

ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 18th December at 7pm in the Community Room, Town House, Dunbar

1) Sederunt/Apologies

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

Councillors Present – Cllr Sue Kempson

Others Present – Cameron Ritchie (Press), Jill Taylor (Minutes), David Sweeney (Project Manager, NNG), Rosie Scurr (Environmental Manager, NNG) and Members of the Public (Gordon Easingwood, Mike Shaw, Simon Bell)

Apologies – None

CONGRATULATIONS TO DGS PUPILS

Maria Lyle who has been selected to represent Scotland at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Kyle Campbell – Title winner at the WKA Scottish Kickboxing Championships.

Alastair Campbell - Member of the Scottish bronze medal winning badminton team at the Under 17 European Championships in Prague. Also winner of the Under 17 singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles at the West of Scotland Championships in Glasgow.

OBITUARIES

John McNie - He had been involved in the set-up of Dunbar History Society. In 2002 he published a history of Dunbar Parish Church. He was the oldest surviving Dunbar Parish Church Elder. His funeral will be on Wednesday, 20th December

Alan Old – Former Principal Reacher of Technical Subjects at DGS

A silence was held to remember the above Dunbar residents.

2) Presentation/Discussion – NNG Windfarm

David Sweeney (Project Manager) and Rosie Scurr (Environmental Manager) from Mainstream Renewables gave a presentation to the meeting regarding the Neart Na Gaoithe (NNG) windfarm. The brief presentation was followed by questions from those present.

NNG is a proposed offshore wind farm with a potential capacity of 450 MW in the Firth of Forth, 30 kms north of Torness. It will be visible from Dunbar. This project, which had been approved by Scottish Ministers in 2014, has been delayed by legal action brought by RSPB. This concluded in November 2017 after an appeal by RSPB to the Supreme Court in London was rejected. In the intervening period technology has moved on and an updated application for a Marine Licence to erect fewer but higher turbines will be submitted in early 2018. The company are working with RSPB to understand their concerns about the risks to birdlife in the Forth, particularly puffins whose migration route and feeding grounds are in the area. It is intended to start offshore work in 2021 with the turbines being installed in 2022 and operational in 2022. 15 months prior to that onshore work will start with a plan to start work at Crystal Rigg at the end of 2019. Fully underground cabling will go from Thorntonloch beach, up the Lammermuir Hills to Crystal Rigg. The seabed lease will be

for 50 years with operational consent for 25 years. The company do not expect issues with traffic on the A1 (one lane will need to be closed at a time to pull cabling through) and there would be no need to close the East Coast mainline

The updated Marine Licence application will be open to public consultation in early 2018. The documents will be available on line. Due to the size of the documents it will not be possible to send a copy to the Community Council. However, a hard copy will be made available at Dunbar Library.

It was agreed that NNG staff should remain in contact with the Community Council to keep members updated on progress. It was felt that it would be beneficial to have a further presentation to members once the updated Marine Licence application is submitted.

3) Minutes of Meeting of October 18th and November 20th 2017

The October 18th minutes were noted as accurate in November by the inquorate meeting and thus needed homologation. They were agreed with no amendments.

The November 20th 2017 Minutes could not be adopted as that meeting had been inquorate. They were noted. SB advised that items going forward from the November meeting would be dealt with at this meeting or at the January 2018 meeting.

4) Police Report

There was no written Police Report.

CAPP Priorities from 22nd November

Bike Safety of DGS Pupils

Road Safety on Brodie Road

Next Meeting January 8th 2018

5) Treasurer's report

a) Monthly Report - This had been circulated by AS prior to the meeting.

General Fund:

- The bank statement balance is **£889.27** (last month £1,177.27)
- The Town House painting was purchased for £250
- The other expenses paid were for the Minute Secretary's expenses.

Christmas Lights Account:

- The bank balance currently stands at **£8,579.83** (last month - £16,440.42)
- The expenditure in the period was partly on the Capital Project and also on the annual costs of switch-on. The results of the capital improvements have been greatly admired by the people of Dunbar.

