

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

### **Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town House, Dunbar**

#### **1) Sedurant./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), Herbert Coutts (HC) Ian Hamilton (IH) Gill Wilson (GW)

**Councillors Present** – Cllr Kempson, Cllr Hampshire

**Others Present** – Cameron Ritchie (Press), Hazel Brydon – Local CEO, RBS, Shiona Liddle- Pioneer Minister, Dunbar Parish Church, Mike Shaw and Rev Keith Mills (Members of the Public)

**Apologies** – Graham Adams (GA), Sara Covey (SC)

SB welcomed members to the first meeting of the New Year.

SB expressed condolences to JB on the recent death of her mother.

#### **2)Presentation/Discussion – Hazel Brydon, Local CEO, RBS re proposed closure of Dunbar Branch.**

Ms Brydon advised that Dunbar Branch is due to close on 30<sup>th</sup> May. All users have been informed. As well as the branch closing the ATM will be removed. The building is owned by RBS and will be sold.

She said that the reason RBS is closing over 60 branches across Scotland is the decreased use of counters and the increased use of digital, telephone and online banking. Members noted that the Dunbar branch is always busy and is used by people from the rural villages, some of whom already have journey to get into the town.

A mobile service will be made available on a weekly basis – a site for this is being sought e.g. the Bleachingfield Centre Car Park.

RBS Customers would also be able to use the Post Office for paying in etc. Pay In books would be issued.

A new Community Banker would be brought into post. They would spend 1 day a week in Haddington and also make one to one home visits.

There would also be money sense lessons in the schools and also for the wider community e.g. at the library.

Members expressed considerable concerns e.g.  
Difficulties in paying in/accessing cash for High Street businesses. Some local traders are already considering moving their business to other banks.  
Difficulties for small organisations who pay in cheques and cash subs from members  
Difficulties for churches who pay in weekly cash collections  
Difficulties for customers who are still paid wages in cash  
Difficulties for those who prefer to pay bills in cash rather than by card  
The ability of the small Post Office to cope with the extra business.  
Difficulties for those in rural villages with poor transport links  
Difficulties for those with mobility disabilities or older people who would not be able to access a mobile van.  
Difficulties for those with hearing impairments who cannot use telephone banking.  
Soundproofing in the mobile unit is limited.  
The limited responsiveness of having to make home appointments in contrast to being able to call into the branch, particularly for urgent queries.

Members were concerned about the closures across the country, particularly given RBS is 75% owned by the taxpayer. It was noted that there had been debates at Holyrood and Westminster as well as a motion at ELC that had been passed unanimously seeking Government intervention in the closures.

HC asked about the future of the Branch staff. They will be taking a mix of retirement, redundancy and redeployment.

SB thanked Ms Brydon for her attendance at the meeting. She said she would be happy to respond to any further queries members or the public may have.

### **3) Minutes of December 18<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Agreed as a true record. Proposed Herbert Coutts, Seconded Gill Wilson.

### **4) Sub Committee Reports**

*Christmas Lights* – GA had circulated a report. The Christmas Lights, which all agreed had looked superb, had been taken down on 14<sup>th</sup> January. Winter Lights are now in place.

Following the upgrade works few repairs had been needed whilst the lights were up. The 4 year upgrade plan is progressing and GA will give more information to the February meeting. The plan will be subject to receiving appropriate grants and fundraising.

A funding application has been submitted to Be Green for £5000 towards LED updates.

Thanks were expressed from the Christmas Lights Team for the recognition of their work and the function at the Town House on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Civic Week* – AS and GW are to meet with Sue Anderson on 17/1. Some new assistance has been offered. A local company has offered the use of a horse drawn carriage for the Royal Court. JB had circulated photos. The cost might be around £400. This could be explored further.

### **5)Police Report**

No Report

### **CAPP Priorities From 8<sup>th</sup> January**

*Travellers at East Fortune* – GW noted that there were concerns about the dangers of asbestos at the derelict old hospital and also incidents of hare coursing.

