



# DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Dunbar Community Council Ordinary Meeting

Dunbar Town House

15th September 2025

### MINUTES of ORDINARY MEETING

Ref	Item						Action
1.00	SEDERUNT						
1.01	<div><div><div>Present</div><div><div>Pippa Swan</div><div>DCC Chair</div><div>PS</div></div><div><div>George Robertson</div><div>DCC Vice Chair</div><div>GR</div></div><div><div>Stuart Cameron</div><div>DCC Member</div><div>SC</div></div><div><div>Rena Keller</div><div>DCC Member</div><div>RK</div></div><div><div>Lyn Jardine</div><div>ELC Councillor</div><div>LJ</div></div><div><div>Observers</div><div><div>Rev Keith Mills</div><div>Dunbar Baptist Church</div><div>Peter McDonagh</div><div>Friends of Winterfield</div><div>Douglas Urquhart</div><div>Press</div><div>Cameron Ritchie</div><div>EL Courier</div></div></div><div><div>Alasdair Swan</div><div>DCC Treasurer</div><div>AS</div></div><div><div>Neil Houston</div><div>DCC Member</div><div>NH</div></div><div><div>Jacquie Bell</div><div>DCC Member</div><div>JB</div></div><div><div>Pam Shields</div><div>DCC Member</div><div>PSH</div></div><div><div>Norman Hampshire</div><div>DCC Councillor</div><div>NH</div></div><div><div>Anouska Woods</div><div>Community Windpower</div><div>AW</div></div><div><div>Thomas Ozers</div><div>DCWG</div><div>TO</div></div><div><div>Jean Urquhart</div><div>Public</div><div></div></div></div></div>						
1.02	<div><div><div>Apologies</div><div><div>Donna Collins</div><div>ELC Councillor</div><div>DC</div></div><div><div>Gill Wilson</div><div>DCC Member</div><div>GW</div></div><div><div>Mark James</div><div>DCC Member</div><div>MJ</div></div></div></div>						
1.03	<div><div><div>Councillors’ Declarations of Interest</div><div>Nil</div></div></div>						
2.00	MINUTES OF MEETING – 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2025						
2.01	<div><div><div>Amendments</div><div>Nil</div></div></div>						
2.02	<div><div><div>Adoption</div><div>– Proposed:RK Seconded:PSh</div></div></div>						
2.03	<div><div><div>DCC Action Review</div><div>With the exception of the undernoted, all DCC action items have been attended to:</div><div><div>2.04</div><div><div>Waste Water Upgrade – Tree Scheme Road Safety:</div><div>JB was to have endeavoured to reach consensus with residents over possible road safety improvements for the duration of the works that could be presented to ELC but she has been unable to do so.</div></div></div></div></div>						

Ref	Item	Action
	JB remains concerned for the safety of road users and residents but agreed that this action item should be dropped. 02 DGS Book Barn Youth Team – SC to discuss with DGS	SC
2.04	<b>Matters arising</b> - not dealt with under full agenda items. Nil	
<b>3.00</b>	<b>ELC COUNCILLORS' REPORTS</b>	
3.01	<p><b>Cllr Norman Hampshire</b></p> <p>i. <b>Action Update</b> – No action outstanding</p> <p>ii. <b>Report</b></p> <p>a. <u>Local Development Plan</u> ELC officers are continuing to develop the Local Development Plan for East Lothian. There was a Scottish Government requirement for some 6650 new homes. With construction standing at 1000 homes per annum over the past four years it is anticipated that the new plan will show a requirement for 2650 new homes. Sites are being identified across the county and ELC will endeavour to propose sites that have the minimum impact on infrastructure. Public views will be sought before Christmas.</p> <p>NH also noted that whilst Blindwells had the capacity for some 10,000 new homes, the infrastructure did not support this. Funding from UK and Scottish governments needs to be found for transportation links, new schools, a new rail crossing and new road junction on the A1.</p> <p>b. <u>Budget</u> The budget is progressing with figures looking a little less bleak than last year. Health and Social Care are within budget now. ELC anticipate that substantial inward investment at the new Innovation Hub at Queen Margaret College and renewables infrastructure at Cockenzie will all bring substantial income flows to the Council.</p> <p>c. <u>Al Verge Maintenance</u> For historic reasons, the verges along the A1 between Thistly Cross and Beltonford roundabouts are still an ELC responsibility. Staff can only tidy/litter pick the verges where there is a road closure, but ELC has no control over the timing of these and the verges are therefore often a mess. ELC are consequently asking for the verges to be transferred to BEAR</p> <p>d. <u>Woodland Maintenance Plan Proposal</u> NH has submitted a request for funding for a Woodland Management Plan for the piece of woodland that lies between the new pumptrack and Lochend Primary School. This area of woodland was discussed during the planning process for the pumptrack and it was acknowledged then that this complex area of woodland an stream would need significant work before it was safe for people to walk through or for it to be used, as hoped, as an outdoor school. Thomas Ozers, of Dunbar Community Woodland Group, was invited to comment. He said that all volunteers are fully committed to the community woodland and are excited about the possibility of taking on the new piece of land in the future but could not and would not do so until they could fully understand the scale of this additional responsibility. A detailed and professional plan that sets out the work that was needed to get the woodland into good shape was essential for this.</p>	

