



DUNBAR
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

Dunbar Community Council Open Meeting

Dunbar Town House

17th March 2025

The Community Council remembered both Paul Gillon and Helen Gillanders in advance of formal proceedings.

Paul was a valued member of the Community Council from 2021 to 2022. He engaged with the work of the council from the outset and worked hard to address community issues, including those relating to anti-social behaviour in tenanted property. He managed our social media account and was a major contributor to the early development of a dedicated website for Dunbar's traders, clubs and groups. We were indebted to him for his sincere commitment to all our activities.

Helen Gillanders was known to many DCC members through her role as Head Teacher at Dunbar Primary School, a position she held for 15 years. She was hard working, dedicated and talented, with an ability to positively impact the lives of young people in Dunbar. Members expressed their gratitude for her years of service and sadness at her death.

Ref	Item						Action
1.00	SEDERUNT						
1.01	Present Pippa Swan DCC Chair PS Alasdair Swan DCC Treasurer AS George DCC Member GR Mark James DCC Member MJ Robertson Stuart Cameron DCC Member SC Jacquie Bell DCC Member JB Neil Houston DCC Member NHo Pam Shields DCC Member PSh Lyn Jardine ELC Councillor LJ Norman Hampshire DCC Councillor NH <u>Observers</u> Gavin Wilson Public Douglas Urquhart Public Peter McDonagh Public Anouska Woods CWP Energy AW Jo Waddell DTA JW I McDougall Belhaven IMc A McDougall Belhaven AMc <u>Press</u> Cameron Ritchie EL Courier						
1.02	Apologies Rena Keller DCC Member RK Gill Wilson DCC Member GW Ree Rolph DCC Member RR						
1.03	Member Resignation It was with great regret that notice was received of the resignation of Graham Adams from Dunbar Community Council. Graham was an incredibly hard-working member of the Council who held the post of Vice Chair.						

Ref	Item	Action
	<p>Graham engaged in a myriad of projects but perhaps his 'stand out' contribution was the re-painting of Dunbar High Street in 2018, a project that he initiated and for which he largely executed all the painterwork on some 40 High Street elevations, transforming the feel of the town centre.</p> <p>He was, and will remain, the Chair of Dunbar Christmas Lights, a sub-committee of the Community Council, continuing to lead the team that lifts High Street with summer bunting and winter and Christmas Lights. All members expressed their deep gratitude for this and for his years of service to the Community.</p>	
1.04	<p>Role Bearers</p> <p>The departure of Graham Adams from Dunbar Community Council left the roles of Vice Chair and Secretary vacant.</p> <p>George Robertson, a former Vice Chair of DCC, and Pam Shields had both volunteered to step into these roles.</p> <p>After commending the skills and experience of both members, PS proposed that George Robertson and Pam Shields be appointed Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively. The proposals were seconded by NHo and AS respectively. There being no other proposed candidate for the roles, GR and PSh were duly appointed.</p> <p>Both were sincerely thanked for offering to take up these positions with such immediate effect.</p> <p>DCC will notify ELC of the changes.</p>	PS
1.05	<p>DELAP Representation</p> <p>Following Stephen Bunyan's death and a request from Rena Keller to move away from a front line role with DELAP, PS proposed that George Robertson become our representative with voting rights, with Pam Shields and that Pippa Swan and Rena Keller be named as subs. The proposal was seconded by MJ and, there being no other proposals, the amended representation was agreed.</p> <p>DCC will notify DELAP</p>	PS
1.06	<p>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Nil</p>	
2.00	MINUTES OF MEETING – 17th February 2025	
2.01	<p>Amendments</p> <p>Nil</p>	
2.02	Adoption – Proposed:GR Seconded:MJ	
2.03	<p>DCC Action Review</p> <p>With the exception of the undernoted, all DCC action items have been attended to:</p> <p>Nil</p> <p><i>Note: 4.01 Police van at public events – to be actioned at CAPP on 10th April (PSh/SC)</i></p>	PSh/SC
2.04	Matters arising - not dealt with under full agenda items.	All



