

Dunbar Community Council Open Meeting

Dunbar Town House

17th June 2024

MINUTES


Ref	Item	Action																																																																								
1.00	SEDERUNT																																																																									
1.01	<p>Present</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Pippa Swan</td> <td>Chair</td> <td>PS</td> <td>Stephen Bunyan</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>SB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alasdair Swan</td> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>AS</td> <td>Mark James</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>MJ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stuart Cameron</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>SC</td> <td>Jacquie Bell</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>JB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kevin Searle</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>KS</td> <td>Sanchita Patjoshi</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>SP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gill Wilson</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>GW</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Norman Hampshire ELC Councillor NH</td> <td>Anouska Woods</td> <td>Be Green/CW</td> <td>AW</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><u>Observers</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Mitch Stevenson</td> <td>VCEL</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P McDonagh</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Mike Shaw</td> <td>DSHNG</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><u>Press</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Cameron Ritchie</td> <td>EL Courier</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Pippa Swan	Chair	PS	Stephen Bunyan	DCC Member	SB	Alasdair Swan	Treasurer	AS	Mark James	DCC Member	MJ	Stuart Cameron	DCC Member	SC	Jacquie Bell	DCC Member	JB	Kevin Searle	DCC Member	KS	Sanchita Patjoshi	DCC Member	SP	Gill Wilson	DCC Member	GW				Norman Hampshire ELC Councillor NH			Anouska Woods	Be Green/CW	AW	<u>Observers</u>									Mitch Stevenson	VCEL					P McDonagh						Mike Shaw	DSHNG		<u>Press</u>							Cameron Ritchie	EL Courier				
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1.03	<p><u>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None</p>																																																																									
2.00	MINUTES OF MEETING – 20th May 2024																																																																									
2.01	<p>Amendments</p> <p>8.03 – Error to be noted - MJ marked as 'action required' in respect of Book Barn</p>																																																																									
2.02	<p>Adoption – Proposed:SC Seconded:GW</p> <p>The minutes were adopted</p>																																																																									
2.03	<p>DCC Action Review</p> <p>With the exception of the undernoted, all action items have been attended to or overtaken by events:</p> <p>3.04b – Queen's Road Safe Crossings – KS to meet with Andrew Boddie</p>																																																																									
2.04	<p>Matters arising - not dealt with under full agenda items.</p> <p>Nil</p>																																																																									
3.00	ELC COUNCILLORS' REPORTS																																																																									
3.01	<p>Cllr Norman Hampshire</p> <p>i. <u>Action Update</u></p> <p>Nil required</p>																																																																									

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	<p>ii. <u>Report</u></p> <p>a. Changes to Household Waste Collection Service <i>In response to a request from DCC, NH was invited to respond to specific reports, received by DCC, of difficulties with the revised waste collection service, moved from fortnightly to 3-weekly service. Residents Jayne Graham and Alison Low were in attendance for this update and to speak to same.</i></p> <p>NH reminded members of key points made in his presentation to DCC members in April 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incinerating household waste currently costs ELC Tax Payers £3.5m pa. • ELC has a high quality recyclable waste stream that generates significant funds for ELC services. • Only 50% of household waste is currently recycled • ELC are working hard to meet Net Zero targets and increasing recycled waste is both good for the planet and good for Council Tax Payers. • Every household in East Lothian had received a detailed leaflet explaining how the new system would work and offering support where to households, if needed. • Whilst there had been a small number of problems reported to ELC, these had been handled directly by ELC Waste Services staff. <p>In response to specific concerns raised via social media (Dunbar on Line), and brought to the meeting by JB and Jayne Graham, NH reported:</p> <p>Nappy waste – Households with children under the age of 3 are eligible for yellow bags to help with the disposal of nappy waste that might accrue in the added 3rd week between household waste collections. Yellow bags are collected, from the kerbside, fortnightly. The use of yellow bags is to allow waste collectors to easily identify this specific waste stream and enables checks to be carried out to ensure that only nappy waste is disposed of through this special service. <i>Asked by JG why these households should not get bigger bins, NH replied that nappy waste was seen as a ‘short term’ issue for households. Larger bins would not encourage recycling. Families of 6 or more people were entitled to larger household waste bins, whether or not they had young children.</i></p> <p>Medical waste – Households with additional waste needs resulting from medical conditions are eligible for yellow waste bags and a larger bin. <i>JB suggested that people were being forced to buy bins to deal with medical waste. NH confirmed that larger bins could be supplied upon request.</i></p> <p>Southfield Court – (Housing Association Retirement Complex) – Elderly residents had experienced difficulty moving bins with 3 week’s weight of waste. ELC officers have worked with the building owners to agree a new location for bin storage which would allow bins to be moved safely. <i>JB noted that Bellevue Court residents had reported overflowing bins. NH confirmed that ELC officers will work with any building owner/vulnerable resident group to agree safe and appropriate waste management on site.</i></p> <p>Garrison Green – (Housing Association flats) – ELC officers are working with East Lothian Housing Association and tenants to address low uptake of recycling and consequent household waste bin mismanagement. Tenants are being urged and helped to recycle with large bins to be used for non-recyclable waste only.</p> <p>Garden Waste Brown Bins – 19,600 residents signed up for fortnightly brown bin collection before the cut off date for registration. The service has worked well with collection routes now established. ELC have renewed advertising and residents may still apply for brown bin collection which will be accommodated unless the established routes make this impossible. Residents can apply on line, at libraries or with ELC Service Staff. -----</p> <p>JB reported that people were travelling by car to recycling centres to dispose of household waste. JG talked of a family who had complained on Dunbar on Line. In response to a call from JG for reports of difficulties with the new system, a family with young children and cats were finding that yellow bags in the garden smelled and were being torn open by gulls.</p>	

