



**Community Council Ordinary Meeting (Open)**  
**Minutes of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2025**  
 7pm Council Chambers, Town House, Dunbar

<b>ITEM</b>	
<b>1.00</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION (if applicable)</b>
1.01	<p><b>Present:</b> Kirsten Harper (Chair), Stuart Cameron (Vice-Chair), Laura Smith (Secretary), Hannah Renton (Treasurer), Bev Anderson, Ree Rolph, Jacquie Bell, John Robertson, Alex Coull, Catherine Acton, Bea Taylor.</p> <p><b>EL Councillor:</b> Norman Hampshire, Donna Collins.</p> <p><b>Press:</b> Cameron Ritchie.</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Anouska Wood (Be Green).</p> <p><b>Observers:</b> Three members of the public</p>
1.02	<b>Apologies:</b> Lynne Jardine (EL Councillor), Gayle Bell (DCC).
<b>2.00</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
2.01	<p><b>Call for Councillors declaring an interest in matters to be discussed:</b>          No declarations made at this point.</p>
<b>3.00</b>	<b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>
3.01	<b>Amendments:</b> None
3.02	<p><b>Adoption:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed - Ree R</li> <li>• Seconded - Hannah R</li> </ul>
3.03	<p><b>DCC Action Review:</b>          Book Barn Update – The Book Barn, Lauderdale Park is locked and sealed for the winter months. This will be re-visited in Spring, 2026.</p>
<b>4.00</b>	<b>ELC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</b>
4.01	<p><b>Councillor Norman Hampshire:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Police: Additional funding of £1.4 million is to be made available to increase the number of Police Officers nationwide. All Police Officers now each wear a camera. They report that this has had a positive effect on the behaviour of people, who are aware that their actions are being recorded. It is also helping provide evidence.</li> <li>2. Local Development Plan: The number of new house builds to be allocated</li> </ol>

	<p>by Scottish Government to East Lothian are still to be decided. The Scottish Government aimed for 6,660; however East Lothian Council want this reduced to a more manageable number, taking infrastructure into account. The decision will be taken next year.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. NESO (<a href="https://www.neso.energy/">https://www.neso.energy/</a>): NH informed DCC that the National Energy System Operator (NESO) is running a consultation on Regional Energy Strategic Planning. The aim is to set up regional strategies across GB; one for Scotland, one for Wales and nine for English regions.</li> <li>4. Integrated Joint Board (IJB): Social care services within East Lothian are reaching capacity. There may be scope within the IJB (NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council) to allocate funding from NHS to support this, however this is not confirmed, nor is it a permanent solution.</li> <li>5. Budget Deficit: Increased and additional costs have led to a budget deficit of £10 million within East Lothian, up to February 2026. There are cross party discussions taking place to address this and one area under consideration is an Asset Review of ELC property. No decisions have been taken, however, there is a suggestion that Town House, Dunbar offers possibilities for commercial use or Community Asset Transfer. RR commented that the recent consultation regarding this was not as meaningful as it might have been. NH pointed out that further consultation would take place once outline decisions were taken, but anyone with concerns could get in touch with Tom Reid, the relevant contact at ELC.</li> <li>6. Safer Routes to School: The area around Countess Road/Countess Crescent is felt to be too restrictive for the number of children, carers and cyclists merging there at school times throughout the day. The numbers involve all three schools. This has led to reports of near misses on pavements, and some concerns for road safety. Changes to the pedestrian crossing might help, but would involve a cost and might not solve the problem. NH mentioned that reopening the railway underpass at Elm Street/Ashgrove could help with access between Dunbar Grammar School and housing South of the railway. Network Rail would expect a major financial input from ELC on feasibility and maintenance. The property developer in the immediate area is unwilling to contribute. Costs would be millions of pounds.</li> <li>7. Local Bus Service: NH was asked about the possibility of the 130 town service being re-tendered. He reported that services can be re-tendered, however there had been no uptake of this service previously. The difficulties that residents have experienced since its loss were reiterated – issues accessing the closest bus stop due to mobility problems and/or visual impairment; increased social isolation; reduced independence.</li> </ol>
4.02	<p><b>Cllr Lynn Jardine:</b> No update available.</p> <p><b>1. Action Update and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>3.04.a - Water Quality Notification Process – LJ to have raised with Policy and Performance Committee</p> <p>3.04.b – Seagull nuisance at Ashfield and environs (as per letter from member of the public)</p>
4.03	<p><b>Cllr Donna Collins:</b></p>

