

## **Dunbar Community Council Open Meeting**

Dunbar Town House 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## **MINUTES**

Ref	Item					Action
1.00	SEDERUNT					
1.01	Present Alasdair Swan Stephen Bunyan Sanchita Patjoshi Stuart Cameron Norman Hampshire	Chair/Minutes  ELC Councillor	AS SB SP SC	Kevin Searle Gill Wilson Mark James Jacquie Bell	KS GW MJ JB	
	Lyn Jardine Donna Collins Observers	ELC Councillor ELC Councillor	LJ DC			
	Peter McDonagh Douglas Urquhart Rena Keller Gavin Wilson			Mike Shaw Jean Urquhart Keith Mills		
	Press Cameron Ritchie	EL Courier				
1.02	Apologies Pippa Swan Pam Shields	PS PSh		Graham Adams	GA	
1.03	Councillors' Declaration	ns of Interest				

2.00	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
2.01	Minutes of AGM 2023	
	Minutes of the AGM held on October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2023, had been reviewed online by DCC members.	
	JB had requested an amendment to the minutes to say that 2 members of the public (Mrs Urquhart and Mr Cameron) had also noted their concerns that the appointments to outside bodies had been deferred to a closed meeting rather than being discussed at the public AGM as in previous years as per the Constitution.	
	Alasdair Swan noted that Jacquie Bell was aware of the informal meetings in September and she had been reminded again in October that their purpose was to enable community councillors to get to know each other better in an informal	

	atmosphere. The Chair expressed great concern at the message her comments had sent out to the community, even gaining press coverage, which suggested, quite wrongly, that secret decisions are being made at clandestine meetings. This was considered to be mischievous, bringing the community council into disrepute and creating confusion amongst members of the public	
	Jacquie Bell's amendment was not accepted and the Minutes were adopted.	
2.02	Matters arising Access to all fund: The restricted fund of £759 has not been used for a number of years and will be the subject of discussion with Stevie McKinlay, the Connected Communities Manager	PS

## **DCC OPEN MEETING**

3.00	MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING – 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 In the absence of both Pippa Swan and Graham Adams it was agreed that the meeting would be chaired by Alasdair Swan. He also took the minutes.	
3.01	Amendments  3.01 — Skate Park/Pump Track Play Park will be installed by Taylor Wimpey Football pitch/Pump track by ELC Skate Park and café by Dunbar Community Development and Heritage Trust  3.04/3.04 — Road Safety on Eweford Road: Jacquie Bell had noted that the matter had been discussed at West Barns Community Council for several years. It was pointed out that this was the Dunbar Community Council Meeting and matters relating to West Barns should be considered there.  3.04/1.01 — Delete the word "unanimously" as Jacquie Bell dissented.  3.04/7.02 — Change "Centred in Post Offices" to "Community Venues". Banking hubs have been set up elsewhere and a community request could be made to establish one in Dunbar at a suitable venue. Information is on the LINK website. No such request has been made. In the meantime, a limited banking service will be available at Dunbar Post Office for the foreseeable future.  4.01 — Point c. NH was unaware that of any legal requirement that any area of the Lochend land was designated for use by the school as an outdoor learning area. Jacquie bell was to send information to Norman Hampshire regarding McNeil Woods. Jacquie Bell wanted the word "woodland" to be replaced by "McNeill Woods". NH explained that scrutiny of the title deeds shows that the burden that Jacquie Bell referred to does not exist. ELC still want this to be a learning area and it was pointed out that the proposal is designed to provide the children of Dunbar with a stimulating play area.  6.03 — "SJ" should be "SP"	
3.02	Adoption The above comments were noted, and the Minutes were adopted.	

#### 3.03 **DCC Action Review**

#### **Woodland management Plan:**

Isobel Knox (Dunbar Community Woodland Group) had reported to Mark James that it was hard to put a financial figure on what is needed, but ELC will assist. Cllr Norman Hampshire noted that work was needed. Some new drainage is required, and trees will need to be removed. This work would need to be contracted out. Once the Woodland Group has produced a Woodland Management Plan, it will be costed out, and can then be brought to both the ELC and the Community Council. The Woodland Group is small in numbers and Mark James pointed out that fatigue may be proving to be a significant factor.

Cllr Noman Hampshire pointed out that Dunbar currently had the highest level of unintentional fires in East Lothian. A number of these were in the woodland. The Fire Brigade were working with Dunbar Grammar School to help to educate the young people on good practice in the woods. Going forward it would be important to have a balance between human use of the woodland and its being a habitat for wildlife.