[illegible]

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4.00	POLICE REPORT															
4.01	<p><b>Police Report to DCC</b></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><b>Report items of note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It has been a relatively good month for Dunbar in relation to ASB and crimes although figures show there has been a high number of ‘Fail to Stop after an Accident’ reports. It is always unpleasant to return to your vehicle to find someone has hit it and not left their details and often there are no witnesses that come forward. Dash cameras fitted which can capture any evidence, even when your car is parked, are a great tool to use to bring those responsible to justice.</li><li>There has been one report of damage at Belhaven hospital which occurred at the end of August. I will pay passing patrols to the site and hope that this is a one-off occurrence. Local residents are reminded of the importance of reporting any ASB</li><li>in the area or any groups hanging about within the grounds.</li><li>PC Laura Jackson has two volunteers from North Berwick High School who would like get involved with the Community Alcohol Partnership Group which is still in the early stages of planning.</li><li>Members of the public should use the 101 number to report ASB or make use of the Police Scotland on line reporting form - <a href="https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/">https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/</a></li></ul>															
4.02	<p><b>CAPP</b> (Community and Police Partnership)</p> <p>There has been no CAPP meeting since the last report. The next CAPP is on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Members are advice Stuart Cameron of any agenda items.</p>															
5.00	TREASURER’S REPORT – <i>circulated to members in advance of meeting</i>															
5.01	<p><b>General Account:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The bank statement balance at the month end was <b>£114,047.77</b></li><li>The restricted funds held within the General account at the end of the month were -</li></ul> <table><tr><td>Community Windpower Fund</td><td>£ 104,089.67</td></tr><tr><td>Local Priorities Fund</td><td>£ 9,017.04</td></tr><tr><td><b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b></td><td><u>£113,106.71</u></td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The unrestricted funds held within the General account were, at the month end–</li></ul> <table><tr><td><b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b></td><td><u>£ 941.06</u></td></tr></table> <p><b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> £114,047.77</p> <p>Grants were paid during the month to –</p> <table><tr><td>o Royal British Legion</td><td>£3,274</td></tr><tr><td>o Coffee and Chat Group</td><td>£ 480</td></tr><tr><td>o Dunbar Day Centre</td><td>£1,384</td></tr></table> <p><b>Christmas Lights Account:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The bank balance at the month end stood at <b>£ 16,949.86</b></li></ul>	Community Windpower Fund	£ 104,089.67	Local Priorities Fund	£ 9,017.04	<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>£113,106.71</u>	<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>£ 941.06</u>	o Royal British Legion	£3,274	o Coffee and Chat Group	£ 480	o Dunbar Day Centre	£1,384	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The principal movement in the month was the transfer of a £3,187 VAT refund from the General account.</li></ul> <p><b>Civic Week Account:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The bank balance at the month end was <b>£ 525.60</b></li><li>No movement in the month</li></ul> <p><b>Dunbar against Litter Account:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The bank balance at the month end was <b>£ 2,369.62</b></li><li>An order for a new Newtonlees bin is expected to be delivered in September.</li></ul>																					
5.02	<p><b>Local Priority Fund Update</b></p> <table><tr><th>Local Priority Grant applications</th><th>Amount</th><th>Review</th><th>Decision</th></tr><tr><td>Dunbar Magazine distribution</td><td>370</td><td>April</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>High St Regeneration Room Hire</td><td>190</td><td>April</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Dunbar Community Bakery</td><td>500</td><td>July</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Dunbar Day Care Centre</td><td>1384</td><td>Sep</td><td>Awarded</td></tr></table> <p><b>Committed or under review</b> £2,444 <i>Local Priorities Fund available</i> £8,942 <b>Maximum Budget Total</b> <u><u>£11,386</u></u></p> <p><b>Current year fund</b> £10,425 <b>Brought forward fund</b> <u><u>£961</u></u> <u><u>£11,386</u></u></p> <p><b>Not yet paid</b> <b>East Beach sign</b> £75</p> <p><u><u>£75</u></u></p> <p><i>Local Priorities Fund available</i> £8,942 <b>Not yet paid</b> £75 Per August 25 Finance Report <u><u>£9,017</u></u></p>	Local Priority Grant applications	Amount	Review	Decision	Dunbar Magazine distribution	370	April	Awarded	High St Regeneration Room Hire	190	April	Awarded	Dunbar Community Bakery	500	July	Awarded	Dunbar Day Care Centre	1384	Sep	Awarded	
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5.03	<p><b>Questions/Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Nil</p>																					
5.04	<p><b>Local Priorities Grants</b></p> <p>a. The cost of replacing fridges for the Day Centre was ratified</p> <p>b. A grant of £2000 was approved for Dunbar Christmas Lights</p> <p>c. A grant of £2000 was approved for Dunbar Civic Week</p>																					
6.00	<p><b>PLANNING + ROADS MATTERS</b></p> <p>The following applications were considered:</p>																					
6.01	<p>Nil for discussion</p>																					
7.00	<p><b>LICENSING MATTERS</b></p>																					
7.01	<p><u>Sweet and Smokey, West Port: Temporary License</u></p> <p>Members had read the submission and noted the concerns expressed by residents in flats neighbouring the property. Whilst members sympathised with the anxieties expressed over noise and nuisance, it was felt that alcohol licenses were part and parcel of most restaurant businesses today. It was also noted that pubs and restaurants were part of the night time</p>																					