Ref	Item	Action
	<p>NH confirmed that any household that was struggling with the new system would receive support from ELC to manage waste. Officers would visit the household and assess the regime adopted. Where possible and appropriate, householders would be guided to more efficient waste management. This would include inspections of bin contents and would entail more than one visit to ensure that excess waste was a consistent issue. When the true scale of non-recyclable waste was understood, a larger bin might be offered.</p> <p>AS spoke for the majority of DCC Councillors when he said that DCC understood the reasons behind the introduction of the new waste management system and were supportive of it. There is a clear process for accessing additional support from ELC officers to manage the new system. DCC will intervene to assist members of the public if and when the support system offered by DCC fails in some way.</p> <p>The contact details for waste management support from ELC were confirmed as follows:</p> <p>Assisted collections <i>This service is available for householders who, through disability, age or ill health, are not able to present their containers for collection and have no-one living at the household who can assist.</i></p> <p>Green and brown bins <i>For help presenting your non recyclable waste (green bin) or garden waste (brown bin):</i> Apply online through myeastlothian Find out more about myeastlothian and register online Alternatively email wasteservices@eastlothian.gov.uk or call 01875 824305 with your details.</p> <p>Recycling boxes and food caddies <i>For help presenting your recycling boxes or food caddies call FCC Environment on 01620 678 825. FCC Environment provide the collection service on our behalf.</i></p> <p>NH was thanked for his detailed explanation. Further leaflets were handed to JG and Alison Low for onward distribution.</p> <p>b. Local Development Plan The revised Local Development Plan (LDP) is being drawn up now by ELC Planning Officers. This plan will detail which land will be used for what in East Lothian between 2025 and 2030. There will be a 'call for sites' from 24th June 2024 and developers, community groups, and individuals can make representation for consideration to be given to the designation of land for any use including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment ▪ Housing, including self build (Self build needs to be 20 – 50 units) ▪ Retail ▪ Allotments ▪ Sports ▪ Renewable Energy including energy storage ▪ Woodlands and environmental improvements <p>Groups can also call for controls on development.</p> <p>NH confirmed that there was a need to provide a further 6500 homes under the upcoming plan. There are currently 5000 home sites identified so a further 1500 sites will need to be found across the whole of East Lothian. It is not envisaged that any new, large housing sites will be allocated to Dunbar.</p> <p>In response to a question for the urgent need to build smaller, affordable homes, NH confirmed that ELC was at the limit of its borrowing and could not borrow any more to build homes for rent.</p> <p>Members urged ELC to consider ways in which land could be used more effectively to achieve more homes for rent/shared equity sale by increasing density. Examples of 50/50 market/housing association were cited from sites in Winchburgh and Edinburgh.</p>	