#### Play area at Albany Grange:

It was never a planning condition to erect a play area. Taylor Woodrow did so, following a request from the development company, but the kick-about area was subsequently removed. Some residents had bought homes on the understanding that there would be a play area provided before the occupation of the last home. There is another play area very close by and the area under discussion is a grass area available for children to play on. However, because the matter has been raised by Jacquie Bell it appears that Taylor Woodrow is planning to restore the play area and Ellen Clark has advised that a planning application has been made. JB commented that one resident has already moved out at the prospect.

# 3.04 Matters arising not covered in agenda Informal Meeting

It was noted that the informal inaugural meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023. No decisions were taken at that meeting. As well as general introductions to each other there had been discussion of the roles of the representatives to various outside organisations.

#### **Appointment of new Community Councillor**

Stuart Cameron explained to the Council that he is Dunbar born and bred and has worked for the Co-op on the High Street for many years. He has a keen interest in environmental conservation, and matters of public interest to the town, and brings considerable fund-raising experience.

Jacquie Bell proposed that Stuart Cameron be appointed to Dunbar Community Council, this motion was seconded by Sanchita Patjoshi and was unanimously approved. Stuart Cameron was welcomed to membership of the Community Council.

#### 4.00 ELC COUNCILLORS – REPORTS

## 4.01 Cllr Norman Hampshire -

#### 1. Action Update

#### West Barns/Eweford Road Safety

This is a matter for West Barns Community Council. It is being dealt with there. The transport engineers say that the design of the road is adequate and there are passing places.

#### Bin at Brodie Road/Yosemite Park

Helen McNeil of Hallhill TRA is dealing with Hacking & Paterson on this subject. It was agreed that this is the proper channel of communication between residents and their Factor.

#### Dog warden at West Barns

This is a West Barns Community Council issue and not for Dunbar Community Council.

## **ELC /Community review of Coastal Car Parking**

The final report is still awaited.

Cllr Jardine pointed out that the time restrictions needed to be revisited, to provide greater clarity, and to ensure that the the wrong people are not caught.

#### Belhaven traffic management plan

Cllr Hampshire has been able to contribute to early drafts.

ELC is moving to solve traffic problems around Belhaven

The proposals will then be shared with elected members before public consultation.

#### 2. Report

#### **ELC Budget**

This is the all-consuming topic at the moment, made more difficult by the uncertainty as to what grant will be awarded to the Council, which, in turn is dependent on what grant the Scottish Government receives from the UK Government.

The Council has to produce a balanced budget which means there will need to be difficult choices. Every service will come under scrutiny. Education represents 54% of the budget and so this important area will also feel the pressure of having to balance the books.

## 4.02 Cllr Lyn Jardine

## **ELC Budget**

All the political parties are working together to find a way through this challenging situation.

In the coming days there will be a consultation with the community about which stark choices are preferred. None of these choices will be easy.

One suggestion for additional revenue was to look for sponsorship for public floral displays.

## 4.03 Cllr Donna Collins

#### **Dunbear Park**

Donna Collins had had contact with the new owners and she planned to stay close to the development ideas.

#### 4.04 Questions/Concerns to Councillors

1. What are the implications for communities of the closure of the ELC plant nursery?

NH explained that ELC has made no decision to close this nursery. The council is trying to keep it open as communities are trying to protect what they see as

a valuable asset. NH believes that it would be a terrible loss to close this nursery. Why is it so difficult to book facilities at Bleachingfield? Bookings are now made centrally through Facilities. Residents trying to book had been told there was no availability but when going to the Centre had found many of the rooms were not in use. Councillors noted the community's concern that this wonderful facility was underutilised and often unwelcoming 3. Why are some lighting levels so low? NH explained that the lighting levels are consistent across the town. The introduction of LED lights should not affect the light level. The comment about the different light levels has come from a variety of sources, (Summerfield Road, James Court, the Harbour area) so NH will enquire if there is any further explanation for this. JB noted that a faulty light which has been out of order at Letham Place for some months was a Scottish Power issue. 4. Lighting during the night-time - should it be reduced? (MJ/PS) NH – For security reasons the lights will not be turned off at night. There is no facility for reducing the light levels. They are either on or off. 5.00 **POLICE REPORT** 5.01 Police Report – This had been circulated to Community Councillors with the Agenda, for information. Key points to note: 1. Housebreakings continue to rise. The Community needs to be security aware. 2. Speeding remains a problem The Community and Police Partnership (CAPP) priorities agreed at the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November remain unchanged: 1. Youth ASB – Spott Road/Kellie Road/ASDA 2. Speeding – Edinburgh Road, West Barns. The next CAPP meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023. 5.02 **Comments/Matters Arising** A van has been parked on Belhaven High Street for a number of weeks. Potentially suspicious activities had been reported (possible moving of metal or car parts) to the Police. Kevin Searle suggested that the items may be catalytic convertors. Matters for CAPP 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 5.03 1. Belhaven High Street van. 2. Egging in the Kingsmeadow area

6.00	TREASURER'S REPORT					
6.01	DCC Finance Report – October 2023 – This had been circulated to Members with					
	the Agenda for information					
	Gener	al Account:				
			-			
		The restricted funds held within the General month were -	account at the end of the			
			£			
		Community Windpower Fund	£116,385.69			
		Access for All Fund	£759.00			
		Local Priorities Fund	£8,887.70			
		TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	£126,032.39			
		The unrestricted funds held within the Gene month end—	eral account were, at the			
		Balance in the General Fund	£1,066.17			
		TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	£1,066.17			
		TOTAL FUNDS	£127,098.56			
	Christi	mas Lights Account:				
			f 9.128.18			
	☐ The most expensive time of the year is here, preparing for the putting up of the Christmas Lights for 2024					
	Civic V	Veek Account:				
		The bank balance at the month end was £8,	895.52			
		There was one late invoice to pay in the mor	nth.			
	Dunbar against Litter Account:					
		The bank balance at the month end was £1,	347.49			
	1			1		

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	Sep	Awarded
Dunbar Grammar School	£500	Oct	Awarded
Committed or under review	£2.906		

Local Priorities Fund available £8,813

Maximum Budget Total £11,719

Current year fund £10,200
Brought forward fund £1,519 £11,719

Paid

Not yet paid Our Dunbar £75 Rejected or lapsed

 Local Priorities Fund available
 £8,813

 Not yet paid
 £75

 Per Finance Report
 £8,888

## 6.02 Questions/Matters Arising from Accounts

JB introduced the bereavement support charity **Richmond's Hope** as an organisation that the Community council may wish to financially Support. The charity was formed in 2003 and is based at Craigmillar, Glasgow and Methil. It no longer has a base in Haddington or a satellite in Tranent. It provides bereavement counselling for 4- to 18-year-olds. KM confirmed that he has had need to use the charity's services when caring for children in the past. Sadly, Dunbar is currently a hot spot of need. The charity would need to identify a venue in the town and secure funding of £10,000 for each of the next three years to finance two part-time councillors.

It was agreed that this was the type of project that the Community Council wishes to support and we will await a formal application.

#### 6.03 Local Priorities Fund Applications for consideration

There were no current applications.

An attempt has been made to publicise the availability of the grants, but the efficacy of the campaign needs to be reviewed.

KS/PSh

## 7.00 PLANNING MATTERS

#### 7.01 Planning Applications for consideration/Discussion

PS had suggested that it would be best use of DCC's time to consider the applications that were controversial or to which DCC could add something. JB said that she felt a number of applications should be considered by Members

a. <u>23/01210/P – Re-roofing of House (retrospective) and 23/01211/LBC 7 Shore Street</u>

Jacquie Bell noted that DCC had previously supported an application earlier in the year. These were new applications for the same work to reroof a listed building with Spanish slate rather than British slate. Kevin Sewell noted the difficulty in sourcing British slate. Jacquie queried if DCC would wish to submit support for the new applications to ELC. Members did not think this was required. It was thought to be inconceivable that the

application would be refused. However, Alasdair Swan agreed to speak to the applicant.

- b. 23/01326/LBC 1 Abbeylands. Alterations to listed building. No comments.
- c. 23/010006/P Land East of Dunbar Garden Centre and 23/01034/P (Land East of McDonalds) These two applications refer to Dunbear Park which was recently sold although former owner, Ken Ross, had told JB in a phone conversation that he was still involved with the development. The applications seek to remove planning conditions set in 2022 when approval was given to Starbucks and two retail stores. The conditions relate to a 2022 application agreed in 2022 that the whole roads, paths and lighting network should be in place before the 3 units may be occupied. The network is required to open up the whole site including to the proposed site for the Space. Otherwise, all traffic will be exiting on to Spott Road. The documents provided by the developer suggested that only the 3 plots had been allocated to companies to date. JB felt that the planning conditions should remain in place. The new owners needed to be clear how they would open up the site for further development. Members did not agree to submit comments, electing to wait until the new proposals were available for comment.
- d. 23/01120/P Change of use of scrubland at Newtonlees to form vehicular access and parking compound for up to two years This application from Robertson Homes is for a compound off the old A1 near the current compound. The residents of Newtonlees Steading are experiencing problems with the current development at Newton Manor e.g. road safety, noise, dust. Some members pointed out that a compound for this new development was essential.
  Kevin Searle felt that the landscaping and other snags at Fair Acres should
  - be completed before any new projects began. He noted that a Newtonlees TRA had now been established. Members agreed not to submit comments.
- e. 23/01044/P Change of use of land near Howdens to form bus storage. No comments made by members. No action
- f. 23/01071/P Battery storage facility at Aikengall for a period of 25 years (Community Windpower) and 23/00616/PM Substation at Branxton to facilitate the Scottish Power Energy Network Eastern Link Project. These are two of a large number of energy projects coming forward in the East Lammermuir Community Council area. There is much concern in the local community about the industrialisation of the rural landscape. Although outwith Dunbar. The issues about road safety and temporary accommodation for workers have been minuted before *No comment. No action*

7.02 **theSpace** will hold a public exhibition/consultation event on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at Hallhill Sports Centre between 2pm and 8 pm, and again on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024. DCC members were encouraged to attend

## 8.00 LICENSING MATTERS

8.01

None

9.00	DCC PROJECT UPDATE	
9.01	Local Place Plan	
	Good progress was being made. The next working meeting will be held on 21	
	November with community consultation planned January.	
9.02	Christmas Lights	
	Switch on will take place on Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> November.	
9.03	Website	
	Consideration will need to be given to updating the website to a new Wordpress	
	site. The anticipated cost has risen to £1500 and DCC will need to determine if this	ne Incl. Ive
	represents good value for money.	PS/PSh/KS
9.04	Dunbar Parish Churchyard Maintenance	
	Options for the Dunbar Parish Church Graveyard	
	Alasdair Swan, Stephen Bunyan and Jacquie Bell had met to discuss the	
	situationand Alasdair Swan had circulated a paper to DCC members.	
	Background:	
	The Churchyard is the responsibility of East Lothian Council and not Dunbar	
	Parish Church.	
	Traditionally, the graveyard was mowed right up to the gravestones.	
	Some years ago, an operational decision was made by East Lothian Council to	
	mow a distance away from the gravestones. The area between the mown grass	
	and the gravestone was kept tidy by the application of a weedkiller.	
	Without the grass or other vegetation to bind the soil together there was	
	steady erosion of the ground around the gravestones. As a result, many	
	gravestones collapsed or were pushed down for safety reasons.	
	Prior to Covid there was a trial in conjunction with the Ridge to plant	
	wildflowers round some of the gravestones. This project has lapsed.	
	There have been comments from the community that the graveyard now feels	
	unloved and uncared for, and the Community Council has undertaken to	
	consider the options and to then discuss them with East Lothian Council who	
	are responsible for the upkeep of the graveyard.	
	Options for maintaining the graveyard:	
	Continue the current system with no changes	
	2. Let the graveyard go wild, with selected pathways – back to nature.	
	<b>3.</b> Continue the current system of mowing, but with restoration of soil	
	around each gravestone, together with the planting of wildflowers to bind the soil.	
	Stakeholders to consult:	
	1. East Lothian Council	
	2. Dunbar Parish Church	
	3. Dunbar History Society	
	4. Community at large to include Community Councils in the whole	
	parish.	
	Recommendations:	

- 1. The Community Council may choose to facilitate, but should not impose, any change to the current system.
- 2. It is for the community as a whole to determine how the Dunbar Churchyard should best be cared for, and it would be of benefit if a constituted body "The Friends of Dunbar Churchyard" could be established with volunteers who are willing to give of their time and to work with East Lothian Council on this subject.
- 3. There is no urgency to make any changes, but it was agreed that the planting of wildflowers round older gravestones should prevent them moving into a dangerous category.
- 4. Any wildflower solution needs to be cared for carefully and should not be considered as an easier or lower cost solution, if the Dunbar Churchyard is to be kept in a tidy and respectful condition.
- 5. It is recognised that there was feedback following our last trial that not all families who tend their graves appreciate the wildflower solution. The more recent graves may need to be handled with greater sensitivity.
- 6. The war graves are scattered around the Dunbar Churchyard, and the Commonwealth War Graves Committee confirm that it is desirable for continued access to be granted to these graves.

#### **Actions:**

1. Share the concept of the "Friends of Dunbar Churchyard" with the other stakeholders.

AS

2. See if there are any willing volunteers in the town prepared to take the idea forward and give of their time, to reviewing what needs to be done in the Dunbar Churchyard to keep the site attractive and, where possible, either working with East Lothian Council to get the maintenance or planting done or doing the work themselves.

The possible restoration of the historic Anderson Monument is a separate project and is being reviewed again with the Ridge so that a grant application can be made.

AS

## 9.05 **Book Barn proposal**

Many children don't have ready access to books. This proposal comes to DCC as an idea and we seek initial responses to it only, at this stage

The idea is to locate a small play barn in Lauderdale Park, perhaps in the Fairy Garden. It will be decorated and have within it racks with children's books for children to read there or take away.

Children and parents will be invited to donate books to the box on a casual basis. The house could be simply furnished with bean bags/soft stools and a mat and parents/guardians could share books with children on perching benches located closeby.

https://www.sheds.co.uk/adley-6-x-6-jellytot-dutch-barn-playhouse.html The total cost of the project will be under £1,500.

DCC supported the concept of encouraging the town's children to read. JB noted that, although the idea was interesting there were some factors to consider in any firm proposal for funding.

PS

- a) The outome of the Field in Trust application made in Spring 2022 is uncertain. The Council Officer dealing with the application had left in early 2023. Thus, without information to the contrary, the Field in Trust Guardian will not need to be consulted.
- b) Gordon Whitelaw and the Amenities team should be consulted on the proposed site.

- c) Dunbar Library offers an excellent facility with a range of activities to encourage young people to read and enjoy books either by themselves or with parents/carers. With ELC finances under pressure the library service should be supported.
- d) Will the hut need planning permission? Kevin Searle note that a base may be needed to site the hut on.
- e) Sustainability- who will monitor use and maintain the hut?
- f) How will security be ensured and what would be the arrangements for insurance.

## 10.00 DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS

10.01

A list of representatives to outside bodies had been circulated to DCC members. AS proposed that this should be adopted. JB asked for the list to be read out for the public record and each appointment agreed separately. Stephen Bunyan proposed that each appointment should be adopted by acclamation in the interests of time. His proposal was adopted. The following appointments were made —

## DCC Community Representation 2023/24

Body	Role	Name
Community Resilience	Lead	Pam Shields
	Deputy	Sanchita Patjoshi
	Deputy	Pippa Swan
AELCC	Rep (Office bearer)	Pippa Swan
	Sub (Office bearer)	Alasdair Swan
Dunbar and East Linton	Rep	Gill Wilson
Area Partnership		
	Rep	Pam Shields
	Sub	Stephen Bunyan
	Sub	Pippa Swan
CAPP	Rep (DCC Chair)	Pippa Swan
Tarmac Liaison	Rep	Alasdair Swan
Torness Liaison	Rep	Alasdair Swan
Valencia Liaison	Rep	Alasdair Swan
Viridor Energy Recovery	Rep	Alasdair Swan
Facility (ERF)		
John Muir Country Park	Rep	Alasdair Swan (per
Advisory Group		Dunbar Harbour Trust)
John Muir Birthplace	Trustee	Stephen Bunyan
Trust		
DCC/ELC Planning	Link	Pippa Swan
Hallhill Sports Centre	Liaison	Graham Adams
Bleachingfield	Liaison (Chair)	Stephen Bunyan
	Liaison (Vice Chair)	Gill Wilson
CARS Project	Rep	Pippa Swan
	Rep/Support	Kevin Searle

Website	Pam Shields
	Pippa Swan
Facebook	Kevin Searle

11.00	AOB	
11.01	Robertson Homes – Kevin Searle advised that work was beginning to restore the	
	stone planter for the Dunbar entrance sign near Deer Park which was a planning condition of the Fair Acres development. This met with general approval.	
11.02	Trees - Mark James proposed that walnut trees might be grown around the town.	
	DCC will consider where possible planting locations might be.	
11.03	Pingo Building on the East Lammermuir CC Local Place Plan there are discussions	
	about a Pingo (Demand Responsive Transport) service to run between Dunbar and	
	its outlying locations and villages. A three month trial was suggested on the	
	understanding that it would be on a "use it or lose it" basis. Further details would	JB
	be shared once available.	
12.00	NEXT MEETING	
12.01	DCC Informal (closed) Meeting – 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	
	7pm Town House	
12.02	DCC Open Meeting – Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	
	7pm Town House	