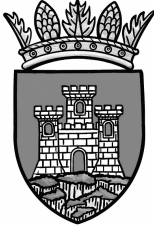
Ref	Item	Action
	economy in a thriving town and as such a degree of acceptance was required, particularly as there has been a restaurant operating in West Port for decades. Members did not wish to raise any objection to the temporary license application.	
<b>8.00</b>	<b>DCC PROJECT UPDATE</b>	
8.01	<p><b>DCC/ELC Community Council Elections</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nominations for election to Community Council open on 1st September and close on 18th September at 4pm. If more than 12 nominations are received, a poll will take place on 9th October 2025 with a count on 10th October 2025. All elected councillors should attend the DCC meeting on 20th October. Election procedure can be found on the ELC website:  <a href="https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210600/elections_and_voting/11921/community_council_elections">https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210600/elections_and_voting/11921/community_council_elections</a></li> </ol> <p>Councillor Donna Collins has agreed to take the chair for the roll call and election of role bearers.</p> <p>With support from DCC project leads, a detailed operations manual is currently being prepared by PS/AS for the incoming team which should ease the transition. Copies of the governance documents will be available for all members of the new team. This paperwork and keys to the Town House and Hallhill trophy cabinets will be handed to Donna Collins in advance of the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October, all then to be passed to the new Chair.</p> <p>PS thanked GR for all of his work in promoting the elections through social media.</p>	
8.02	<p><b>Good Neighbour Gangs (PSh)</b></p> <p>In response to a call expressions of interest, a meeting was held in the Town House on 27<sup>th</sup> August and the notion of the establishment of 'good neighbour' groups was enthusiastically agreed. In the first instance, PSh has obtained a quote from the Red Cross for First Aid and defibrillator training and she will now proceed to fix a date for this with a maximum of twelve participants. PSh has kept our local First Responder, John Montgomery, fully in the loop to ensure that there are no clashes and they both still hope to engage with Dunbar Grammar School pupils over annual First Aid training.</p> <p>Despite stepping down as a Community Councillor, Pam is keen to pursue this initiative and will work with Stuart Cameron on the project, as DCC liaison.</p>	
8.03	<p><b>Dunbar Civic Week and Royal Court (RK)</b></p> <p>As promised at last month's meeting, RK convened a debriefing meeting on Civic Week and the Royal Court, on 21<sup>st</sup> August with key members of her committee.</p> <p>RK was delighted to report that committee member, Gayle Bell, will now take a lead on the community celebrations and will be supported by fellow committee members, Bev Anderson and Cheryl Bell, who will help with the Royal Court.</p> <p>The new team has yet to meet and formulate plans but it is likely that the new model will be quite different from those of the past decade.</p> <p>All members expressed their gratitude to RK for all that she had done to make this year's event a success, despite the challenges. The Courier was thanked for its upbeat reporting of Gayle Bell's succession.</p>	