Ref	Item	Action
	<p>NH explained that this had only been possible through special deals on land purchase. He remained sympathetic to and supportive of the call for more homes for the elderly and those on low incomes.</p> <p>DCC urged NH to do all that he can to ensure that the site at Belhaven is protected against sale to any upmarket housebuilder. NH explained that ELC had no control over this as the site is owned by NHS.</p> <p>The link below explains more about the plan and the process.</p> <p>https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/housing-environment/east-lothian-development-plan-scheme-2023-24/supporting_documents/Development%20Plan%20Scheme%20202324%20draft.pdf</p>	
3.02	<p>Cllr Lyn Jardine <i>Not present (apologies submitted)</i></p> <p>i. <u>Action Update</u> (delivered by PS/MJ in LJ absence)</p> <p>a. Belhaven Hospital Working Group LJ has taken steps to set up this working group. A date has still to be set. MJ has Shared information on Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village with LJ, as an example of how other NHS Health trusts have supported community care.</p>	
3.03	<p>Cllr Donna Collins <i>Not present</i></p> <p>i. <u>Action Update</u> (delivered by JB in DC absence)</p> <p>a. Yosemite Park/Taylor Wimpey HGV HGV drivers have continued to use Yosemite Park with many HGV movements each day, to the continuing distress and inconvenience of residents. ELC Planning Department continue to put pressure on Taylor Wimpey.</p>	DC
3.04	<p>Questions to Councillors No supplementary questions</p>	
4.00	POLICE REPORT	
4.01	<p>Police Report to DCC <i>The report is circulated confidentially to DCC members in advance of meetings. Prepared by our Community Policing Officer, PC Laura Jackson, it summarises police activity in the past month and identifies policing priorities, agreed at the monthly Community and Police Partnership (CAPP) meetings, which are attended by Chairs of the four CCs in the Ward, or their nominated representatives. Members Stuart Cameron and/or Pam Shields attend for DCC.</i></p> <p>Report items of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth ASB continues to be an issue. Incidents at ASDA have decreased following a significant increase in ASDA security, with security barriers added at the entrance. Fires have been started at Lochend Woods – a recurring problem The toilets at JMCP have been vandalised <p>Members of the public should use the 101 number to report ASB or make use of the Police Scotland on line reporting form.</p> <p>MJ asked that we note that young people passing through Belhaven Garden recently had offered to help in the garden and he was keen for members to recognise that ASB was limited to a small cohort of young people only.</p> <p>The next CAPP meeting will be at 18.30pm on 8th August 2024.</p>	
5.00	TREASURER'S REPORT – circulated to members in advance of meeting	
5.01	<p>General Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bank statement balance at the month end was £116,003.84 The restricted funds held within the General account at the end of the month were - 	

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	<p>Community Windpower Fund £ 101,584.44</p> <p>Access for All Fund £759.00</p> <p>Local Priorities Fund <u>£11,226.78</u></p> <p>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS <u>£113,570.22</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unrestricted funds held within the General account were, at the month end– <p>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS <u>£2,433.62</u></p> <p>TOTAL FUNDS £116,003.84</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants were paid out of the Community Fund in May for – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dunbar Traditional Music Festival North Light Arts workshops No Grants were paid from the Local Priorities Fund in May. <p>Christmas Lights Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bank balance at the month end stood at £ 17,284.64 Expenditure in the month was £3,096 <p>Civic Week Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bank balance at the month end was £ 10,206.68 Payments for Fun Day bookings and flowers amounted to £1,844 Donations in the month amounted to £380 Ticket sales amounted to £80 <p>Dunbar against Litter Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bank balance at the month end was £ 2,090.03 																											
5.02	<p>Local Priority Fund Update</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Local Priority Grant applications</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Review</th> <th>Decision</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dunbar Harbour Trust</td> <td>500</td> <td>May</td> <td>Awarded</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dunbar History Society</td> <td>500</td> <td>June</td> <td>Awarded</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Carrot</td> <td>1644</td> <td>June</td> <td>Awarded</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Committed or under review £2,644</p> <p><i>Local Priorities Fund available</i> £8,087</p> <p>Maximum Budget Total <u>£10,731</u></p> <p>Current year fund £10,200</p> <p>Brought forward fund <u>£531</u></p> <p><u>£10,731</u></p> <p>Paid</p> <p>Not yet paid</p> <table> <tr> <td>Book Barn</td> <td>£10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sensory trail</td> <td>£486</td> </tr> <tr> <td>History Society</td> <td>£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harbour Trust</td> <td>£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Carrot</td> <td>£1,644</td> </tr> </table> <p>Rejected or lapsed</p> <p><i>Local Priorities Fund available</i> £8,087</p> <p>Not yet paid <u>£3,140</u></p> <p>Per May 24 Finance Report <u>£11,227</u></p>	Local Priority Grant applications	Amount	Review	Decision	Dunbar Harbour Trust	500	May	Awarded	Dunbar History Society	500	June	Awarded	Community Carrot	1644	June	Awarded	Book Barn	£10	Sensory trail	£486	History Society	£500	Harbour Trust	£500	Community Carrot	£1,644	
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5.03	<p>Questions/Matters Arising</p> <p>Nil</p>																											
5.04	<p>Local Priorities Grants</p>																											

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	<p>The following Local Priority Grants were ratified.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dunbar History Society - £500 for benches at the harbour. 2. Community Carrot - £1644 towards refrigerated display <p><i>GA wished to record his concern that DCC was funding a business, albeit a community enterprise, that should be self-funding by now. Members recognised the importance of this concern in relation to other High Street businesses and will reflect upon same for any future applications of this sort.</i></p>	
5.05	<p>Statutory accounts</p> <p>The Statutory Accounts were circulated in draft to members in advance of the meeting for review. AS spoke to same:</p> <p><i>The annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 show a surplus of expenditure over income of £2,241. In this instance this is a positive state of affairs, as the excess is entirely due to the fact that we awarded more grant money in the year than the grant funding we received during the year. The extra money was taken from reserves built up in previous years.</i></p> <p><i>The accounts list the 31 projects that received money totalling £63,884 from the Community Benefit Fund during the year, and the 16 Local Priority grants made during the year that amounted to £11,146.</i></p> <p><i>It is worthy of note that both the Christmas Lights Committee and the Civic Week Committee receive £2000 in grant money from both the Community Benefit Fund and the Local Priority Fund. These grants accounted for 28% of the Christmas Lights expenditure, and 36% of the Civic Week expenditure. The other 72% and 64% of the money needed to cover the costs was raised by the Committees themselves through various means including donations and fundraising. Similarly, the Dunbar Against Litter team raised over £2,500 themselves through donations and fundraising.</i></p> <p>JB queried a figure of £64 for ‘travel’. AS pointed out that that the item was explained in the accounts in the appropriate format. The sum was spent by Christmas Lights using public transport to collect/deliver the hired cherrypicker.</p> <p>‘Entertainment’ expenditure was made to provide lunch to guests during a Twinning visit to Dunbar.</p> <p>Members approved the accounts and these will now be submitted for independent examination.</p>	
6.00	PLANNING + ROADS MATTERS	
6.01	<p>All planning applications are reviewed prior to meetings. Discussed this month:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erection of play park equipment and associated works  </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Lauderdale Playground Bayswell Road Dunbar East Lothian Ref. No: 24/00537/P Received: Tue 28 May 2024 Validated: Thu 06 Jun 2024 Status: Awaiting decision</p> </div> <p>DCC members discussed this application last month and were very supportive of proposals. DCC member, Rena Keller, was thanked for all of her work in bringing Dunbar ASN Community Collective into early design discussions. This has resulted in a playground that will be be very much more inclusive for children of all abilities.</p> <p>DCC to write in support of this application.</p> <p>24/00421/ADV Display of Advertisement (Retrospective) Land to the North of 3 James Kirk Way, Dunbar</p> <p>It was noted that the Taylor Wimpey marketing sign had been erected without permission hence the retrospective application. JB expressed concern over the siting of the sign close to a busy junction and a playpark, where children crossed the road. It is at some distance from the building site, itself.</p>	DCC

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	DCC members considered that the siting of advertising signs was a routing consideration for ELC and that it would not, therefore, make a formal objection. JB will make a personal objection.	
6.02	No Waiting Proposals Revised drawings have been made available to DCC for Woodbush Brae showing a proposal for 'no waiting' areas. There will be no public consultation on Woodbush Brae or Back Road/Shore Road until after the General Election.	
7.00	LICENSING MATTERS	
7.01	Nil to note	
8.00	DCC PROJECT UPDATE	
8.01	High Street Bike Racks - MJ MJ had prepared illustrations for bike rack proposals for High Street and these were on display at the Pop Up Shop during Civic Week. There had been some response but not in significant enough numbers to come to any definitive consensus over style of racks, numbers of racks or placement of same. More work will be required and bike racks could and should now be included in the wider discussions over public realm works for High Street/West Port.	
8.02	Local Place Plan The Local Place Plan was available for public comment on ourdunbar.com for discussion at the Pop-up Shop at 108 High Street between 8th and 15th June. The Local Place Plan team will collate comments and consider inclusion of same in any final report.	
8.03	Book Barn The Book Barn has attracted large numbers of children and has been restocked regularly since it opened a month ago. Huge thanks go to Bev Anderson at Wishing Tree by the Sea and her team who are opening and closing it each night.	
8.04	Dunbar Civic Week DCC member, Sanchita Patjoshi chairs the Civic Week Committee and she updated members on this years event. The Parade and Fun Day at Bleachingfield had gone well with many families enjoying the now familiar format. The Committee was disappointed that numbers of attendees were substantially lower than last year and uptake of the additional events, such as the music night and silent disco was very low, not helped by terrible weather on the final weekend of Civic Week. SP expressed particular thanks to community volunteers including Dunbar Rotary, Pippa and Alasdair Swan and Mike Shaw for their particular inputs. SP will consolidate her review of this year's events and will report to PS in due course.	
8.05	DCC Awards Night The Awards Night was held on Monday 10 th June and was much enjoyed by all award winners, their families and supporters. PS thanked all members who had given so much of their time to help out on the night and for all that they did to make guests feel welcome in the Town House.	
8.06	DCC Community Picnic RK and her support will run a Community Picnic again this year on 23 rd June 2024 from 1-4pm. Lunchboxes will be provided to approximately 40 older people and RK requested 'tray bake' contributions to a community cake stall. Additional volunteers may be needed by RK will advise in due course.	
9.00	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS - UPDATE	
9.01	Valencia Liaison The site visit planned for 5 th June was cancelled although the community catch up meeting was held at which AS represented DCC. Valencia's meeting notes were circulated to DCC members.	

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	<p>AS was disappointed in the meeting and noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There were some simple actions from the previous meeting that Valencia simply had not done. 2. The promised site visit had only been offered to Donna Collins, not to us as agreed. 3. There is a real problem of dust that affects the area around Thurston Manor (not in our CC area) but a serious indication that operational procedures are not being adhered to. 4. Communication of the start/stop times for planned work simply is not happening. 5. There was no sign of SEPA. 6. Littering remains a problem. Valencia have agreed actions to address this and the situation will be monitored. 	
10.00	OPEN CONSULTATIONS – to note	
10.01	<p>ELC CONSULTATION HUB lists all currently open consultations in East Lothian. No new consultations to report</p>	
11.00	AOB	
11.01	<p>DCC Trophy Cabinet A request had been received from Dunbar Rugby Club for permission to use the DCC trophy cabinet at Hallhill for their trophies. Members were reluctant to grant this consent for a number of reasons, including concern that DCC would be seen to be supporting one club over all the others at Hallhill, many of which have trophies that they would like to see displayed somewhere. SB recalled that the DCC cabinet had been specially made for DCC at a cost of £3000 and it was felt that it should remain in the use of DCC, possibly relocated to Bleachingfield. SB will work on this matter and advise DCC.</p>	SB
11.02	<p>Back Road MJ reported that Back Road had been completely closed to allow for wall repairs. He had made representation to the Ridge, the repairs contractors, to see if it was possible to open up a safe pedestrian/bike route past the works to enable some continued use of Back Road.</p>	
11.03	<p>Public Meeting organised by Duncan Dunlop, Lib Dem candidate Duncan Dunlop had approached DCC proposing a public meeting to allow the community to express their views on the closure of the Belhaven Hospital site.</p> <p>After discussion, members concluded that a public meeting of this sort would not advance matters. There has already been much public outpouring and DCC has been looking at this site and its future in depth through public consultation on Dunbar’s Local Place Plan over the past 18 months. DCC members felt they knew and understood how people feel and how disappointed they are. Members also recognised the financial realities that had driven the closure of the site.</p> <p>DCC focus now is on how the site can be saved from sale by NHS Lothian this summer, as intimated. This site is seen as a key location for a modern plan for a community wellbeing hub, possibly with supported residential accommodation, including end of life care; not a hospital, but a different sort of care hub that looks to the future.</p> <p>DCC members have already asked Councillor Lyn Jardine, as one of our elected councillors, to help with this and local CC Chairs will be meeting in the next two weeks to see if they can urgently move towards a proposal for the site, using all the work that we have done over the past two years. Duncan Dunlop will be thanked for his suggestion.</p>	DCC
12.00	NEXT MEETINGS	
12.01	<p>DCC Informal Meeting Members did not express a wish to meet on 1st July.</p>	
12.02	<p>DCC Open Meeting – Monday 15th July 2024 7pm Town House</p>	

Ref	Item	Action
	PS and AS tendered their apologies.	

PS/AS/