Ref	Item	Action
	<p>2.04/3.04.4 Cash Access – Now fully open at 108 High Street. It was noted that not all transactions are currently possible but that it is hoped that the range will be extended and improved over time. Each bank remains responsible for dealing with unusual/complex transactions</p> <p>3.01 Train time revision – <i>timetable circulated to members</i>. It is proposed that there now be 5 trains between 4.30pm and 6.30pm during the week to meet commuter demand. DCC have written to Cross Country and other contributors who had worked to achieve this result.</p> <p>1.03 <u>Councillors' Biographies for website</u> – RK, and SC to provide photo and biography to GR.</p>	RK/SC
3.00	ELC COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Taken in reverse order at meeting to facilitate LJ timetable)	
3.01	<p>Cllr Norman Hampshire</p> <p>i. Action Update</p> <p>a. <u>Motorhome Parking – Shore Road</u> The proposed TRO has now been issued and comments are invited from DCC as preliminary consultees. DCC confirmed that they, and residents, would not support the establishment of any motorhome parking bays at Shore Road. NH confirmed that if local residents did not want motorhomes, and made written objection, there would be no motorhome parking at Shore Road. NH's comments were welcomed. DCC to notify residents of this position and make representation to ELC.</p> <p>b. <u>Signage at Coastal Path</u> Additional, informative signage will be added to the coastal path site. NH confirmed that there were now plans to try to create a track down to the path/shore to enable reinstatement works to take place. In the meantime, dangerous land profiles/structures would be demolished, as needed. DCC welcomed this.</p> <p>ii. Report</p> <p>a. <u>ELC Budget</u> NH again reported on the difficulties that all communities will face following another very difficult budget planning round. Council officers are under pressure to deliver the same level of service with a decreased head count.</p> <p>b. <u>Local Development Plan</u> The LDP process is ongoing with ELC pushing back on pressure from house builders to increase the ELC target for new housing from 6,650 to 9000 over the plan period. ELC remain of the view that existing infrastructure cannot support the inflated number.</p> <p>iii. Request for Councillor privacy Councillor Hampshire told the meeting that a Dunbar Community Councillor had publicised the address of his family home on social media and told the group that he and his family had been dismayed by this. His office address is at John Muir House, Haddington, and there could have been no valid reason for sharing details of his home address in this way. The disclosure comes at a time when many elected members are facing unprecedented attacks on-line and the sharing of his personal address made his family feel vulnerable and exposed.</p> <p>DCC Councillors expressed their very real shock and embarrassment that Cllr Hampshire's privacy should have been impacted in this way by one of their number and considered it to be reprehensible. On behalf of the Community Council, PS apologised profusely to Cllr Hampshire and his family for the breach and undertook to investigate the matter.</p>	<p>DCC</p> <p>PS</p>

Ref	Item	Action
3.02	<p>Cllr Lyn Jardine –</p> <p>i. Action Update</p> <p>a. <u>Belhaven Hospital Site</u> Following a detailed report presented at last month’s meeting and reported in full in the minutes, LJ explained that she and other elected members were all endeavouring to explore a pathway that might see the Belhaven Hospital site re-purposed for health and/or wellbeing use for Dunbar. As her previous report indicated, there is no capital or revenue funding that would enable any public body to develop the site and NHS are obliged to achieve the Government’s ‘Green Book’ valuation for same.</p> <p>NHS have confirmed that no sale will be advanced until after conclusion of the Community Asset Transfer process that may see ownership of the Belhaven Community Garden transferred to that group.</p> <p>b. <u>Winterfield Effluent Leak</u> ELC Officers are continuing to work with Winterfield Golf Club to determine the source of the effluent leak.</p>	
3.03	<p>Cllr Donna Collins -</p> <p>i. Action Update -</p> <p>a. <u>HGV at Yosemite Park</u> No report – Councillor not in attendance</p>	
3.04	<p>Issues for Councillors</p> <p>i. <u>Dunbar Parking Consultation</u> – programme following DCC/Stantec meet 11/3/25 DCC reported that they had had an informative and helpful conversation with ELC consultants, Stantec, around issues relating to parking in Dunbar. It had been made clear that this first conversation was an informal ‘fact finding’ session. It was recognised that existing parking data is out of date and all needed to be refreshed. DCC asked what the plans were for next steps. <i>NH and LJ reported that Stantec will continue to gather information offered to them by interested parties. JW of DTA was invited to speak and confirmed that DTA had shared a draft questionnaire with DCC which is intended to go out to local businesses to seek detail on parking usage. The results will be passed to Stantec who have indicated that they are keen to get as much background information as possible prior to the development of any traffic management proposals. LJ anticipated that first public feedback sessions would take place in April/May.</i></p> <p>ii. <u>Belhaven (Roads) Masterplan</u> – update following cabinet meeting At an ELC Cabinet Meeting last week, members supported officer proposals to: <i>Take forward the tasks identified below, in priority order, and as opportunities arise, namely:</i></p> <p>i. Seek funding to signalise the junction of Beveridge Row/Edinburgh Road/ Shore Road</p> <p>ii. Conduct a trial restricting Back Road between Winterfield Place and Winterfield Golf Club to non-motorised vehicles only</p> <p>iii. Finalise designs for Shore Road path to incorporate feedback received, and apply for Planning Permission on this basis</p> <p>iv. Apply for Planning Permission for agreed improvements at Shore Road Car Park entrance, and seek funding to implement this</p> <p>v. Consult further on restricting beachfront parking at Belhaven to Blue Badge holders only</p>	