Ref	Item	Action
<b>9.00</b>	<b>DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS - UPDATE</b>	
9.01	<p><b>Changing Places Toilet (PS)</b> See also Item 3.04.3, above</p> <p>An application for maximum £100k of Scottish Government funding will be submitted this week by PS working with Enjoy Leisure, who will be the named applicant for the grant. Final costs for the CPT at Dunbar Leisure Pool will not be known until final tenders are received but it is anticipated that there will be a shortfall, mostly attributable to the need to create a new, very deep, foul water connection. It is hoped that a grant from the Dunbar New Hall Fund, effectively a 'guarantee against loss' will bridge this gap. The New Hall Fund, administered by our elected members, was deemed to be the best match for this as the monies are part of what was formerly known as the Hippo Fund, established by Molly Keith who was instrumental in the project to build the Leisure Pool in the 1980s.</p>	
9.04	<p><b>ELC Placemaking Consultation – Future use of Dunbar Town House</b></p> <p>With DCC backing, RR has started conversations with community stakeholders about the future use Dunbar Town House. He has met with ELC officer, Tom Reid and he will now arrange to meet with Susan Forgie, of Haddington and District CC, who is exploring routes to bringing Haddington Town House into community ownership/management. Consideration will be given to the establishment of a county-wide trust mechanism that would support these shared endeavours. RR will continue to work on this project.</p>	
<b>10.00</b>	<b>OPEN CONSULTATIONS – to note</b>	
10.01	<p><a href="#">ELC CONSULTATION HUB</a> – <i>lists all currently open consultations in East Lothian.</i></p> <p><i>DCC members noted, in particular:</i></p>	
10.02	<p><a href="#">Call for Evidence - Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP)</a> – <b>September 2nd deadline.</b></p> <p>Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group, which has been monitoring and helping to manage the East Beach since 2012, made a submission in report form and this has been shared with members. GR applauded the report and has now uploaded it to the DCC website. PS expressed the hope that the evidence of some 100years of coastal change at East Beach would spark a positive response...and investment...from ELC.</p>	
10.03	<p><a href="#">East Lothian's Local Biodiversity Action Plan</a></p> <p>Closes 10<sup>th</sup> October</p>	
<b>11.00</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
11.01	<p><b>Projects to be carried forward by new Community Council</b></p> <p>Members asked that a note be made of important projects on which progress is still to be made by the Community Council, as community leaders, and it is hoped that the new team will pick these up during their first term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dangerous and aggressive use of pavements and shared cycleways by users of bikes, e-scooters and mobility scooters both in town and on many roads including Queen's Road and Kellie Road has created a real safety issues for pedestrians. Clear signage and education would help to start with.</li> <li>• Growing disregard for 20mph speed limit on all town roads, especially Queen's Road, Belhaven Road and Countess Road.</li> <li>• Dangerous state of Queen's Road wall. DCC has previously accepted that a full wall repair is probably now not possible a full rebuild would be required, at great expense. Members have previously approved the idea of replacing the wall with railings, thereby marginally widening the pathway between Bowmont Terrace and the Hillside Hotel.</li> </ul>	<b>DCC for all items</b>