*Speeding*

*Litter on A1*

**Next CAPP** – February 14<sup>th</sup>

### **6)Vacancies**

#### **Community Councillors**

Following the November meeting which SC had attended and introduced herself, JB had had further contact with her about joining the Community Council. SC had decided that she would like to join and also be involved with Civic Week planning. As SC could not be present this evening JB read a statement from her. It was agreed that SC should become a member of the Community Council and JB agreed to contact her. **JB**

Sarah Beattie-Smith had sadly had to resign for personal reasons. She has moved out of the area but would like to be involved in the future if she returns to Dunbar. This creates a vacancy which has been publicised on Facebook.

#### **Minute Secretary**

Jill Taylor had decided not to continue. The vacancy has been put on Facebook. JB will cover in the meantime.

JB had heard via the website from Rowena Halliday who will be moving to Dunbar and has expressed an interest in becoming involved. However, it was not clear if she wished to be a volunteer Community Councillor or a paid Minute Secretary. JB will contact her to clarify. **JB**

### **7)Treasurer's Report**

AS had circulated his report.

#### **a) General**

*General Fund* – The Balance is £823.27. Expenses had been paid to the Secretary and Minute Secretary

*Christmas Lights Account* – The Balance is £8539-83

*Civic Week Account* – The Balance is £5771.62 (No movement)

A budget will be prepared for the 2018 Civic Week following a planning meeting. It will form part of the February Finance Report.

*Insurance* – JB had passed information to AS on the Insurance Renewal. More information will be sought and passed on about this. **JB/AS**

## **b) Local Priorities**

### **Updates**

At the request of ELC, £500 had been paid in grants from the General Fund. ELC will repay this to the General Fund.

The Boys Brigade, Community Bakery and Organisers of the Christmas Lunch had all expressed thank for their grants.

### **New Applications**

No new applications this month. However, interest has been expressed from Dementia Friendly Dunbar and Belhaven Surf Centre. The Bakery would also appreciate further funding.

Sadly, Dunbar Sci-fest will not be taking place in 2018 and thus they will not be seeking a grant.

**Current Funds** - The amount of grant money available to allocate to the end of the Financial Year is £431.

**8)Secretary's Report** – This had been circulated by JB

### **Town Maintenance Issues**

- 1) Bollard in Queens Road – a replacement has been ordered
- 2) Queens Road wall. Still to be repaired. JB is chasing the Four Seasons Estates Manager. Some red markings have appeared on the pavement near the most eroded parts.
- 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 Buses and East Coast Buses are both planning audits of bus stop information. Information is still badly needed at many local stops.
- 7) Overgrown ransom strip near Cala development. Still to be dealt with by Craig Lynes at Cala.
- 8) Damaged wall with overgrowing ivy in Spott Road. Noted by a member of the public. Reported to ELC. Jimmy Wilson, Community Warden, will contact the person.

- 9) Bench at Doon Avenue – Still required
- 10) Uneven tarmac in Brodie Road near Fairbairn Way. Persimmon are still to rectify this. Marshall Greenshields of ELC is chasing them.
- 11) 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 of ELC Planning Enforcement as a potential breach of planning permission requiring the developers to have sufficient wheel washing facilities and keep the road clean.
- 12) Steps from Shore Road car park to John Muir Way. Grippy treads are still needed. Neil Clarke at ELC is dealing with this.
- 13) Signage and Road Markings at King's Court – still needed. ELC Transportation looking into this.
- 14) Damage at Bleachingfield after the shows – still patches of damage. Gordon Whitelaw advises that attempts to restore the grass have not been successful as seed has not been germinating. They will keep trying but grass may not grow successfully until spring comes.
- 15) Benches in Victoria Street – some still need repair. Passed to Stuart Pryde.
- 16) Bollard in Belhaven Road – needs repair. Reported to ELC.
- 17) Scottish Gas are laying new pipes along Queen's Road. This is causing much disruption. It seems work in the area will last until around March 31<sup>st</sup>. JB had not had a copy of a TTRO which previously had been issued to DCC prior to major works.
- 18) Roadworks issues in Brodie Road- raised by a member of the public. Passed to ELC.