Ref	Item	Action
	<p>vi. Undertake further design work to change alignment of crossing at Duke Street / Brewery Lane and seek funding for further consultation and subsequent implementation.</p> <p><i>NH confirmed that the Belhaven Masterplan for traffic management had been borne of concerns over safety for cyclists and pedestrians and that options had been explored for many years prior to the latest Stantec report. The report recommendations had been made following consultation with residents, local CCs and the wider public.</i></p> <p>Belhaven residents present at the meeting expressed the view that, whilst residents' opinions had been invited, they had not been listened to. The proposals in the Stantec report presented the very real possibility that roads would become more dangerous and difficult to use by the adoption of almost all of the proposals. Having been in contact with local residents since publication of Cabinet approval for 'next steps', PS expressed the view that it was appropriate for residents living in Duke Street, Shore Road and North Street to be offered a meeting with ELC officers to discuss all of the implications of any change, in detail BEFORE any further design work is undertaken. NH agreed to facilitate this. MJ reminded the meeting that the needs of cyclists and walkers were important, too.</p> <p>iii. 130 Bus Service</p> <p>The 130 bus service is to be withdrawn in April leaving significant areas of Dunbar cut off from public transport. This was particularly difficult for people who had no access to a private vehicle.</p> <p><i>NH explained that all bus services are put out to tender and that there were no tenders received for this service, reportedly because it is not financially viable and there is a shortage of bus drivers. ELC Officers are negotiating with bus service providers to see what level of service may be viable.</i></p> <p>MJ noted that last year's trial 'dial a bus' service between Dunbar and the Lammermuir villages had been a success in respect of users but had cost £45k over three months, which rendered a permanent service unviable.</p>	<p>NH</p> <p>NH</p>
4.00	POLICE REPORT	
4.01	<p>Police Report to DCC</p> <p><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"> • Youths are entering the Ridge Garden area on evenings/weekends and causing damage to the polytunnel. An investigation will be carried out to try and identify any offenders and extra patrols will be carried out in the area when possible. • Dunbar police Station will be closing to the public this week but there will be no decrease in the level of policing in the town • The Community Police Officer, PC Laura Jackson will be at Bleachingfield car park in the engagement van on consecutive Tuesdays between 1pm and 3pm from the 11th of March. This will be trialled out initially to see if this is of interest and a benefit to the community. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Members of the public should use the 101 number to report ASB or make use of the Police Scotland on line reporting form - https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/													
4.02	CAPP (Community and Police Partnership) The next CAPP meeting will be held on 10 th April. SC/PSh to attend for DCC. Members with issues to raise to contact SC/PSh in advance.													
4.03	Police Visit PC Laura Jackson will attend May's DCC meeting.													
5.00	TREASURER'S REPORT – <i>circulated to members in advance of meeting</i>													
5.01	Dunbar Community Council Finance Report – February 2025 General Account: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The bank statement balance at the month end was £149,412.11The restricted funds held within the General account at the end of the month were -<table><tr><td>Community Windpower Fund</td><td>£ 139,558.53</td></tr><tr><td>Access for All Fund</td><td>£759.00</td></tr><tr><td>Local Priorities Fund</td><td>£ 5,655.06</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</td><td><u>£145,972.59</u></td></tr></table>The unrestricted funds held within the General account were, at the month end–<table><tr><td>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</td><td><u>£ 3,439.52</u></td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL FUNDS</td><td>£149,412.11</td></tr></table><ul style="list-style-type: none">Grants were paid in the month for the establishment of the High Street Residents' GroupGeorge Robertson kindly repaired the Hallhill Trophy Cabinet. Christmas Lights Account: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The bank balance at the month end stood at £ 18,421.74Expenditure in the month was nilDonations amounted to £883 in February Civic Week Account: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The bank balance at the month end was £ 7,679.22There was no change in the month.The Civic Week Committee has now been set up. Dunbar against Litter Account: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The bank balance at the month end was £ 2,829.38The two new litter bins were installed by ELC's Amenities team during the month.	Community Windpower Fund	£ 139,558.53	Access for All Fund	£759.00	Local Priorities Fund	£ 5,655.06	TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>£145,972.59</u>	TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>£ 3,439.52</u>	TOTAL FUNDS	£149,412.11	
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5.03	<p>Questions/Matters Arising <u>Dunbar Against Litter</u> Expenditure was largely due to the purchase of 2 new bins for DGS.</p> <p>Following complaints about serious and chronic littering issues at Dunbar Primary School, Lochend Campus, DAL will work with both Dunbar Grammar School and Dunbar Primary School to increase awareness of litter and to establish litter picking patrols/days. Equipment will be available through the Be Green shop on High St.</p>																																																																																						
5.04	<p>Local Priorities Grants Nil</p>																																																																																						
6.00	<p>PLANNING + ROADS MATTERS The following applications were considered:</p>																																																																																						

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6.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 42 application to vary Condition 1 of Planning Permission 20/00916/P - Formation of roads, footpaths, installation of street lighting and associated works  <div> <p>Land To The East Of Dunbar Garden Centre Spott Road Dunbar EH42 1BF Ref. No: 25/00224/P Received: Wed 05 Mar 2025 Validated: Wed 05 Mar 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> </div> <p>Members were advised that this application was made to amend a condition to provide a 3m wide pathway in front of the existing Garden Centre. A modern footpath exists here and widening it to meet the condition is not realistically feasible. No comment to ELC.</p>	
6.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part change of use of domestic garden for the erection of building to be used for hairdressing salon (Class1)  <div> <p>34 Yosemite Park Dunbar EH42 1FL Ref. No: 25/00218/P Received: Tue 04 Mar 2025 Validated: Wed 05 Mar 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> </div> <p>The application is for a single storey building that will cover some 50% of garden ground in a residential area to create a Class 1 use building. Members were concerned that the application was different from one in which an individual was working from a home office as it entailed client visits and parking. A dedicated parking site has been identified. It was felt that this insertion of a Class 1 use building may set an undesirable precedent in a residential area. DCC to comment to ELC.</p>	MJ
6.03	<p>25/00156/P Alterations to houses, formation of dormer, door canopy and associated works Dunollie And Marine View East Links Brae Dunbar East Lothian EH42 1GT</p> <p>The works entail the conjoining of two properties to create a single, family home. DCC to support the inclusion of solar panels on the south roof slope.</p>	MJ
7.00	LICENSING MATTERS	
7.01	<p><u>Graze - Alcohol Licence</u></p> <p>This long established and well managed business is seeking an alcohol license to enable the sale of alcohol with food for both on site and off site consumption. DCC members were supportive of this application.</p>	
8.00	DCC PROJECT UPDATE	
8.01	<p>Civic week – 14th June 2025</p> <p>RK has been successful in building a strong team to deliver Civic Week Fun Day this year and is grateful to all team members for their input. <u>The Royal Court</u> will be modernised, with new costumes and refreshed roles for all participants. The team will give consideration to further changes to the profile of the Royal Court in the coming years to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible.</p>	

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	<u>Awards Night</u> will be on Monday 16 th June. The promotional poster was agreed and consideration will be given to including a QR code.	
8.02	Book Barn + Sensory Trail The Book Barn has been relaunched and the new Sensory Trail is open. Members of the public are being encouraged to populate it with anything that is shiny, textural or noisy. NH suggested that thought might be given to how we might add scented plants to the trail and this proposal was welcomed.	PS/RK
9.00	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS - UPDATE	
9.01	Valencia Site DCC had received confirmation that recent reports of debris flying off trucks on the A1 had been investigated. Valencia stated that the lorries were not destined for their site.	
9.02	Dunbar Town Centre Clean Up Weekend This will take place over the weekend of 5 th /6 th April and will concentrate on High Street, West Port and the closes although all community areas will be encouraged to take part. JW for DTA, and RR for the newly formed High Street Residents' Group are leading this. DAL will support. Further details to follow.	
9.03	Dunbar Town Centre Heritage Celebration This heritage weekend, promoted by DTA, will take place on 26 th /27 th April. Further details to follow.	
9.04	Local Place Plan Sustaining Dunbar are endeavouring to sign off on a Local Place Plan for Dunbar and West Barns. A draft has been distributed to DCC members and will be discussed informally on 7 th April, 2025.	All
9.05	Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership Representation Following Stephen Bunyan's death and a request from RK to step away from a full role on DELAP, PS proposed that an offer made by GR to assist should be accepted. GR is a past, and very successful Chair of DELAP and is entirely familiar with its systems and processes. It was agreed that DELAP Reps will be: GR + PSh DELAP Subs will be: RK + PS DCC to notify DELAP	PS
10.00	OPEN CONSULTATIONS – to note	
10.01	ELC CONSULTATION HUB – lists all currently open consultations in East Lothian. <i>Nil to note</i>	
11.00	AOB	
11.01	Phone Box, Bayswell Road DCC has been advised that BT plan to remove this phone box in April. Whilst, historically, a public phone in this location was considered valuable in relation to incidents immediately off the coast, the proliferation of mobile phones makes the necessity for this amenity redundant. With one exception, DCC had no objection to the removal of the telephone box. ELC Planning to be advised.	PS

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12.00	NEXT MEETINGS	
12.01	DCC Informal Meeting Members will meet informally in closed session on 7 th April in Dunbar Town House.	
12.02	DCC Open Meeting – Monday 21st April 2025 7pm Town House Guest Speakers – First Responders DCC Open Meeting – Monday 19th May 2025 7pm Town House Guest Speaker - PC Laura Jackson	

PS/PSH/