Ref	Item	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased danger to pedestrians of buses/coaches turning left from Queen's Road into Spott Road. This issue will have particular significance when/if planning consent is granted for a park and ride for the converter station at Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1) at Oxwell Mains.</li> <li>Urgency of need to create a pedestrian/active travel link through the Coalyards at Dunbar Station, which would massively improve the attraction of walking/cycling to/from the station from the homes to the east of the town.</li> <li>Creation of external access door to the disabled WC at the Wishing Tree café so that the WC can be used when the café is closed. Detailed negotiation required with the café tenant, Bev Anderson to ensure that any plans do not impact her business.</li> </ul>	
11.02	<b>Dunbar Art Route</b> Local artists will open their studios on 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> October during what promises to be a great weekend for Dunbar and West Barns <a href="https://www.dunbarartroute.co.uk">https://www.dunbarartroute.co.uk</a>	
11.03	<b>Dunbear</b> Owner Ken Ross, had given notice on 10 <sup>th</sup> September that the bear was to be moved into storage for the duration of construction of the new Costa drive-in at Dunbar retail park. DCC members had previously been asked if there was any community appetite to move the bear into a new location but members felt that there was no obvious economic advantage to the town in having it in a more central location and there were significant challenges over the selection of a site that would not cause upset amongst residents. It was also clear that Ken Ross would not contribute financially to the creation of a new placement. PS had confirmed this position to Ken Ross recently.	
11.04	<b>Belhaven Garden Community Asset Transfer Update</b> No further update since last month when MJ reported that NHS had visited the site and were impressed by all that was being done there. It now seems that no decision will be made until 2026 on any CAT.	
12.00	<b>ROLE BEARERS ANNUAL REPORTS</b> <i>It has been customary for the Chair and Treasurer to present reports annually at an AGM held in October. As both Pippa and Alasdair Swan are stepping down, their reports were taken as closing statements at the September meeting, and will be recommended for adoption into the minutes of the first meeting of the new Community Council on 20<sup>th</sup> October.</i>	
12.01	<b>AGM 2025 - TREASURER'S REPORT</b> Alasdair Swan  Dunbar Community Council's accounts for the year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 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 2025, the General Fund stood at £906 (2024 - £2,485). Expenses paid from out of this fund included regular items such as the Community Council's insurance premium, the awards ceremony,	




Ref	Item	Action
	<p>subscriptions to RAGES and the John Muir Birthplace, computer software and website costs and administrative costs.</p> <p>At the end of March 2025, the Christmas Lights Fund stood at £19,636 (2024 - £20,495). The total expenditure on the lights was £19,508 in the year (up 38% on the previous year's costs), so the pressure on the Christmas Lights Committee to raise funds is constant. Recognition needs to be made of the dedicated work of Yvonne Wemyss who, as Treasurer of the Christmas Lights Committee, keeps a constant eye on its finances and leads the fundraising efforts.</p> <p>At the end of March 2025, the Civic Week Fund stood at £7,364 (2024 - £11,329). The cost of running Civic Week in 2024 was £7,950 and the Civic Week Committee is to be commended for its wonderful work in organising and delivering the programme</p> <p>At the end of March 2025, the Dunbar Against Litter Fund stood at £2,828 (2024 - £2,445). After many years of loyal service, Romie Blair has terminated Dunbar Against Litter as a community group. The fund will continue to be restricted to matters related to the town's management of litter.</p> <p>The Access for All Fund, established to provide secure disabled access to Belhaven Bay, stood at £759 at the end of March 2025. There was no movement on this fund during the year. The fund has been fully utilised in 2025/26.</p> <p>At the end of March 2025, the Local Priorities Fund stood at £4,787 (2024 - £1,657). The Community Council was able to give fourteen grants totalling £7,070 to a wide variety of community groups and events including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dunbar History Society</li> <li>• Dunbar Community Carrot</li> <li>• Book Barn</li> <li>• The Ridge portraits</li> <li>• Dunbar Harbour Trust</li> <li>• Tuesday Club</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellbeing Group</li> <li>• Tyne &amp; Esk Writers</li> <li>• Dunbar Grammar School Association</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Dunbar Rangers</li> <li>• Lauderdale Park Sensory Trail</li> <li>• High Street Residents' Group</li> <li>• The Ridge evacuation chair</li> <li>• Countess After School Club</li> </ul> <p>At the end of March 2025, the Community Benefit Fund stood at £115,883 (2024 - £107,216). During the year twenty-five grants totalling £62,461 were distributed to local organisations including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• thespace</li> <li>• Sensory trail</li> <li>• Book barn</li> <li>• Dunbar Community Shed</li> <li>• Community picnic</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Light Arts</li> <li>• Dunbar Music Festival</li> <li>• High Street hanging baskets</li> <li>• Dunbar youth project – Helen Harper</li> <li>• Dunbar youth project – thespace</li> <li>• Community Woodland Group</li> <li>• Belhaven Church – youth hall lets</li> <li>• Christmas Lights anchor points</li> <li>• The Ridge – Flesher's Close</li> <li>• Enjoyleisure</li> <li>• Dunbar dolphins</li> <li>• Intergenerational Group</li> <li>• Sustaining Dunbar</li> <li>• The ridge – Empire Close</li> <li>• St Anne's – halo heater</li> <li>• The Ridge - Tools</li> <li>• ELAF – stone stacking competition</li> <li>• Dunbar Girls Football Team</li> <li>• Dunbar Army Cadets</li> <li>• High Street clean-up</li> </ul> <p>Dunbar received £71,128 during the year from Community Windpower Ltd to support and develop community activities. Dunbar Community Council is grateful for the guidance provided by Anouska Woods at BeGreen.</p> <p>Alasdair Swan 2 September 2025</p>	
12.02	 <p>DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL</p> <p><b>CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2024/25</b> Pippa Swan 15<sup>TH</sup> September</p> <p>This meeting in September, the final month of the current term, is the last that I will chair. To ease the pressure on the first meeting of the new Community Council on 20<sup>th</sup> October, I present our annual report and will offer it for adoption into the notes of the Annual General Meeting of that date.</p>	

