the Town House. He had also campaigned for medals for veterans.

### **Congratulations**

Heather Cameron and Alistair Fell – new Head Boy and Head Girl at Dunbar Grammar School.

Dunbar in Bloom – Silver Gilt Medal winners in the Britain in Bloom Coastal category. WC wished to state that the town had looked spectacular during this summer and offered congratulations to all involved. He suggested that Dunbar Community Council should write to those involved. **JB**

### **2) Minutes of Meeting of August 21st 2017**

Agreed with no amendments required.

### **3) Discussion – Assembly Rooms/Coastguard Site**

Paul Zochowski had been invited to attend the meeting following circulation of his Development Guidelines for the site and discussion at the August 2017 Community Council meeting.

Mr Zochowski spoke to his paper. He referred to the long planning history of the site which ELC would like to see developed. It is zoned for housing in the Local Development Plan. Progress has been compromised by multi-ownership of the Assembly Room building and the garden ground behind, particularly as one owner has not proved possible to contact. He said that there were no grounds for compulsory purchase.

JB noted the concerns of Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group (DSHNG) (members of which were present) and of DCC. It was thought possible that parking could be provided in the footprint of the Assembly Rooms plot without needing the ground owned by the absent owner. The

other owners were willing to consider such a move. This was preferable to use of the ELC owned coastguard site which it was thought should not be offered to the Assembly Rooms developer without being placed on the open market. An alternative development may be possible for the Coastguard Site. Mr Zochowski said he was not aware of these ideas by the owner group and ELC would be willing to consider their proposals if they were raised with the Council.

SBS asked if residents of Church and Lamer Streets had been consulted. Mr Zochowski noted that as yet there are no firm proposals, only the Guidelines. JB noted that local residents had objected to the previous plan for flats at the Coastguard site. DSHNG had been actively involved and members lived in the area affected.

JB advised Mr Zochowski of her contacts with Four Seasons and The Ridge regarding the Lammermuir House owned wall in Queen's Road (see below).

HC advised that he will contact Mr Zochowski regarding the war memorial. (See below) **HC**

SB thanked Mr Zochowski for attending the meeting.

### **3) Sub-committee Reports**

#### **Christmas Lights**

GA had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

The bunting and banners have all been removed in preparation for the steel wire testing this week. Issues with the TTRO were resolved on Friday, East Lothian Council had not processed this and intervention was needed by Cllr Hampshire. All other TTRO's now have issues even with a meeting with an East Lothian Council representative and forms submitted over 4 weeks ago. A meeting will be held with the Roads department to resolve these after the EPOG to discuss switch on day. All other works are progressing towards put up day.

#### **Civic Week**

Following Sue Anderson's resignation there is currently no co-ordinator. A volunteer is needed to co-ordinate events, many of which are arranged by local groups. SB will check who remains from the previous Committee. It may be possible to use Civic Week funds to pay for an advert. GR will advertise the vacancy on the website and social media. WC suggested that the school might be approached. GA noted the amount of extra work for event organisers following EPOG. WC suggested that Dunbar may need to have a full time paid events manager and Cllr Hampshire suggested that DELAP may consider funding a Manager given all the new responsibilities brought by EPOG. He mentioned a local events company, Rogue Village, who may be able to take something like Civic Week on. Will be discussed further depending on response to initial publicity of the vacancy. **GR/SB**

#### **4) Vacancy**

Sue Anderson's resignation leaves a vacancy on DCC. Options are to co-opt someone, advertise a casual vacancy or leave vacant. JB had spoken to Sue Mitchell who now has other commitments. It was agreed to initially promote the vacancy on the website and social media. A paid advert would be considered if this met no response. Applicants must live and/or work in Dunbar. **JB/GR**

#### **5) Police Report**

JB had circulated a written report from PC Stewart on incidents between 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 25<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Ward Priorities**

**Road Safety** – there have been a number of minor road traffic collisions with no serious injuries.

**Antisocial Behaviour**

- Very few youth calls this month.
- There have been two calls regarding youths gathering around Kellie Road/Halhill/Lochend Woods but there has been no incident of them setting fires and generally they have not been an issue.
- There have been a couple of calls regarding youths on the High Street waiting for buses late at night at the weekend being noisy but nothing more.
- One call to the harbour regarding youths jumping off the harbour wall. Youths were spoken to and advised accordingly.