Civic Week Account:

- The bank balance currently stands at £5,771.62 (no movement)
- There has been no recent activity on this account.

Local Priorities Fund:

The LPF uncommitted Budget for 2017/18 is £9,681.38 (including a small carry over from 2016/17) –

Local Priority Grant applications	Amount	Review	Decision
Dunbar Traditional Music Festival	£500	May	Awarded
Civic Week	£2,000	May	Awarded
Christmas Lights Revenue Grant	£2,000	May	Awarded
Hallhill - Pipe Band	£500	May	Awarded
The Reaching Out Group	£500	May	Awarded
Coast to Coast		May	Lapsed
Dunbar Rugby Football Club	£500	May	Awarded
Dunbar Traders' Association	£500	May	Awarded
Dunbar Bowling Club	£300	July	Awarded
Woodland Group	£750	August	Awarded
1st Belhaven Brownies	£200	August	Awarded
Dunbar Primary School - Riding	£900	Sep	Awarded
Countess Youth Club	£150	Dec	
Dunbar Community Bakery	£500	Dec	
1st Dunbar Boys' Brigade	£250	Dec	
The Spirit of Christmas	£100	Dec	Awarded

£9,650

Maximum Budget Total

£9,681

Comments:

1. There are three applications to consider this month.
2. Rotary has supported part of the two Youth projects. The amounts shown above are therefore the balance of the original applications.
3. It is important that decisions on these applications be made this month so that we can let these organisations know where they stand.
4. The planning application is in for the new Surf Centre, from a new Social Enterprise called Belhaven Surf Centre Ltd, so the Coast to Coast application can lapse.
- 5.

Applications Held Over From November

Countess Youth Club – £150 requested for equipment for a chill out area.

Boys Brigade - £250 for tents

Approval was agreed for the above 2 applications. Proposed by HC, Seconded by PS.

Dunbar Community Bakery - £500 was requested for equipment required to meet ELC Environmental Health standards. There was a long discussion of the application. A number of Community Councillors are shareholders and JB is a Trustee. Concerns were raised by GA regarding business planning, including setting money aside to meet statutory regulations, with which IH agreed. HC noted that DCC should be keen to support traders on High Street and a local business which trades as a Community Enterprise. GW agreed. All agreed to support the Bakery and discussed the amount to grant. Alternatives were to grant £100 now and review at end of financial year if funds allows or to give £250 as a one-off grant. Either of these amounts would show support for the bakery and keep some funds for other worthy causes. A vote was held on the amount to grant. 5 voted for £100 and 3 vote for £250. JB as a Trustee was debarred from voting and SB as a shareholder and the Chair abstained. Therefore a grant of £100 was agreed subject to review in March 2018, depending on other applications.

AS agreed to advise applicants of their awards. **AS**

New Application

The Ridge Christmas Lunch for the Socially Isolated - £100 had been requested. Given the timescale this had been agreed by email and is was included for ratification at this meeting. It was ratified by all present. AS had already written to the organisers to inform them of the grant.

8) Secretary's Report - This had been circulated by JB prior to the meeting.

Town Maintenance Issues

1. Bollard in Queens Road- a replacement has been ordered.
2. Queens Road wall. Still to be repaired. Jacquie is chasing the Four Seasons Estates Manager in Glasgow for an update. He has been told that The Ridge are willing to give a tender. Red markings have appeared on the pavement near the wall.
3. Condition of Fairfield, Beveridge Row – still to be sorted.
4. Hospital Road – still needs repair.
5. Numerous broken lights reported for repair. Some have been repaired and others are outstanding.
6. Bus Timetables – Borders and East Coast Buses are both planning audits of bus stop information. There will be no 253 on December 25th and 26th or January 1st and 2nd. On other weekdays from 27th December – 5th January there will be a Saturday service.
7. Overgrown ransom strips near Cala development – still to be dealt with by Cala. Jacquie is chasing Craig Lynes at Cala who has agreed to deal with this. He will arrange for machinery to tackle the dense vegetation.
8. Damaged wall with overgrowing ivy in Spott Road. Noted by a member of the public. Reported to ELC. Jimmy Wilson will contact the lady. Most of the wall is privately owned and thus the owner will have to make any repairs. ELC had looked at the wall about 18 months ago but its condition may have declined since then.
9. Bench at Doon Avenue. Still required.
10. Uneven tarmac in Brodie Road near Fairbain Way. Persimmon still to rectify this.
11. Flooding on Edinburgh Road near Cala site after drains blocked with sand and mud in heavy rain. – reported to ELC and taken up with Cala by ELC Transportation. Cala are meant to keep the road clean.