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	<p>The Community Council is all about people – those who volunteer and those who we, as volunteers, seek to support and give a voice to. This year has been one of real change.</p> <p>Sanchita Patjoshi, our Civic Week lead last year, and Kevin Searle, who managed our social media and took special interest in building matters and developer liaison, both stepped down from the Council in December 2024. Stephen Bunyan, still in post, died shortly afterwards, having given decades of committed service to the community. Graham Adams left in the spring after years as my very able Vice Chair; he remains Chair of the Community Council's sub-committee, Dunbar Christmas Lights.</p> <p>Councillor depletion was short-lived and we were delighted to welcome Neil Houston to the table at the end of last year, with George Robertson and Ree Rolph joining in January. Neil has been a stalwart of Civic Week and a wise voice of reason at our table. He, quite rightly, has urged us all to move away from 'acronym speak' and to communicate with each other and our community more clearly. Ree has taken a lead on all projects 'High Street' and has successfully established a new Tenants' and Residents' Association here. His experience as a building surveyor has been a huge help to the CARS (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme) project steering group and I very much hope that he will feel able to continue with this until the project comes to a close in 2027.</p> <p>George Robertson, a long-standing councillor who retired from the group four years ago, returned as Vice Chair to help us with our IT, social media and website and has been an invaluable, and diplomatic, help to us all, particularly as we navigated through our updated governance documents.</p> <p>Having volunteered for the Civic Week committee in the past, George volunteered again this year, working with Neil and our Civic Week Chair, Rena Keller. An enormous amount of volunteer time goes into the planning and delivery of Civic Week and Rena managed the project and her team with great good humour and skill, resulting in a wonderful week of events, launched by the parade and Fun Day, in June. We all owe her a great debt of gratitude for this. I am absolutely delighted to confirm that Gayle Bell, an experienced committee member, will lead Civic Week now, bringing with her Bev Anderson and Cheryl Bell as a core group for next year.</p> <p>Long serving Community Councillors, Gill Wilson and Jacquie Bell have continued their contribution to the community. Gill Wilson, who has been a Community Councillor for 17 years, has been a campaigner for all aspects of improved health and wellbeing for people of all ages throughout her tenure. Her dedication to the work of the Community Council has not diminished, and she has been able to keep abreast of all Community Council business, despite an inability to attend meetings in person, since last December. Jacquie has an in depth understanding of local politics and the operation of East Lothian Council. Describing herself as a 'Yorkshire Terrier' she has been rigorous in her approach to minutes and community information sharing.</p> <p>Jacquie introduced Stuart Cameron to the Community Council. He and Pam Shields have been our chosen representatives on the 6-weekly Community</p>	