**Litter** – no issues

**Theft** – Small number of theft shoplifting reports, most as usual for alcohol. Enquiries continue to identify and trace a number of suspects.

In response to questions, PC Stewart also spoke about the serious accident at the Cement Works junction on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. It seems that some of those injured had been hospitalised. An accident report is still to be submitted to ELC. JB expressed concern that this was a further accident at this junction which has long been a concern regarding its safety. It had regularly been raised at the A1 Action meetings convened by Cllr Veitch and which are to be reconvened following the May election. Some new signage and markings have recently been installed but there is still a feeling that it would benefit from lighting. Transport Scotland regularly infer when asked that the junction does not have a sufficient fatal accident history for major improvements. The situation will need to be kept under review given potential further pressures on the junction from new housing and the Viridor ERF plant.

JB noted that a resident of Marquette Place had raised concerns about parking along Brodie Road by residents of Yosemite Park. They have parking spaces behind their houses but park on Brodie Road. The resident also noted concerns about a dairy van parking in a dangerous position and some overgrown bushes which make visibility difficult. JB agreed to forward a map of the issues drawn by the resident and the Police will follow up. Jimmy Wilson, Community Warden, had also been advised of the bushes issue. **JB/Police/Community Warden**

**CAPP Priorities from 29<sup>th</sup> August**

*Youths congregating on Lamer Island*

*Speeding in East Linton*

*Misuse of Blue Badge Parking in Countess Crescent*

Next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**6) Treasurer's report** – This had been circulated prior to the meeting.

1. All the 2016/17 accounts are with John Sparksman.
2. There is nothing new to report on the General Fund apart from the fact that the John Muir subscription will soon be due for renewal. SB confirmed that this is now paid by Banker's Order.
3. No movements on the Civic Week Fund.
4. A new Treasurer in position for the Christmas lights. Expenditure will be on the increase as the capital programme moves forward and the winter lights come on again.

## **b) Local Priorities**

**Updates** – AS had advised DCWG and 1<sup>st</sup> Belhaven Brownies of their awards

### **New Application**

**Dunbar Primary School** - £900 for transport to Riding for the Disabled activities.

The application was discussed and it was agreed to give £900 as a one off grant to get DPS through a funding gap. The activity was thought to be valuable for the youngsters involved and there was discussion about alternative funding sources that the school might consider in the longer term e.g. EL Educational Trust, ASDA, Community Windpower. It was agreed that WC would contact Headteacher, Mrs Gillanders, to discuss possible options. In the meantime, JB will ask AS to arrange the grant payment. **WC/JB/AS**

**7) Secretary's Report** – This had been circulated prior to the meeting.

### **a) Town Maintenance Issues**

- 1) Flashing School Patrol Light near Jet Garage. This had been removed by ELC. It seems this style of light is no longer used.
- 2) Bollard in Queen's Road – still to be replaced.
- 3) Queen's Road Wall – still to be repaired. The Four Seasons Estates Manager is getting quotes to seek budget for repair next year. The Ridge would be willing to give a quote for the work and JB had advised him of this.
- 4) Condition of Fairfield, Beveridge Row – still to be sorted.
- 5) Overgrown gardens at Grahame Place. Some maintenance has been carried out. JB has asked Your Move to ensure that the vendor maintains the gardens in future.
- 6) Overgrown hedge at Lammermuir Crescent – still to be cut back. ELC Housing and Jimmy Wilson are involved.
- 7) Hospital Road – still needs repair.
- 8) Broken Light near The Sycamores in Countess Crescent – reported and a new lamp head fitted.
- 9) Bus timetables – still being chased as missing at most stops, particularly Borders Buses.

### **b) Planning Events Attended**

**Priorities for Planning and Infrastructure Policy (PPIP) 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Planning Democracy Seminar (PDS) 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Both events had been interesting and informative with representatives from around Scotland. There was a sharing of issues about developments in different areas and it was clear that different local authorities manage their planning processes in different ways. Community Councils have a varying degree of influence in decision making although all are considered to be Statutory Consultees in the planning process.

