



Dunbar Community Council AGM + Open Meeting

Dunbar Town House

16th October 2023

MINUTES

Ref	Item	Action																																																																																
1.00	SEDERUNT																																																																																	
1.01	<p><u>Present</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Pippa Swan</td> <td>Chair</td> <td>PS</td> <td>Kevin Searle</td> <td>KS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alasdair Swan</td> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>AS</td> <td>Pam Shields</td> <td>PSH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graham Adams</td> <td>Vice Chair</td> <td>GA</td> <td>Mark James</td> <td>MJ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stephen Bunyan</td> <td></td> <td>SB</td> <td>Jacquie Bell</td> <td>JB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sanchita Patjoshi</td> <td></td> <td>SP</td> <td>Romie Blair</td> <td>RB</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norman Hampshire</td> <td>ELC Councillor</td> <td>NH</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5"><u>Observers</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter McDonagh</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Mike Shaw</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Douglas Urquhart</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Jean Urquhart</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stuart Cameron</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Keith Mills</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shelagh Craig</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Andrew Boddie</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5"><u>Press</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cameron Ritchie</td> <td>EL Courier</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Pippa Swan	Chair	PS	Kevin Searle	KS	Alasdair Swan	Treasurer	AS	Pam Shields	PSH	Graham Adams	Vice Chair	GA	Mark James	MJ	Stephen Bunyan		SB	Jacquie Bell	JB	Sanchita Patjoshi		SP	Romie Blair	RB						Norman Hampshire	ELC Councillor	NH								<u>Observers</u>					Peter McDonagh			Mike Shaw		Douglas Urquhart			Jean Urquhart		Stuart Cameron			Keith Mills		Shelagh Craig			Andrew Boddie							<u>Press</u>					Cameron Ritchie	EL Courier				
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1.03	<p><u>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Nil</p>																																																																																	
2.00	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING																																																																																	
2.01	<p>Minutes of AGM 2022</p> <p>Minutes of the AGM held on October 17th 2022 were adopted by DCC members without change at the meeting of 21st November 2022. There were no action items and no matters outstanding.</p>																																																																																	
2.02	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>Pippa Swan presented a report on the workings of the Community Council in the past year.</p> <p>JB asked for Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership (DELAP) to be identified as partners in the Local Place Plan work. The Chair's report, with this addition, is added to these minutes.</p>																																																																																	
2.03	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>																																																																																	

	<p>Alasdair Swan presented a report on the Finances of the Community Council to year end March 2023.</p> <p>JB asked that monies ringfenced for Access for All to Belhaven Bay, a Community Council project to secure disabled access to this beach, be returned to DELAP. AS will await a formal request from DELAP.</p>	
2.04	<p>Election of Office Bearers 2023 – 2024</p> <p>The current incumbents were returned.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair - Pippa Swan 2. Vice Chair - Graham Adams 3. Treasurer – Alasdair Swan 4. Secretary – Graham Adams 	
2.05	<p>Community Liaison</p> <p>It was agreed that DCC representation in the community would be discussed at the DCC inaugural, informal meeting, to be held on 6th November (See Item 3.04/11.01 below). Any decision taken will be formally recorded at the DCC meeting to be held on 20th November.</p> <p>Note: JB wished her objection to this agreement to be noted. She felt that the informal meetings were out of alignment with the DCC’s constitution and that it was wrong for this matter to be held away from public scrutiny. DCC members did not share this view.</p>	
2.06	<p>Any other AGM Business</p> <p>Independent Examiner – it was agreed that G Spratt + Co would again be invited to examine the DCC annual accounts.</p>	
2.07	<p>AGM Chair – Closing Remarks</p> <p>PS thanked members for their contributions over the past year and welcomed the presence of members of the public at the AGM.</p>	

DCC OPEN MEETING

3.00	MINUTES OF MEETING – 18th September 2023	
3.01	<p>Amendments</p> <p>4.01 ii.f – Skate Park/Pump Track</p> <p>JB asked for an amendment to the note on ownership of the various aspects of the proposed development. On review, the minute was found to be accurate and no amendment was required or made.</p>	
3.02	<p>Adoption</p> <p>The motion to adopt was</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed – GA ▪ Seconded – KS <p>The Minutes were adopted and will be published on DCC website</p>	
3.03	<p>DCC Action Review</p> <p>With the exception of the undernoted, all action items have been attended to or have been overtaken by events.</p> <p>4.01 Options paper for Parish Church Cemetery – Grounds Management</p>	AS

3.04	<p>Matters arising not covered in agenda</p> <p>3.04 <u>Dunbar Against Litter</u> Romie Blair spoke to this item and raised 4 new issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The DAL team was finding it dangerous and difficult to litter pick on the back road between West Barns and Eweford because of the number of cars, speed of traffic and overgrown verges. The team had been verbally abused by some drivers. <i>NH will see what improvements might be made to alleviate these problems.</i> b. The bin at the playpark at Brodie Road/Yosemite Park is overflowing, largely with dog waste bags. This is not an ELC bin but managed by the estate factor. <i>NH to raise this matter and seek to find a solution.</i> c. RB asked about the Dog Warden service as it was plain that people were ignoring the law and allowing dogs to foul public places. The park at West Barns is a particular problem with people simply allowing dogs into the park, unattended and not cleaning up afterwards. <i>NH will advise the ELC Dog Warden and seek to patrol this park as an initial step towards better control.</i> d. The layby on the road to the Tarmac estate is an issue. <i>AS to contact Tarmac to discuss</i> <p>4.05i <u>Valencia Fire Update (SP, KS)</u> Sanchita Patjoshi and Kevin Searle attended a public meeting on 27th September on behalf of DCC. Key points included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Valencia recognised that communication with the community had been poor and that a Community Liaison arrangement was needed. b. Valencia will consider ongoing air quality monitoring, even though it is not a contractual obligation. c. A detailed report is expected to be made public once ratified by SEPA, which is the statutory body governing landfill sites. <p>A detailed note is added to these minutes. <i>DCC to write to Valencia to request Community Liaison and to seek an update on air quality monitoring plans</i></p> <p>11.01 <u>Inaugural DCC Informal, closed meeting – 6th November 2023</u> At the DCC meeting of 18th September 2023, it was unanimously agreed that Community Councillors would be invited to meet privately and informally on the first Monday of each month in order to allow time for councillors to get to know each other better and to allow for informal discussion on topics of potential interest to the community. This will not be an obligation and will not affect the established DCC public meetings held on the 3rd Monday of each month. Any decisions necessarily taken at an informal meeting will be reported at a subsequent public meeting. The inaugural meeting will take place on Monday 6th November 2023.</p> <p>7.02 <u>BoS Cash Terminal – Update (LJ/PS)</u> LJ/PS had been in contact with LINK to discuss the provision of on street ATM provision in Dunbar following the closure of Bank of Scotland in 2024. LINK confirmed that a full assessment of ATM use on High Street had been made and the group was satisfied that the reduction to just one, on street terminal would be adequate. It was noted that a number of ATMs are available for long hours/24hrs e.g Co-Op, ASDA and no ‘Access to Cash’ problems were identified. Plans are being considered by LINK to address issues relating to cash handling and paying in as it is recognised that, despite being offered at Dunbar Post Office for almost all banks, additional facility may be required. <i>JB noted the rise of Banking Hubs, centred in Post Offices.</i></p>	<p>NH</p> <p>NH</p> <p>NH</p> <p>AS</p> <p>PS</p>
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4.00	ELC COUNCILLORS – REPORTS	
4.01	<p>Cllr Norman Hampshire -</p> <p>1. Action - Update and Matters Arising</p> <p><u>4.01.i.c Domestic Flooding – ELC Protocol</u></p> <p>NH confirmed that ELC are now working on a revised information page for the ELC website that will guide residents to the correct aids and supports in different types of flooding conditions. <i>AS asked that this information page should include specific guidance for homeowners affected by water ingress from neighbouring properties and that ELC phone reception were aware of the instructions. NH confirmed that he would ensure that this happens.</i></p> <p>2. Report</p> <p>1. <u>Hallhill Pumptrack/Skatepark</u></p> <p>NH presented plans showing proposals for the new, designated, outdoor sports area to the south and east of Lochend Primary School at Hallhill. Plans include a play area, pump track, skate park, basketball court and youth café. Surrounding woodland will be transferred to the care of Dunbar Community Woodlands. The whole scheme will be lodged for planning consent within the next month. SB requested full support from DCC members for this project. He noted that all sports facilities for DGS pupils would now be located at Hallhill, in anticipation of further expansion of the DGS building and that, with a growing population, it was imperative that we commit to high quality and appropriate sports facilities.</p> <p>In answer to question/comments:</p> <p>a. <i>NH confirmed that there would be no funding granted to DCW towards the cost of managing the additional woodland area. MJ is to come to DCC with information on the likely costs involved with this additional management burden to see if DCC can support DCW in any way.</i></p> <p>b. <i>NH confirmed that the youth café would be manned and managed by ELC staff.</i></p> <p>c. <i>NH was unaware of any legal requirement that woodland be used for ‘learning only’. JB will send evidence of any such legal requirement to NH.</i></p> <p><i>JB asked about the non-completion of a promised play area at Albany Grange (not associated with the pumptrack/skatepark sites). JB to write to NH with her concerns.</i></p>	<p>NH</p> <p>MJ</p> <p>JB</p> <p>JB</p>
4.02	<p>Cllr Lyn Jardine</p> <p><i>Not in attendance</i></p>	
4.03	<p>Cllr Donna Collins</p> <p><i>Not in attendance</i></p>	
4.04	<p>Questions/Concerns to Councillors</p> <p>1. <u>Why does it take so long for ELC to adopt roads and pavements? (KS)</u></p> <p><i>NH explained that ELC will only adopt roads and pavements when a developer offers them up for adoption and this is only ever once a development is fully complete. ELC will inspect roads/pavements before adoption and will only take</i></p>	

	<p><i>them on once satisfied that they meet the specified standard. This can and does take years.</i></p> <p>2. <u>(Supplementary) The transition period between developer/ELC adoption of roads/paths is grim for home owners. Can DCC/ELC agree an efficient protocol to protect the interests of new residents in respect of subjects that will, ultimately, be adopted by ELC? (KS)</u> <i>NH shared the frustration expressed by DCC members and acknowledged that the system did not adequately support owners of new homes. NH stated that this it would not be possible to impose a handover timeframe as there is no contractual or planning legislation that would allow for this.</i></p> <p>3. <u>DCC notes the proposed closure of Macmerry Recycling Centre. What does the future hold for waste services in Dunbar – Recycling Centre, Green Bins, Brown Bins?</u> <i>Macmerry is one of the older recycling centres and the closure was triggered by the retirement of the current site manager and a moratorium on ELC recruitment. Re-opening of the site is not ruled out. NH confirmed that there would be no change to Dunbar’s recycling or waste services although a charge of £35 will be imposed on Brown Bin collections. Any increase in flytipping of garden waste would be monitored; garden waste can still be dropped at the recycling centre.</i></p> <p>4. <u>Coastal Parking – Campervan/Overnight Parking Review</u> <i>At last month’s meeting, LJ undertook to follow up this review and ensure that local residents, DCC and WBCC were fully involved in the review discussions. No word has been received on this. In the absence of LJ, could NH update on this. NH - DCC, WBCC and residents would all be involved in the review. No programme was given. To be pursued.</i></p> <p>5. <u>TRO/double yellow lines – North St/Back Road. What are the plans for this?</u> <i>NH - Plans were still under consideration and that a TRO would be issued in due course at which time all local residents, DCC/WBCC would be able to respond.</i></p> <p>6. <u>Proposed closure of Dunbar Police Station</u> <i>It has been suggested on social media that several East Lothian police station buildings will be closed, including Dunbar. Is this the case? NH – ELC has not been made aware of any fixed plans for changes to the Police Scotland estate. If Police Scotland did decide to close the building, ELC would ensure that the police did have an indentifiable and accessible base in the town.</i></p>	NH/LJ
5.00	POLICE REPORT	
5.01	<p>Police Report - <i>circulated to Councillors with agenda, for information.</i></p> <p>Key points to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Youth ASB</u> at Asda and the surrounding area was identified at the last CAPP as a local police priority however there have been very few reports of youth ASB in the area. • The Fire Service continue to have reports of <u>fires</u> being set, particular at Ashfield and Lochend Woods and these have been dealt with. The Fire Service and police have given safety presentations at Dunbar Grammar School. Action has been taken against youths identified as starting fires. • <u>Speeding</u> has remained a priority, with Edinburgh Road, West Barns heading into Dunbar being set as the next two months priority location for speed checks. • Reports of <u>fly tipping</u> at Broxburn have been received. ELC has been made aware and will be arranging for the rubbish to be removed. Any reports of fly tipping should be directed to East Lothian Council. 	

	<p>Community and Police Partnership (CAPP) priorities agreed at meeting of 21st September:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth ASB – Spott Road/Kellie Road/ASDA 2. Speeding – Edinburgh Road, West Barns. <p>The next CAPP meeting will be held on 8th November 2023.</p>																	
5.02	<p><u>Comments/Matters Arising</u> <i>Nil</i></p>																	
5.03	<p><u>Matters for CAPP – 8th November 2023</u> <i>None raised</i></p>																	
6.00	TREASURER'S REPORT																	
6.01	<p>DCC Finance Report – September 2023 – <i>circulated to Councillors with agenda for information</i></p> <p>General Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bank statement balance at the month end was £131,111.13 <p>The restricted funds held within the General account at the month end were:</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Windpower Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£117,099.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Access for All Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£759.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local Priorities Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£9,637.70</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£127,496.39</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>The unrestricted funds held within the General account at the month end were:</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Balance in the General Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,672.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£3,614.74</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL FUNDS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£131,111.13</td> </tr> </table> <p>Christmas Lights Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bank balance at the month end stood at £ 14,402.57 • Advertising income is beginning to come in. • £1,450 has been spent in the month on cherry picker hire. <p>Civic Week Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bank balance at the month end was £8,985.52 • No movement in the month. <p>Dunbar against Litter Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bank balance at the month end was £1,375.50 • Donations received during the month amounted to £22 • Expenses in the month - £50 		£	Community Windpower Fund	£117,099.69	Access for All Fund	£759.00	Local Priorities Fund	<u>£9,637.70</u>	TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>£127,496.39</u>	Balance in the General Fund	3,672.74	TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>£3,614.74</u>	TOTAL FUNDS	£131,111.13	
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	Local Priority Grant applications	Amount	Review	Decision	
	Our Dunbar	£315	May	Awarded	
	Primary School Parent Council	£297	May	Awarded	
	First Aid training for volunteers	£575	July	Awarded	
	Rotary - School laminator	£286	July	Awarded	
	DTA - pull test for baskets	£683	July	Awarded	
	Tuesday Coffee Club	£250	Sept	Awarded	
	Committed or under review	£2,406			
	<i>Local Priorities Fund available</i>	£9,313			
	Maximum Budget Total	<u>£11,719</u>			
	Current year fund	£10,200			
	Brought forward fund	<u>£1,519</u>			
		<u>£11,719</u>			
	Paid				
	Not yet paid	Our Dunbar		£75	
		Tuesday Club		£250	
	Rejected or lapsed				
	<i>Local Priorities Fund available</i>	£9,313			
	Not yet paid	<u>£325</u>			
	Per Finance Report	<u>£9,638</u>			
6.02	Questions/Matters Arising from Accounts Nil				
6.03	Local Priorities Fund Applications for consideration				
	Project	Sum requested		Grant decision	
	DGS Association Fundraising Fair (SJ – Declaration of Interest)	£500		£500	
6.04	Requests for support for consideration: a. <u>Letter of Support – The Ridge – 88 High Street (papers circulated to DCC)</u> <i>It was agreed that a letter of support should be provided to the Ridge for their use in upcoming funding applications for their project to develop the building and associated backland at 86-88 High Street.</i>				PS
7.00	PLANNING MATTERS				
7.01	Planning Applications for consideration/Discussion a. <u>Short Term Lets</u> – DCC Protocol				

	<p><i>It was agreed that DCC should not respond to ELC invitations to comment on Short Term Lets applications unless requested to do so by neighbours to applicant properties. The preservation of amenity to permanent homeowners would generally be considered a priority in any such request.</i></p> <p>b. <u>James Court</u> – Change of Use <i>DCC had written to ELC in response to a request for change of use of a ground floor flat to business use, made by ELC. It was felt that the alienation of viable, affordable property should not generally be supported.</i></p> <p>c. <u>ELC Corporate Address Gazeteer – CALA/DGC Road name proposals</u> <i>DCC members to forward suggestions to PS within the next 7 days</i></p> <p>d. <u>Dunbear Park</u> <i>The change in ownership offers an opportunity for DCC to request a complete review of the development plans for Dunbear Park to ensure that it is secured, as per the Local Development Plan, for employment use. Further large scale retail use, linked to the threat of parking charges in Dunbar will impact High Street business. The existing plans do not meet the new requirements of NPF4 nor the original design guidelines set out by ELC in 2018. DCC to write to ELC.</i></p>	PS
7.02	<p>23/01164/P – Change of use of public open space to domestic garden ground, erection of fencing and alterations to flat <i>DCC discussed this application and felt that it could not be supported as it sought to secure public open space for sole private use through the planning system. DCC to write to ELC.</i></p>	PS
8.00	LICENSING MATTERS	
8.01	<p><u>Broxmouth Courtyard – Temporary drinks licence for single event</u> <i>No comment</i></p>	
9.00	DCC PROJECT UPDATE	
9.01	<p>DCC Website Following a review of DCC communications in the summer, it was determined that the current website platform required updating. DCC will continue to use the Our Locality host, managed by Sustaining Dunbar. PSh, PS, KS and George Robertson (who set up the existing site), will meet on 23rd October to discuss the brief to be given to Our Locality (Philip Immirzi).</p>	
9.02	<p>Christmas Lights GA confirmed that all was progressing well for the Christmas Lights ‘put up’ which will happen over 5 evenings/days at the beginning of November. In addition to the Christmas Lights Team, additional community volunteers have, as always, stepped forward.</p>	
10.00	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS	
10.01	<i>Not discussed</i>	
11.00	AOB	
11.01	<p>Consultations</p> <p>a. <u>ELC Proposed Journey Hubs – Community Representation</u> ELC are proposing a number of Journey Hubs throughout East Lothian. In simple terms, these will be developments that bring together buses, trains, parking, electric charging etc in a move to make sustainable travel (i.e non-car use) easier for people to use. Consultants engaged by ELC have asked for</p>	

	<p>suggestions for names of parties who might be able to contribute to initial discussions about this proposal. DCC will be represented.</p> <p><i>It was agreed that DCC would respond, proposing Sustaining Dunbar as local partners. RELBUS and RAGES should be included for the whole of East Lothian.</i></p> <p>b. <u>Outside Play Provision</u> - https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/housing-environment/play-sufficiency-assessment/</p> <p><i>Responses from members of the public are being sought for this consultation. DCC members are urged to review this consultation and respond, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>c. <u>GP Practice Changes – Whitesands Medical Practice</u></p> <p>Whitesands Medical Practice is seeking to limit its practice boundaries so that the eastern limit is contained within East Lothian. Existing patients in the Borders will not be affected This request has been brought about because it has proved increasingly difficult to work across two health authority areas, East Lothian and Borders, where systems are not aligned.</p> <p><i>DCC members asked for more information but upon post meeting review of the papers made available to members, the request was clear. DCC to write to NHS Lothian</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>expressing regret at Scotland’s inability to align systems to allow for comprehensive patient care</i> • <i>expressing concern at the impact on Lauderdale and Cromwell Harbour practices, that will continue, for the time being anyway, to service Cockburnspath etc</i> • <i>supporting the application from Whitesands based on the reasons given.</i> 	<p>PS</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>PS</p>
12.00	NEXT MEETING	
12.01	DCC Informal (closed) Meeting – 6 th November 2023 7pm Town House	
12.02	DCC Open Meeting – Monday 20 th November 2023 7pm Town House	

PS/ AS/GA

Post Meeting Note	<p>New DCC Member</p> <p>Immediately following the closing of the meeting, Mr Stuart Cameron, approached the Chair and offered to put his name forward as a prospective Community Councillor.</p> <p><i>This approach was warmly welcomed and DCC will send him the ‘Becoming a Community Councillor’ pack.</i></p>	<p>PS</p>
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APPENDIX A



DUNBAR
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

AGM 2023

CHAIR'S REPORT

Pippa Swan

The past year has been a busy one and I am delighted that we have been able to maintain a core group of 10 councillors.

All Community Councillors are volunteers and their primary job is to try to capture community views and convey these to East Lothian Council. This is much easier said than done.

Councillors are asked to gather information on dozens of subjects each year and reaching out to all constituents is a challenge with perhaps 40% of our residents unable to access the internet.

Our major project for 2023 has been the development of our Local Place Plan. Working with West Barns Community Council, Dunbar Trades' Association, Sustaining Dunbar and the Area Partnership, a small steering group has designed, distributed, hosted and analysed questionnaires, invitations, meetings and responses from almost 800 people. Every household was canvassed and thousands of pieces of gathered information will be processed to build a paper intended to set out development ambitions for Dunbar and West Barns for the next decade.

The Local Place Plan will address issues relating to housing, recreation, education and training, health care, the local economy and the environment and will inform plans created both by East Lothian Council and more local strategies fostered by our Community Councils, existing and new community groups and our Area Partnership. There will be a lot to do to meet the expectations of constituents of all ages.

It is hoped that the Local Place Plan work will be complete early in 2024 – and a huge vote of thanks must go to all the players to date, some of whom have given hundreds of hours of their private time to this important endeavour.

Dunbar Community Council heads up Dunbar Civic Week, Dunbar Christmas Lights and High Street displays and Dunbar Against Litter, all of which are standalone operations under our DCC umbrella.

Dunbar Civic Week ran from June 9th – 18th and was a triumph thanks to the most wonderful organisational skills of Community Councillor Sanchita Patjoshi and her small team. Civic Week has a long and important history in Dunbar and has become centred on fun for all the family. The Royal Court are all from Dunbar Primary School and they acquitted themselves wonderfully on a hot and sunny Fun Day. So many volunteers played their part to ensure that the week was buzzing and I thank them most sincerely.

Our Community Awards night on June 10th forms part of Civic Week and was warmly received by all the community award winners. Special mention must be made of Ryan Lough, Jo Waddell and Dunbar Grammar School's Intergenerational Team who scooped the trophies in the three award categories.

The Christmas Lights Team, led by Community Councillor Graham Adams, delivers on so many fronts throughout the year. The group meet every Wednesday evening in the Corn Exchange – now a completely usable building thanks to Graham's team's hard work. Summer is about bunting and flag flying but from the late autumn onwards, our High Street is aglow with winter lights. Christmas Lights shine out from the end of November until into the new year and there are literally thousands of individual acts that make this happen for us all. We can never thank you enough!

Romie Blair is a Dunbar legend and the heart and soul behind Dunbar Against Litter. Supported by Community Councillor Alasdair Swan, the team quietly works in all weathers and in every corner of the town collecting other people's litter. Our thanks must go to Community Councillor Kevin Searle who has played an important part in trying to ensure that commercial rubbish from housing estates is controlled. That has not been easy but his determination has been wonderful.

Dunbar has seen the launch of the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme this year and Kevin Searle has again played his part, liaising with East Lothian Council's CARS team. The project has had a slow start and we very much hope to be able to report good progress next year. A fund will be available for Public Realm works which will be executed in 2025 and the Community Council will be working with Dunbar Trades and local residents to ensure that the money delivers real improvements to feel of High Street and West Port.

Alasdair Swan has managed our finances, as he has for the past eight years. He has taken a lead on the management of our important Community Windpower Community Benefit Fund. Working with Anouska Woods of Be Green, he has guided us to give grants to many community groups and initiatives that have made a real difference to the town. Alasdair will speak more of funded projects in a moment.

The coming year will be one with continued challenges. Following work in the summer, the Community Council determined to make changes to the way in which we engage with each other and our Community. Finding the time and space to develop and manage our website, social media, noticeboards, emails and seemingly endless consultations is exhausting and we will have to prioritise if we are to deliver quality responses on any of these fronts. I hope that we will find another two Community Councillors this year who can share the load and a decision to double the number of meetings each year should help too – I acknowledge the huge additional commitment from you all, here, to do this.

The adverse economic climate is one that is affecting East Lothian Council and all of its services. It will affect us all. The threat of the imposition of car parking charges, the lack of funds to deal with coastal defences, cuts in ELC spending to support local priorities, deficits in health and social care, diminishing resources in education – all of these will impact our town.

We will be called upon to do a great deal more with a great deal less but I expect and know that this committed team will continue to do all that it can in service to Dunbar.

It is a privilege to have led Dunbar Community Council for the past 5 years, and I thank you all, most sincerely, for all that you do.

Pippa Swan

16 October 2023

APPENDIX B



DUNBAR
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

AGM 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT

Alasdair Swan

Dunbar Community Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 have been independently examined by G Spratt & Co and have been submitted to East Lothian Council. The accounts record the income and expenditure from our relatively small General Fund and detail the use that is made of the other rather larger funds that are either raised for specific purposes or are provided to the Community Council for the benefit of the Dunbar Community.

At the end of March 2023, the General Fund stood at £1,090 (2022 - £1,009). Expenses paid from out of this fund included regular items such as the Community Council's insurance premium, the wreath for Remembrance Sunday, subscriptions to RAGES and the John Muir Birthplace, computer software and website costs and administrative costs.

At the end of March 2023, the Corn Exchange Fund stood at £1,458 (2022 - £1,730). There was only minor expenditure on the Corn Exchange during the year.

At the end of March 2023, the Christmas Lights Fund stood at £8,768 (2022 - £14,947). The total expenditure on the lights was £19,464 in the year, so the pressure on the Christmas Lights Committee to raise funds is constant.

At the end of March 2023, the Civic Week Fund stood at £10,248 (2022 - £9,147). The cost of running Civic Week in 2022 was £12,196 and the Civic Week Committee is to be commended for its wonderful fundraising activities.

At the end of March 2023, the Dunbar Against Litter Fund stood at £2,601 (2022 - £2,230). The expenses related to Dunbar Against Litter in 2022/23 amounted to £7,287 and included the costs associated with the replacement of the van.

The Covid Fund was closed during the year when the funds ran out. The fund was used for the relief of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Access for All Fund, established to provide secure disabled access to Belhaven Bay, stood at £759 at the end of March 2023. There was no movement on this fund during the year.

At the end of March 2023, the Local Priorities Fund stood at £3,552 (2022 - £3,477). The Community Council was able to give grants totalling £11,075 to a wide variety of community groups including –

- Ridge – High Street watering and the Christmas Party
- DSHNG - Fishermen's Monument repainting
- Dunbar Sea Cadets – paddle sport equipment and Junior Uniform
- Dunbar Rotary – Queen's Jubilee picnic
- Dunbar Against Litter – Woodland futuro bins
- Dunbar Trades' Association – Hanging baskets
- Tuesday Club – Outing
- Dunbar Battery – Plants for the Coastal Garden

- Christmas Lights Committee – Maintenance of the Lights
- Civic Week Committee – Fun Day
- In addition, the funds were used for –
 - Community Awards
 - Refurbishment of the 25 Pounder gun
 - Local Place Plan consultation

At the end of March 2023, the Community Benefit fund stood at £120,151 (2022 - £100,100). During the year grant totalling £49,000 were distributed to local organisations including –

- Dunbar Music Festival – event costs
- Dunbar Trades Association – High Street Safari and Our Dunbar launch
- Wilder Community – hardship sponsored places
- Dunbar British Legion – lighting of the close
- Dunbar Rotary – Angel Tree project
- Dunbar Craft Studio – Big John
- Dunbar Grammar School – Battlefields Sponsored places
- Dunbar Grammar School – Intergenerational Group
- Enjoyleisure – swimming platforms
- Dunbar Community Shed – equipment for start-up
- Dunbar Youth Project – resource support
- Dunbar Battery – restoration of the interpretation panels
- Dunbar Day Centre – new boiler
- DSAT – Stone Stacking competition
- Dunbar Harbour Trust – murals for the North Wall and Harbour Bridge
- Salvation Army – Dunbar Debt Advice Service

Dunbar receives £25,000 twice per year from Community Windpower Ltd to support and develop community activities. In administering these funds, it is grateful for the guidance provided by Anouska Woods at BeGreen.

Alasdair Swan

16 October 2023

APPENDIX C

VALENCIA FIRE DCC notes from Public Meeting 27th September 2023

It is expected that a detailed record of the meeting will be circulated in due course by Valencia. DCC notes from meeting, as follows:

1. Valencia updated that they have done an internal investigation, report of which is now submitted to SEPA. The following were the key lesson learnt that they shared:
 - Communication- They accepted that they could have been better at communication and are now looking into improving the communication by setting up improved communication protocol within the company and having an emergency preparedness team
 - Liaison committee- They realised the importance of Liaison committee and the role that would have played in communication. They will be setting up the group soon
 - Confirmed that they are burying what they are licensed to
 - They said it is difficult to pinpoint the exact reason of the fire but suspect the ignition source to be Lithium batteries. They explained that they have checks in place to check the incoming rubbish however it is not possible for them to remove every possible battery that gets sent to the landfill. They stated that the duty of care lies with the customer(from where the landfill is sent)
 - They updated about the delay due to breakdown of their bulldozers and measures that they took to extinguish the fire as soon as they could
2. SEPA updated that they were monitoring the situation and were present onsite monitoring the progress. As there was an ongoing investigation, they were limited to the amount of information that they could share. The internal SEPA experts suggested that the air quality was not compromised which has posed a threat to the population. No active air quality monitoring was carried out during the incident and subsequent periods
3. ELC updated about them being Cat 1 responders and have followed the procedure /protocol. They were guided by the expert advices

As expected the Q&A session was quite emotive with members of the public outraged by lack of communication, no proper advice, no fact to prove that the air quality was not unfit for breathing. Key points from the Q&A session below

- Communication- Audience condemned the lack of communication from all parties involved to which Valencia held their hands up and stated that is one area they are looking into and will improve in future. SEPA and ELC maintained their stance that all communications were sent out timely by ELC and were in line with protocol and expert advice. Audience reiterated the fact that communication did not reach to all groups of residents and was not visible, most of the communication came from other sources i.e social media
- Impact on Human Health- A letter from NHS lothian was read out which clearly stated that there was no impact on human health. Audience was not convinced as no fact was there to prove, it was insisted that air quality monitoring should have been carried out not there was concrete evidence or answers for the air particulates as there were particles settling on cars. ELC reverted that it was not an easy task to do sample air quality monitoring. Personally, i think this point was dodged, i think it was more about who should have done that, Valencia, SEPA or ELC!
- Impact on Animals- No response and Martin stated he will take it up
- Previous incidents- There were similar incidents elsewhere aswell and Valencia stated that they took learnings from their previous experiences and help mitigate the situation(example not using water which was their initial plan)
- Fire service related question- Fire service was not in attendance, so many of the questions around the process were answered by other parties.
- Air quality monitoring- This seems to be the key point which was met with unsatisfactory response. It was suggested that the permit should be reviewed to include mandatory checks by Valencia to monitor the toxicity and air quality. Martin Whitfield spoke to me that he will take up.

Answers to DCC questions:

- How will this be prevented from happening again?- ***Tool box talks carried out, control measures improved, lessons learnt. It was highlighted that it would be good to get a complete report on the measures being taken to bring awareness to the public etc***
- The dump is supposed to be non toxic. This may be the case when the material is cold but when it is heated and/or burning, how much of the material becomes toxic or generates toxins and what are they?- ***Not much was spoken about this as it was re-iterated by Valencia that they were burying everything that they should be burying as per the permit/ contract***
- SEPA reported air quality as being safe. How was this measured? How can it have been particulate free when so much ash landed on vehicles?- ***See above in the note for Q&A***
- What are the implications for crops and livestock affected by the ash falls? ***Not very satisfying fact based response received***
- Is the local Health Centre offering 'red flag' info for patients presenting now and in the future with issues potentially caused by ash inhalation? ***NHS lothian indicated in the email that there were no issues reported related to this incident***

Dunbar Community Councillors
Sanchita Patjoshi + Kevin Searle