	<p><b>1. Action Update and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Hospital road is to continue closure for a further 3 years, to allow heavy vehicles safer access to housing development. However, general vehicle use continues, creating risk. Cllr Collins will raise this with the developers, who are responsible for supervising the road use. Signage also needs checked.</p> <p>Some specialised vehicles have permission to travel via Yosemite Park and residents report that there seems to be fewer heavy vehicles here and on Kellie Road than previously, however, there is a need for speed checks in the area.</p>
4.04	<p><b>Questions/Concerns to Councillors</b></p> <p>No other items raised</p>
<b>5.00</b>	<b>TREASURER'S REPORT – <i>Circulated in advance, with agenda</i></b>
5.01	<p>Bank mandates are almost completed, however, for clarity the hand over is not yet finalised, so any payments continue to be made by current signatories. This is in line with a recognised hand over period, as necessary.</p> <p>The report was approved by the council -  Proposer – Kirsten H  Secunder – Stuart C</p>
5.02	<p><b>Local Priorities Fund Applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DGS Application – Christmas Fair: This had required a speedy decision from office bearers, however it was made clear that this would not be the standard method of decision making.  A discussion on declarations of interest relating to this application led to the agreement that these be made case by case, based on common understanding and on a “better safe than sorry” approach.</li> <li>• Carers of East Lothian, Dunbar Carer Support Group: Awarded unanimously, excepting Jacquie B who declared an interest and did not vote.</li> <li>• Kindred: More information required – Ree to follow up on this.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Dunbar Rangers (from October): Group to be advised to re-apply to the Community Benefit Fund.</li> </ul> <p><i>(But note: Funding request from Community Benefit Fund – to be discussed in private session following conclusion of Ordinary Meeting OR, at the discretion of the Chair, at a separately convened meeting)</i></p>
<b>6.00</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT- <i>Circulated in advance, with agenda</i></b>
6.01	<p><b>Comments/Questions for CAPP:</b> As per the report, Community Police Officer/s will be attending at Dunbar Garden Centre between 1100 hours and 1300 hours on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December for anyone wishing to attend and speak about any community/police issues.</p> <p>Following the CAPP meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the following priorities were set:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bike Thefts</li> <li>2. Driving on pavements at Hallhill</li> </ol> <p>The date of the next CAPP meeting is 6pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Dunbar Grammar School. Catherine A had identified some CAPP issues from recent meetings that may be outstanding. She will liaise with Stuart C to confirm whether these are ongoing or closed.</p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>PLANNING AND ROADS MATTERS for discussion</b>
	Monthly lists of all Dunbar Ward planning applications can be seen on East Lothian Council Planning portal: <a href="https://pa.eastlothian.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=monthlyList">https://pa.eastlothian.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=monthlyList</a>
7.01	<b>Crystal Rigg Application:</b> JB has submitted DCC views to ELC and ECU.
7.02	<b>Eastern Link Park and Ride:</b> JB has submitted DCC views to ELC.
7.03	<b>Unauthorised Development near Pikeman Crescent:</b> no formal planning application yet submitted.
7.04	<b>Drainage Outlet at Broxmouth:</b> Stephanie McQueen, ELC Planner is seeking comments on this application to facilitate drainage for 25 holiday lodges. JB has circulated information. JB and AC will consider and draft a response.
<b>8.00</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTE</b>
8.01	Parking Charges: DCC and other CCs had met. Action moving forward will include maintaining and re-asserting the community view that Dunbar says <b>no</b> to parking charges and working with other groups to re-enforce this. All DCC members are asked to be prepared to help as the situation is becoming pressing, with the dead-line identified as 9 <sup>th</sup> December for ELC decision.
8.02	Visitor Levy Update: No further information – carried forward.
8.03	Tribute to Dan Cairney, past Chair: Catherine A to carry forward.
8.04	GDPR/Data Protection: For reasons of confidentiality, the Google Drive is the safest way to store and access documents and information. All members of DCC need to ensure they can gain access.
<b>9.00</b>	<b>DCC PROJECTS UPDATE</b>
9.01	<b>Dunbar Christmas Lights -</b> Kirsten H has spoken to Graham Adams and he will let us know if he requires any help on 23rd November. Kirsten has agreed to become the DCC liaison for the lights team.
	<b>DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS – UPDATE</b>
9.02	<b>ELC Placemaking Consultation – Future use of Dunbar Town House:</b> See item 4.01/5. and 9.10.
9.03	<b>Viridor Update –</b> Jacquie B had circulated a report for noting
9.04	<b>Torness Update:</b> Kirsten's report – Mr Paul Forrest is Torness Station Director and it was he who led the recent public session. He reported that the station was definitely going to generate until 2030. After that, there will be an estimated 3 years of refuelling and then up to 12 years of decommissioning. The aim is to retain everyone who wishes to remain employed. A percentage take early retirement/ redundancy. They are still taking on apprentices and are particularly interested in encouraging girls into the business.

	There is a possibility of further development on the site in future, including modular mini reactors, a data centre and battery storage. There are no firm plans for any of these but the site is ideally situated.
9.05	<b>Hallhill Update:</b> The planned AGM was cancelled. Awaiting a new date.
9.06	<b>John Muir Country Park Advisory Group Meeting</b> – Jacquie B circulated report for noting.
9.07	<b>Queen’s Road Wall:</b> An area of wall has been repaired, however other parts also require attention – carried forward, Jacquie B to ascertain future plans.
9.08	<b>High Street Notice Board:</b> This has not been updated due to difficulty tracing a key. Ree R to follow up – carried forward.
9.09	<b>Scotland’s Town Partnership:</b> Ree R outlined the purpose of the partnership and suggested that it may be useful for DCC to become a member, given some of the issues currently faced by Dunbar. This was agreed. Ree to follow up.
9.10	<b>Town Centre Sub Committee:</b> Ree R was concerned that the possible changes to use for the Town House, and other matters directly relating to the town centre, warranted a sub-committee of interested parties. This received wide agreement. Ree to consider ways to take this forward – carried forward.
9.11	<b>Any other:</b> No further updates.
<b>10.00</b>	<b>AOB:</b> None
<b>11.00</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING</b>
11.01	<b>DCC Ordinary Meeting</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 7pm Dunbar Town House (depending on urgency of Business), or Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 2026.