### **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 when doing their shopping. JB has written to Royal Mail who say they will investigate why the box had been sealed up.

***Closure Of RBS.*** Hazel Brydon to attend the January meeting (see above)

### **Meetings**

***Cycle Paths around Housing South of the Railway Line*** – JB met on January 9<sup>th</sup> with local resident (GH), ELC officers (Stuart Gibb, Ian Reid, Marshall Greenshields, Neil Clarke and Ryan Robertson), Dunbar Cycling Group (Suzanne Forup and Dan Waters) regarding access from the new housing to the schools and town. It was evident from meeting people that the paths were well used and that they would benefit from better surfacing and, in some places, lighting.

Ian Reid will contact the new owners of Lochend Cottage regarding potential lighting. ELC officers will work on costings for preferred options. Funding may be shared by DELAP, the Cycling Group and Sustaining Dunbar depending on costs with the local groups seeking access to wider funding sources e.g. Paths for All.

## **9)Matters Arising**

### **a) Planning Matters**

#### ***Updates***

- i) *Local Plan* – no further information
- ii) *Robertson/Avant Homes*. The Appeal to DPEA regarding removal of the S75 Education contribution condition for the affordable homes had been withdrawn. JB had circulated an update on the sewage infrastructure from Scottish Water. The current system should support around 100 homes until around Summer 2018. However, there are still no long-term arrangements.
- iii) *Eden Hotel* – application of change of use to 1 house – still to be determined.
- iv) *Battleblent House* – no further information – still to be determined
- v) *McColls (17/00713LBC, 17/00714/ASV, 17/00715/P)* – still to be determined
- vi) *17/00488/PM* – Erection of 73 houses and 8 flats on land South of Brodie Road. Still to be determined.
- vii) *17/00292/P,17/00011/LRB – Bear*. Still to be determined. Transport Scotland must agree a change to footpath layout to access the Bear.
- viii) *Golf Club* – new plans are still to be submitted
- ix) *17/00976 – Surf Academy*. Still to be determined. Some nearby residents have raised concerns about the structure which is higher than they had expected.
- x) *NNG Windfarm* – The new Marine Licence Application is still to be submitted
- xi) *17/01043 Renewal of application at 115 High Street*. Information had been circulated. This application had been renewed a number of times before. It includes taking a communal garden into the garden ground of the property. AHSS had objected. The extension of permission had been granted on 12<sup>th</sup> January, having been on the delegated list.

#### ***Other***

- i) Paul Zochowski is still to circulate a copy of the colour palette for conservation areas.
- ii) SB had written to Angela Leitch, Chief Executive of ELC, with concerns about the planning process and the voice of DCC within it. Her response had been circulated.  
Members were not happy with the response. They continue to have concerns about the voice of the community and the Community Council in the Planning system following a number of recent planning decisions. Most notable was the casting vote of Cllr Hampshire in November 2017 to approve the Gladman application against the opinion of the Community, Community Council, and Planners when it was outwith the Local Development Plan. A casting vote against the application would have given Gladman the opportunity to Appeal. However, the Community had no right of Appeal but would need to live with the consequences of the decision as with other local developments e.g. Cala. Cllr Hampshire stated that without the cemetery land at this site the town would run short of burial ground. He noted that there were other sites in East Lothian where applications may be agreed even though they are not in the Local Development Plan which is still to be ratified.

Members expressed considerable concern regarding time spent on considering individual applications, submitting views and attending Planning Committee meetings only to have their views ignored. There was particular concern about the long period spent on contributing to the preparation of the Local Development Plan only to see it being bypassed before it was finalised. JB noted that she had had contact with the pressure group Planning Democracy which is using a number of cases from the area as examples in its pressure on the Scottish Government to introduce a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Right of Appeal into forthcoming Planning legislation. It was agreed that JB would highlight the ongoing concerns of DCC regarding making its voice heard in the planning process to Planning Democracy. **JB**

**b) East Beach**

PS advised that a meeting of the Regeneration Group would be held on 17<sup>th</sup> January. It is hoped that the rock armour work will start in around 8 weeks.