The Chief Planner, John McNairney, speaking at PPIP, made it clear that the existence of sufficient infrastructure for developments should be an essential first consideration in planning. The sewage, drainage and transport issues of new developments in Dunbar were raised with him.

There was much discussion about the proposed Planning Bill and concerns that it has elements aimed to speed up decision making for developers. There were concerns that there should still be pressure for an equal right of appeal (ERA). There were concerns that in a number of areas Local Development Plans are not being adhered to and about the number of local decisions that are overturned by Reporters and Ministers to a point where local activists may feel their voice is ignored despite the rhetoric of the Community Empowerment legislation. The Chief Planner said that passing applications on grounds that developers might appeal should they be refused was not sufficient. Planning Democracy are intending further action to have ERA included in the legislation.

There was agreement that planning issues are becoming more complex and that officials and elected members needed ongoing training to ensure efficacy in decision making.

### **c) Housing Strategy 2018-23 and Climate Change Strategy 2018-23 Consultation Event**

JB had attended this drop-in session at John Muir House on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Housing Strategy**

This session built on a session that JB attended in November 2016. Further views were being sought on how ELC meets 6 outcomes.

- 1) The supply of housing is increased and access to housing improves across all tenures
- 2) A wide range of specialist housing to facilitate independent living
- 3) The condition, energy efficiency and where possible, management of existing stock is improved
- 4) Measures are in place to prevent homelessness
- 5) A decrease in fuel poverty and climate change targets to be exceeded
- 6) Sustainable and vibrant communities are created and maintained

Participants were invited to add post it notes to sheets relating to each topic and also for ideas of what is required for each main residential cluster in East Lothian.

Responses will be drawn together and from them a formal consultation document will be drawn up. It will be available on-line.

#### **Climate Change**

This is at an early stage. Posters were available for participants to add post it notes on how this might affect different areas of East Lothian. The posters were divided into City, coastal, upland, lowland, industrial and suburban zones.

Initial ideas will be drawn together for a further consultation.

It was noted by DCC members that having the Secretary's Report circulated prior to the meeting was very helpful.

#### **8) Matters Arising**

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

##### **Updates**

i) *Local Plan* – no further information. Public Inquiry still to be held by Reporter.

ii) *Development at 52 High Street (Lothian Hotel)*. The owner is not yet ready to submit a new application.

iii) *Assembly Rooms/Church Street* – discussed earlier in the meeting.

iv) *Application at Newtonlees Farm* – still to be determined. Cllr Hampshire noted that some changes had been needed and he did not know when it might come before the Planning Committee.

v) *Robertson/Avant Homes* – There are still no alternative sewage disposal proposals. It was suggested that ELC should not give habitation certificates until there is a drainage connection. Concerns were expressed about the health implications. JB will continue to seek information from Scottish Water. **JB**

In the meantime, JB had noted DCC's objection to application 17/00014/OAP to remove the S75 Education contribution for the affordable homes.

vi) *Hillside Hotel* – application withdrawn 9/8

vii) *Battleblent House* – no further information. Still to be determined.

viii) *Cala Development, Belhaven* - JB had further sought clarity as to whether houses could be built before the sewer works are completed. Kirsty Thin at Scottish Water had suggested that Cala may make alternative arrangements e.g. tankering waste out. There have been lots of problems with the roadworks and with safe pedestrian routes between West Barns and Belhaven. There had been problems with the water supply to nearby properties, including Belhaven Hospital, being cut off. The inappropriate style of a new wall to replace the historic sandstone one had been reported to ELC without any response. JB will continue to chase. **JB**

SB noted problems of widespread weed growth in ransom strips near the development. JB will chase this up. **JB**

ix) *Planning in Conservation Areas* – various matters are still outstanding

x) *17/00323/P Application for work by The Ridge on land at the back of 72-88 High Street*. Consent granted

xi) *17/00516/P / 1700659/LBC– 8 Seafield Crescent, Belhaven* - this had been approved by delegated officer powers despite objections from DCC and AHSS. JB had noted concerns to HES who had not seemed concerned. SB has written to Angela Leitch, ELC with concerns about the planning process with regard to listed buildings.

xii) *17/00488/PM* – Erection of 73 houses and 8 flats on land south of Brodie Road, Dunbar. JB had submitted the views of DCC. Still to be determined. DCC hadn't objected to the application. However, GA felt that cumulative issues of traffic from the new developments along Brodie Road should be considered. JB will pass his concerns to ELC Planning. **JB**

### **New**

17/00771/LBC & 17/00827/P – Alterations to flats in High Street to enable repairs. Papers had been circulated. There were no concerns.

**c) East Beach** – Progress is slow. A Marine Licence is still needed from Marine Scotland.

**d) Cemetery Issues** – HC reported that the group to consider potential sites had had a preliminary meeting. More information is needed on the requirements for a new site. It was thought that some local landowners may be interested. HC will contact Stuart Pryde at ELC for more information. **HC**

**e) Parks**

*Winterfield* - JB had contacted Bruce Allison, ELC to request that Pippa Swan should be involved in the working group as a representative of Dunbar CC and DELAP.. However, he was still not keen for this. Pippa had raised the issue with Stuart Gibb Concerns were expressed that Dunbar CC and DELAP were being excluded from discussions and that this was not democratic.

*Lauderdale* – Further concerns have been raised about the lack of toilet facilities. These have been passed to Stuart Pryde without response. WC stated that this has been discussed many times. Cllr Hampshire replied that ELC are aware of issues and are trying to find a solution to introduce new toilets –putting a toilet onto the present building or another solution. There are concerns that a standalone facility would be vulnerable to vandalism. Cllr Hampshire will raise with Stuart Pryde at ELC.. **NH**

**f) Corn Exchange** – No further information. Work is still needed before Winter.

**g) Belhaven Hospital.** – The Minute of the meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup> had been circulated. A further meeting will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**h) War Memorial** - HC gave an update on a meeting of the sub-group following the preparation of costings by with Robert Heath, Conservation Architect. HC had previously circulated an update report.

There are a number of options which excluding VAT will cost:-

Basic conservation work -£5,750

Addition of Missing WW1 and WW2 Names - A maximum of £8467.80

Improving the Setting - £5000

Architect Fees -£2120

Total Cost around £21,337.

It might be possible to put the work through ELC which would allow VAT to be avoided. Cllr Hampshire suggested that ELC Civic Pride Fund might be used to supplement the grant from the war Memorial Trust. Applications might be made to other sources for further funding.

There was discussion about this. It was felt that the monument should be restored and that the setting should be improved. It was hoped that work might be completed by November 2018.

Following a vote, the majority agreed that missing names might be added provided their research does not take too long. HC should consider how to seek names from the public with Roy Pugh's work as a starter. The War Memorial Trust are happy with names being added. SB noted that he was aware of Anthony Ryland Griffin whose widow is still living locally and who would appreciate the addition of his name to the monument.

HC will write to Angela Leitch to advise that Dunbar CC wish to progress with the work. A staff member from ELC will be invited to work with the Working Group. Paul Zochowski had previously attended meetings. **HC**

#### **i) Dunbar High Street-**

Work is still outstanding at the one-way system near the Abbey Church, the cobbled crossing near the Co-op and other areas. PS and JB have been chasing this.

A High Street upgrade group is to be established as a sub group of DELAP.

A small group had visited the Ridge Backlands Project and they had been impressed by the work. SB has sent a letter to support an application to the Suez Trust for funding to enable further work.

#### **j) Town Maintenance**

i) Victoria Street well benches - following contact by Alasdair Swan most of the benches have been repaired and the remaining work is being chased up. Thanks were given to Cllr Hampshire for his assistance in getting the work done by ELC Amenities.

ii) Information Boards at the Jubilee Fountain, Brownie Garden, The Glebe – need repair. SB is to contact Stuart Pryde at ELC again **SB**

iii) Town House Flags renewal - SB had tried to contact Tam Fowler who had sadly died. Another source is being sought by SB. **SB**

iv) Information Board about the Lochend Arch at the Community Woodland – still to be discussed with Isobel Knox. SB is to contact Pauline Smeed about historical information regarding Lochend House and the arch. **JB/SB**

**k) Restoration of Provost Portraits** – SB advised that this had been discussed at a recent Town House meeting. Ownership is being checked by Kate Maynard of ELC. They may belong to the Common Good. Consideration will be given as to whether the originals or copies should be displayed.

#### **9) Licensing**

Winterfield Golf Club - an application for major variation of the premises licence had been circulated. Generally, DCC members were supportive and this had been noted to ELC. IH had noted some concerns from residents of the chalets and this had been noted to ELC by JB. People affected could also contact ELC directly.

#### **10) Local Area Partnership**

PS had attended a meeting to discuss the review of LAPs.

Next meeting October 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **11) Local Councillors Reports**

*Cllr Hampshire* – Cllr Hampshire has assumed an interim position as Council Leader while also continuing his Environment role during Cllr Innes' leave of absence due to ill health. SB will send a message to Cllr Innes on behalf of DCC. **SB**

ELC are working on the Council budget. Significant savings are required and every department is working towards this.



ELC Planning are working on some big applications.

*Cllr Kempson* – not present

*Cllr McLennan* – not present

## **12) Reports from Committees/Meetings Attended**

**a) Day Centre** – A new Deputy Manager has been appointed and she will start on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nothing further to report.

## **13) Correspondence – previously circulated**

**Local People Leading** – newsletters

**Area Partnership/East Lothian Community Councils** – East Lothian and Midlothian Women's Aid Board Vacancies

**Stephanie Kerr** – Review Report on LAPs

**Via Facebook - Lynsey Moody** – Information on funding to redevelop the Skatepark. JB had given a number of contacts.

**Via Facebook - Julie Baud** – wishing to pass on an Airbnb booking that she could not use. JB had advised of local social media outlets.

**Via Facebook – Jean Cole** – seeking information on the Coastguard site. JB had advised.

**Via Website - Sarah Duignan, Network Rail** – update on proposals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> platform at Dunbar Station

**Via Website – Amey** – information on improvements at Broxburn junction

**Via website - Jane Lockett** – concerns about state of Winterfield Park after the Shows. Also lack of toilets at Lauderdale Park. JB had passed to ELC's Stuart Pryde who advised that ELC repair the ground and take the money from a deposit bond paid by the Show Operator.

**Sue Anderson** – concern about lack of toilets at Lauderdale Park – passed to ELC's Stuart Pryde.

**Via website – Helen Gillanders, Dunbar Primary School** – seeking funding for transport to Riding for the Disabled. JB had sent a Local Priorities application form.

**Via website – Penny Morris** – concerns about abuse of disabled parking bays near DPS in Countess Crescent. JB passed to PC Ross.

## **RAGES RAG and AGM Calling Notice**

**Harry Barker** – calling Notice for Community Rail Partnership AGM on September 25<sup>th</sup>

**Planning Democracy & Hilary Smith (North Berwick CC)** – information on Planning event on September 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Via Website – John Fyall** – queries about sewage infrastructure at the Robertson Homes site and about the Viridor ERF. JB had supplied information.

**Area Partnership – Drop in Consultation Events** on ELC Housing Strategy on 21/9 and 25/9. There will also be consultation on Climate Change Strategy at these events. JB attended.

**Kate Darrah, The Ridge** – request for a letter of support for Suez Community Trust grant application. Supplied.

**Lilian Pryde** – Patrick Geddes Learning Festival – Free Places on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September.

**Via Website - Polly Cooke**- wishing to put info on RVS services on the website

**Lilian Pryde** – seeking information on DCC Planning link – JB responded

**Torness** – newsletter

**Scottish Community Councils** – newsletter

**Brake** – newsletter

**Via Website – Mike Wilson** – Gala Day with a paintbrush. He will come to the November meeting.

**Scottish Government** – Making Places Initiative

**Strive** – Volunteering Award nominations

**Martin Whitfield MP** – Information on Surgeries/Invitation to Office opening in Tranent on 21/9

**Lilian Pryde** – Edinburgh Airport Airspace Change Programme - update

**14) AOCB** - None

**15) Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 7.30pm, Dunbar Town House, Cllr O’Donnell and Alison McDonald (NHS) will attend.