12. Muddy Roads around Yosemite Park/Brodie Road. Taken up with ELC Transportation who contacted Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon who are meant to keep the road clean. Matter now being dealt with by David Taylor at Planning Enforcement as a potential breach of Planning permission requiring the developers to have sufficient wheel washing facilities and keep the road clean.
13. Brownie Garden – new turf has been laid
14. Overgrown bushes in Beveridge Row. Some cutting back has now been done but further vegetation removal would be beneficial at the narrow part of the road.
15. BT Openreach works in Belhaven Road. The pavement had been dug up and barriers left with no sign of works. The barriers had fallen over and were blocking the footpath. I contacted the contractor KM Construction in Dublin and the pavement was repaired.
16. Steps from the Shore Road car park to the footpath leading to Seafield Pond had been removed. New steps are now in place. They are welcome but are slippery in wet weather. I contacted Neil Clark at Landscape and Countryside who will arrange some kind of grippy surface on the treads. Some walkers had wondered if they needed a coat of preservative. However, they have been pressure treated which impregnates preservative within the wood which is more effective than external treatment.
17. Gas Works. 4 way signals had been in place at Belhaven as there are diggings to enable gas supply to the Cala development. There seems to be a delay with the works (perhaps because pipes have been found underground that Scottish Gas did not expect to find!) which are particularly narrowing Beveridge Row and causing hold ups on the main road. Care needed to be taken in the area and I am seeing if ELC can push Scottish Gas to speed the work up. The works were completed on 18/12.
18. Signage and Road markings at King's Court – still needed.

Planning

Land South of Bowmont Terrace (Robertson/Avant Homes) . The developer had requested to have the S75 contribution for the “affordable” houses removed. Dunbar CC had objected to this. ELC Planners had rejected the request. The developer has now appealed the refusal to DPEA and a Reporter has been appointed to look at the matter. Jacquie has sent a letter to DPEA expanding on the reasons why Dunbar CC object to the developer not paying an educational contribution on all the properties at the development. The initial response from DPEA had been circulated.

DPEA had advised on 18/12 that the appeal had been withdrawn. The letter had been circulated.

Services

Post Box at Co-op, Countess Crescent. This had been removed at short notice. Co-op staff did not know why as it was used by many people, particularly older people, when doing their shopping. Jacquie has contacted Royal Mail and is waiting on a response.

Closure of RBS. Jacquie has raised concerns with the Area Manager in Duns and is trying to arrange a take up of her offer to come to the Community Council. Closure is due on 30/5/18 as part of a large scale closure of Scottish Branches.

Closure of Ward 2, Belhaven Hospital. Jacquie, Gill and Stephen have been attending meetings of the Forum. Gill and Jacquie also attended a meeting of the Working Group to look at shorter term options for Ward 2. Jacquie has circulated minutes of the meetings including that of November 28th. 4 options were presented at that meeting and it was requested that more information was to

be distributed on them all. Stephen was asked to represent the Forum views at the IJB on 21st December. However, on 8th December we got a briefing with a new Option 5 (circulated) and a request to submit views by December 11th for the preparation of a paper for the IJB. Option 5, which reduces services more radically than had been discussed e.g. step down for waiting on care package places in Haddington and the loss of GP beds, was presented as the preferred option of the Health and Social Care Partnership. This has caused much concern and a number of people are asking for the paper to be removed from the IJB Agenda so that there can be a fuller discussion. The Agenda was circulated on 15/12. Belhaven remains an item with the note that a Report is to follow.