The design of the groyne will be discussed further.

There will also be discussion about the sea wall – there had been a further collapse at Lamer Street

PS agreed to circulate an update after the meeting. **PS**

**c) Cemetery Issues**

*Deer Park* – Gavin Wilson still wishes a noticeboard. He had taken up the issue of the broken gates with ELC and this is in hand. He wishes disabled access to the pavilion and provision of a public toilet.

*Newtonlees* – The cemetery application had been approved although SEPA wish further monitoring of ground water at the site.

*Parish Church* – Further information is sought from ELC on the continuation/expansion of wildflower planting. It was agreed that JB would advise Stuart Pryde that the desire of DCC would be for the project to continue and expand to other parts of the cemetery. **JB**

**d) Parks**

*Winterfield* – Bruce Allison is still to circulate his draft masterplan as discussed at the meeting attended by JB on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Lauderdale* – no response from ELC re lack of toilets.

**e) Common Good Buildings (Corn Exchange and St Margarets)**

PS had been waiting on information from Liz McLean at ELC. She will chase this. **PS**

**f) Belhaven Hospital**

JB, SB and GW had attended the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>. There had been requests from a number of people for the meeting to decide on a preferred option for the future of Ward 2 to be deferred to allow a further meeting of the Belhaven Forum. However, it had gone ahead.

A new paper had been issued on December 18<sup>th</sup> which ran to 63 pages. This had dropped the controversial Option 5 from the previous paper.

4 options had been put forward by Alison MacDonald, the Chief Nurse.

1) Do nothing. This would maintain 95 beds across the County

2) Use of a modular facility. This would maintain 95 beds.

3) Close Ward 2 and move services to Ward 3. Ward 3 would be deregistered.

Admissions would cease to Wards 1 and 3 in February. All residents in Wards 1 and 3 would be allocated social workers for reassessment. Opportunity would be given to people to move to other care homes (some residents are from outside Dunbar). There would be a loss of 11 nursing home beds with a total of 83 beds. This was the preferred option of the Community Health Partnership (CHP).

4) Refurbish Ward 2. This would cost around £535,000 and give a total of 89 beds. This was the preferred option of local GPs.

SB had been given opportunity to speak as a representative of the Belhaven Forum.

4 ELC Councillors were amongst the 8 voting members of the IJB. Only the 4 Councillors are elected by the public – Cllrs Akhtar, Currie, Kempson and O'Donnell.

Cllr Currie and Thomas Millar of UNISON had raised concerns as to how the building had been allowed to decline so far as to need so much spent on it. It had been noted that some cosmetic work had been done over the years. However, major work like a new floor was needed. Also inspection standards had increased.

Alison MacDonald had noted that new Step-Down beds would be coming on stream at a new care home in Haddington in 2018 which would replace the current beds at Liberton Hospital and add to those at Crookston Court in Tranent. There would also be an increase in the number of beds at Muirfield (private facility) in Gullane. She had also noted that the Ward 2 building would be fitted out as a hub for community-based services. A new Hospital to Home Team of 4 – 6 staff would be based there. They would operate between 8 am and 10 pm. The hope was that they would enable people to get home, work with them to try to lower dependency and then pass on the packages to care agencies. She had noted the current issues in recruitment and retention of care at home staff in the area. Peter Murray (IJB Chair) and David Small (CHP Director) had both said that Option 4 was not feasible. There would not be a business case to get funding for refurbishment from NHS Lothian which has limited funds. Option 2 had also been thought to have financial costs that NHS Lothian would not fund.

The vote had been 7 for Option 3. Cllr Currie had voted for Option 4.

Further papers presented to the IJB meeting had indicated the tightness of funding for both NHS Lothian and ELC, the partner agencies that fund the CHP. New legislation e.g. for Carers would be coming on board and there would be other increased costs like



paying the living wage to staff, funding Free Personal and Nursing Care for under 65s and an increase in the National Care Home Contract funding.

There had been much community concern about the decision. Patients and residents had received letters on December 22<sup>nd</sup> to advise of the decision which had caused anxiety.

Some members of the community led by Cllr McLennan were to look at crowdfunding to refurbish Ward 2. Cllr McLennan had discussed this option with David Small.

A member of the public had written to Audit Scotland with concerns about the decision-making process.

JB had written to the Health Secretary and the Finance Secretary with regard to future budgeting at Holyrood for NHS and Social Care services. She had spoken to Iain Gray MSP regarding the loss of nursing home beds in the area and the need to press for a new facility. She had spoken to Dr Black about the concerns of the GPs about the loss of beds and to Cllr McLennan about community involvement in funding Belhaven.

The Belhaven Forum would be continuing to meet to discuss the longer-term options for NHS and social care in the area with a meeting to be held on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

DCC members had a general discussion about the situation. There was concern at the loss of care home beds. SB noted that new beds would be available in Haddington but this was not thought to be a good option for those without transport.

It was felt that there should be a clearer masterplan for health and social care services that was fit for the future as the population increases and ages.

There was concern that care at home facilities are not suitable for everyone, particularly those who live alone and need 24-hour support. Hospital to Home and Hospital at Home do not give overnight care and have limited staffing resources.

There was concern that S75 payments from developers go towards education buildings but not towards health and social care facilities in established communities.

#### **g) War Memorial**

HC had written to Angela Leitch, ELC Chief Executive, for permission to proceed as ELC own the monument. He had also spoken to Paul Zochowski about proposals. It is hoped that ELC will place a staff member on the Working Group to help oversee the work once funding is in place. A pre-application has been made to the War Memorials Trust. HC hoped that work could be completed by the end of October 2018 in time for the centenary of the Armistice. **HC**

#### **h) Dunbar High Street – no further information**

### **i)Town Maintenance**

I) Information Boards at the Jubilee Fountain, Brownie Garden and The Glebe. Stuart Pryde at ELC is hoping to replace them using the original information by the end of March 2018. There would be no cost to DCC.

ii) Flags – in hand. SB.

iii) Information Board about the Lochend Arch at the Community Woodland. SB

### **j) Restoration of Provost Portraits - no further information**

**k) Town House Picture** – This had been handed over to the Museum Service at the event on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks were given to PS and others for arranging this.

**l) Star Awards** – Nominations had been made. However, those nominated by DCC had not received awards.

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

GR had made an application to WREN to fund refurbishment of the coastal pathway. A decision would be made in February.

GR was in contact with SGS staff about the 2018 Summer School.

Funding had been given to repair roads at Westgate and in the DSHNG area. However, works seemed to be limited to patching up in some places.

Plans were being made for the annual public meeting. It had been agreed to move it from February to June to link with Civic Week.

JB had had discussions about foot/cycle paths from south of the railway into town.

Consideration was being given to projects that could be funded before the end of March e.g. benches.

Next meeting – January 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **11)Local Councillor's Reports**

*Cllr Hampshire* – Work is ongoing on the Budget. This will involve some tough choices. As well as funding for current services new commitments will be coming on board as the result of legislation e.g. on carers rights. ELC is hoping for a better settlement once the Scottish Government budget is finalised.

ELC is working on a response to a Scottish Government consultation on Education.

There will be a special meeting of the Education Committee to look at this.

*Cllr Kempson* – Nothing further to add. She noted that Cllr Hampshire and his team were doing a good job on the Budget which was a difficult process.

*Cllr McLennan* – No report

### **12) Licensing**

The premises licence fee of a Dunbar hostelry had been paid and thus there had not been the need for a review at the November Licensing Board.

### **13) Bowe Cup and Community Council Awards**

SB had circulated information on criteria to be considered in awarding the trophies. These would be discussed further at a future meeting.

There had been previous discussion as to whether there should be an award for teams. GR showed a new trophy which had been purchased. It was agreed that it would be called the Stephen Bunyan Award. It was agreed to hold a sub group meeting with SB to consider the criteria for its award.

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

**IJB** – See Belhaven Report

### **15) Correspondence – previously circulated**

**Sandy Mitchell, Dunbar Boys' Brigade** – Thanks for the Local Priorities Grant. Tents had been purchased.

**Erica Wimbush, Community Bakery** – Thanks for the grant

**Karen Bell, Countess Youth Club** – Thanks for the grant

**Sandy Baptie, ELC** – Weather update

**Jill Taylor** – Resignation as Minute Secretary

**Torness** – Management Changes. Paul Winkle is moving to a new post

**Lilian Pryde** – Seasons Greetings

**Planning Democracy** – Newsletter

**Sarah Beattie-Smith** – Resignation

**Lothian Buses** – Newsletter

**John Fyall** – Queries about Coastguard Site. JB had responded.

**Lilian Pryde** – Empowering Schools – Scottish Government Consultation on Education Provision. Meeting at Musselburgh Grammar on January 9<sup>th</sup> – otherwise on-line response.

**Allison Cosgrove** – Invitation to Community Rail Partnership Meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>. JB will attend.

**Sue Northrop, Dementia Friendly East Lothian** – Newsletter

**Via Facebook – Shiona Liddle, Dunbar Parish Church.** Request to attend a meeting. She is doing a Community Audit and will bring questionnaires to the January meeting. She does not need to do a presentation at this stage but will arrange to do so once her study is completed.

**Via Facebook – Gavin Wilson** – various issues. JB had responded

**Scottish Community Alliance** – Local People Leading newsletter

**Via Facebook – Jane Lockett** – Concerns about condition of the Bleachingfield after the Autumn shows. Passed by JB to ELC Amenities.

**Via Website – Susan Davies** - Concerns about roadworks in Brodie Road blocking residents' driveways without notice. Passed by JB to ELC. Taylor Wimpey Customer Services are also involved regarding ongoing issues.

**Via Website – Joanne Davies, Prestige Carriages** – Offer of carriage for Gala Court

**Scottish Civic Trust** – Reminder of My Place Awards

**Paths for All** – Grants (closing date 31<sup>st</sup> January)

**Angela Leitch, ELC** – Response to concerns about Planning

**Zurich – Highland Council Insurance** – passed to AS

**John Hutchinson** – Concerns about ward 2

**Sandy Baprie, ELC** – Wishing to attend a meeting regarding resilience. Will come in February. Also 2 places at a Workshop on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Musselburgh.

**Ashley Dickson, Torness** – Torness Community Newsletter

**Kenneth Bannerman** - Airfields of Britain Conservation trust re commemorating WW1 site at Belhaven.

**Rowena Paterson** – Interest in being involved in DCC

### **16) AOCB**

**a) Shiona Liddle** – Pioneer Minister at Dunbar Parish Church. She is conducting a Community Audit – looking at assets (who and what) in the town. She circulated questionnaires. Once her study is complete she would give a report to DCC.

**b) Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust.** JB had circulated information. They wish to commemorate a site at Belhaven Bay with a plaque. GR was aware of this site and noted that there is film footage on display at the Museum of Flight. JB noted that West Barns CC are already involved in a project at Belton. There would be no cost to DCC and the Trust do all the work. JB will liaise with Mr Bannerman about this. **JB**

**c) Education Consultation** – new systems and structures for Scottish education. JB had circulated information. ELC will make a formal response to the Scottish Government based on responses received by January 20<sup>th</sup>. Members could respond to the Scottish Government consultation which ends on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**d Haddington 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – SB noted forthcoming events to celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Charter granted by Robert the Bruce.

### **16) Date of Next Meeting**

Sandy Baprie will attend to discuss the Resilience Action Plan