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	<p>and Police Partnership (CAPP) meetings where matters of community safety are discussed and actions agreed, with our community police officer, currently, PC Laura Jackson. Stuart has been our lynchpin with Dunbar Grammar School where is he building good relationships between the school and the Community Council. The arrival of John Johstone as the new Head Teacher in 2024 has opened up new channels of communication and Stuart is looking to find ways by which the Community Council can support our schools and ways by which young people, in turn, might offer more to the community.</p> <p>Pam Shields has worked with Stuart on community safety issues. She leads our Community Emergency Response Plan, which is now updated, functional and accessible should a community emergency arise. The new plan identifies risks and response models and we are confident that it is fit for purpose for the incoming Community Council team.</p> <p>To weave with that community resilience work, Pam has instigated the Dunbar Good Neighbour project. Although this might take a new name in the future, the idea is that neighbourhoods will galvanise their owns local support mechanisms to help each other in times of need. The project is centred, in the first place, around the operation of defibrillators. You only have three to four minutes to live if your heart is not started after a cardiac arrest so Pam's plan, working with our local First Responders, is to try to have a 'good neighbour' who can get to and use a defibrillator or apply cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), within four minutes of each home. It's a challenging ambition, and the project is in its infancy, but we believe that the Good Neighbour project could, literally, be a life saver.</p> <p>Mark James has been our planning application scout. He has interrogated all planning applications and advised on which, if any of the applications, the council should discuss. The single most challenging application in the past year has been the proposal to install a large diameter, surface water drainage pipe across Dunbar Business + Retail Park, discharging into the Brox Burn. The Community Council is an enthusiastic supporter of development at the Business/Retail park but this proposal was simply not one that we could back because of the very serious amenity and environmental implications for residents living close to the discharge point. A viable drainage solution for the Park has still to be determined.</p> <p>Alasdair Swan has done all of the work associated with every aspect of our accounts and grant programme for more than a decade. An accountant by training, he delivers meticulous accounts for the Community Council and Civic Week. Our Local Priorities Grants and Community Benefit Grants take a huge amount of his time to administer. Alasdair invites applications, assesses same, reports and makes recommendations to members then administers the grants to all recipients. Alasdair's annual report covers the really wide range of community projects that we have been able to support this year.</p> <p>As a team, we saw the publication of the Local Place Plan in the summer. The final iteration was largely driven by Sustaining Dunbar and Dunbar Trades Association who invested a great deal of time in public consultation to</p>	

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	<p>prepare their report. The findings will feed into East Lothian Council's Local Development Plan, which will determine development from 2026 onwards.</p> <p>Our single biggest joint endeavour over the past year has been the work committed to challenging East Lothian Council's proposals to introduce parking charges in Dunbar. Our final submission was made in June 2025 and we expect to hear in October to what extent East Lothian Council felt able to listen to the community's single voice... which just said NO to parking charges. East Lothian Council has promised that a thriving economy in Dunbar will be front and centre of any parking plans. We will have to wait and see.</p> <p>As we near the end of the present Community Council term, Alasdair and I, along with Pam, Neil, George, Gill and Rena have given notice that we will not seek nomination for a further term. We are excited at the prospect that this offers to a large new cohort of volunteers to come forward to take the Community Council in a direction that meets the needs of our changing town. The challenges of car parking charges, the impacts of renewables projects on our local economy and the development of Dunbar Retail/Business Park will all require positive and constructive engagement with stakeholders, the community and, importantly, with officers and elected members at East Lothian Council.</p> <p>It has been a privilege to have served on Dunbar Community Council. Now in my twelfth year, seven as Chair, I believe that I leave the Council in good shape. We have updated governance documents which should make the management of Council affairs more straightforward. Our new digital document library is up and running, allowing Councillors access to all papers. Our website is operating on a new platform and our social media channels have been tidied up and concentrate now only on information that we feel will be of real interest to our community. Our Vision 2025 document will hopefully guide the way that grant monies are spent in the coming 5 years, concentrating on community initiatives that make a difference.</p> <p>Together, as a team, I feel that we have built a reputation for community engagement, diligence, creativity, attention to detail and an ability to work well with officers and our elected members to deliver on our project-driven agenda. I thank all Community Councillors for this. I am very grateful too, to Lyn Jardine, Donna Collins and Norman Hampshire for all the support they have given us over matters that impact our town and very much hope that this will continue.</p> <p>Next month, in October, a new Community Council will form and we wish them all the very best for a happy, productive and constructive term in office.</p>  <p>Pippa Swan – Chair of Dunbar Community Council  15th September 2025 for  AGM – 20th October 2025</p>	

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12.03	<b>Comment on Annual Reports</b> Members applauded the annual reports and commended them for adoption without amendment, as a true reflection of the past year's work by Dunbar Community Council.	
12.04	<b>Commemorative Photograph</b> GR presented PS with a framed photograph which will now be included in the gallery of former Royal Burgh Council and Community Council Chairmen, in the Council Chamber. PS thanked GR warmly for this unexpected gesture.	
13.00	<b>NEXT MEETINGS</b>	
13.01	<b>DCC Ordinary Meeting + AGM</b> <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October September 2025, 7pm – Dunbar Town House –</b> <b>FIRST MEETING FOR NEW DCC</b>	

Pippa Swan  
Chair  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2025