More paperwork for the forthcoming IJB meeting had been received on the day of the DCC meeting. There was a brief discussion about this at the meeting. Option 5 has now been dropped and option 3 rewritten as the preferred option of the Community Health and Social Care Partnership. SB had not received the paperwork. JB will send to him and GW. SB, GW and JB will attend the IJB which is open to the public. It was noted that there was much discontent in the community about the proposals.

JB, SB, GW

Meetings

Winterfield Park Jacquie attended a meeting on November 22nd. The meeting was also attended by ELC staff and Esther from Friends of Winterfield (FOW). The meeting was profitable with discussion on improvements to the Park, much of which is in line with the FOW wish list and with ideas from the Masterplan drafted by Pippa earlier in the year. Toilets are felt to be essential. Other ideas are a measured walking/running route, a safe place for children to learn to cycle and developing some natural play at the earth mounds. Bruce Allison of Amenities agreed to draw up a draft plan for further community discussion. The timescale for him doing this was not certain due to his other commitments.

Bus Forum

Jacquie attended the Forum on November 28th.

Jacquie again raised the lack of bus timetable information at stops. Both Borders Buses and East Coast Buses said that they would be conducting an audit of the information from their companies at all stops. An issue seems to be a shortage of space in some of the cabinets.

There was a discussion about the need to consider bus transport provision at an earlier stage in the Planning Process. There have been issues e.g. the lack of buses to the new council housing at the far end of Brodie Road. A meeting is to be held with the bus providers to discuss this further.

Concern was raised that the new Haddington Community Hospital will not have a bus drop off point. Concerns were discussed about lack of notice about roadworks/diversions which can delay bus services. Jacquie had noted that she had only found out by a chance meeting with an East Lothian Buses employee who was erecting bus stop suspension signs about the closure for several days of the High Street to allow resurfacing works. Andrew McLellan of ELC noted that Community Councils should have prior information of such road closures. It was also noted that ELC Transportation are not always told by utilities companies of roadworks e.g. temporary traffic lights erected at Belhaven. The next Forum will be on March 21st.

Review of the Function of Community Councils

Jacquie attended this workshop in Edinburgh on November 23rd. There was a good turn out from Community Councils from Edinburgh, Fife and Midlothian as well as DCC. Jacquie had circulated a note of the meeting and a Powerpoint of the presentation given.

There was much discussion about the status of Community Councils which are the smallest unit of elected body in Scotland. There are 1200 active Community Councils but the power they have in

influencing local decision making varies. There was concern expressed that local democracy has been diminished by the loss of Burgh Councils. There was contrast with Town and Parish Councils in England as well as in other countries in Europe e.g. France where each councillor represents only around 125 constituents.

It was found that there is a considerable difference in the support offered to Community Councils by different local authorities. There was felt to be a need for training both for Community Councillors but also to enable local authority Councillors and local authority officers to understand the role of Community Councils e.g. in planning and as a consultee on local services etc.

Further workshops are being held in Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Nairn. A fuller report will be circulated after the study has been completed. This will include a survey of all Community Councils based on the research workshop findings.

Talking Tomorrow

Jacque had attended a number of the sessions arranged by Sustaining Dunbar. So far they have included Food, Travel and Energy and Economy and Business. Pippa and George have also attended some of the sessions. Further sessions on Democracy and Education will be held in 2018. All are welcome to sign up. Discussions have been interesting and follow up meetings are being arranged to further consider some of the options proposed.

Day Centre

Gill, Stephen and Jacque attended the Management Committee on November 21st. Management Committee members and Trustees are still needed.

New staff members are settling in to roles and are popular with service users. Unfortunately, a longstanding member of staff has had to retire on health grounds. A replacement will be sought in 2018.

A generous donation (£3,259) has been given to the Day Centre from the Co-op Community Fund. It will be used to renovate the staff office.

Stephen, Gill and Jacque attended a lovely party for service users, staff, volunteers and Management Committee members on December 9th.

Other

Cycle paths around housing south of the railway line

Jacque has had various contacts with Gavin Howat, the member of the public who raised the matter, ELC Officers and Cycling Groups. A meeting which will include a walk of some of the suggested routes will be held on 9th January. Dunbar Cycling Group have been asked to work with Mr Howat to prioritise a route wish list and get some costings from AG Thompson. Funding streams are being explored.

7) Correspondence – previously circulated

Mike Wilson – follow up on Gala Day with a Paintbrush

Gavin Howat – updates on Cycle paths.

Sarah Covey – Update on interest in DCC/Helping with Civic Week

Via Lilian Pryde - Association of East Lothian Community Councils – consultation on new Community Planning structure. Jacque had responded.

Lilian Pryde, ELC – new ELC system for cash payments

Lothian Buses – Festive timetable

Via Ian Hamilton – RBS Area Manager, Hazel Brydon re branch closure – has been invited to January meeting by Jacque

Jo Moulin – arrangements for December DCC meeting

Planning Democracy –notice of a demonstration at Holyrood on 6th December

Lilian Pryde, ELC – Consultation on the ELC Budget

Torness – Community newsletter

Dunbar After School Club – request for financial help towards a water butt and compost bin for a club garden. Jacquie had sent a Local Priorities form. They are able to wait until Spring for the money

Hilary Smith – Association of East Lothian Community Councils – Submission to the Community Planning Structure Review. Jacquie had sent comments.

Paths for All – Active Travel Grants

Lilian Pryde, ELC – Licensing Consultation

Health and Social Care Partnership – Paper on Options for Ward 2, Belhaven Hospital

Bob Carpenter- Follow up to request for information on hotels for a walking group from London. Seeking information on minibus/taxi hire. Jacquie had supplied information.

Sandy Baptie, ELC – Weather update

Kate Darrah – seeking nominations for people who would benefit from the Free Christmas Day lunch.

Borders Buses – Festive Timetable

Scottish Community Alliance – Local People Leading Newsletter

RAGES – Newsletters

Daryth Irving, ELC Planning – Notification of Appeal to DPEA by Robertson/Avant

DPEA – Response to letter objecting to appeal by Robertson/Avant

Via Pippa – Mary Bonnar – Concerns about damaged wall/overgrown vegetation in Spott Road, Jacquie contacted Jimmy Wilson who will contact Mrs Bonnar direct.

Paul Beveridge – concerns about Gladman development at Newtonlees

Scottish Community Development Centre – paperwork from the recent workshop on the role of Community Councils in Scotland.

Via website – Yvonne Towle – Concerns about sewage infrastructure at the Avant development. Jacquie had responded and suggested taking legal advice before purchase.

Via Website – John Fyall – Suggesting that NHS/Social Care service should be moved to a new build facility at Spott Road. Jacquie had responded.

Viridor – Minutes of October Liaison Group meeting.

Via Facebook – Gavin Wilson – concerns about speeding in Queens Road near the new housing. Passed to Police by Jacquie

Via George/Social Media – ELC Consultation on Parking Management Strategy. Implications for Dunbar Town Centre and Coastal car parking. The Document does not have clear dates for the consultation period.

Lilian Pryde – New Blue Badge application procedure.

Brake – Newsletter

Sue Northrop, Dementia Friendly East Lothian - Newsletter

8) AOCB

SB had received a Christmas card from Martin Whitfield, MP.

SB had received a newsletter from ELHA. JB will advise ELHA of SB's new contact details. **JB**

SB had had a letter from Angela Leitch, ELC Chief Executive in response to the letter sent regarding concerns about the Planning Process.

9) Date of Next Meeting – January 15th 2018.

10) Handover of Town House Picture to the Museum Service/Thanks to Christmas Lights Team

A social event was held in the Council Chambers after the meeting concluded.

GR gave a vote of thanks to the Christmas Lights Team.

SB gave a brief speech to formally hand over the picture by Gordon Jenkinson. JB was given a receipt by Jo Moulin of the Museum Service for the picture.

BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON