



ITEM	
<b>1.00</b>	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (if applicable)
	<p>Present: DCC: Kirsten Harper (Chair), Stuart Cameron (Vice-Chair), Catherine Acton (Secretary), Jacquie Bell, Hannah Renton, Bev Anderson, Alex Coull, Ree Rolph, John Robertson, Gayle Bell            ELC: Lyn Jardine, Norman Hampshire            Press: Cameron Ritchie            Guest: Cris Thacker, Fred Olsen Renewables            In Attendance: Anouska Woods, CWP, BeGreen; Rev Keith Mills, Dunbar Baptist Church; 3 members of the public.</p>
	Apologies: Bea Taylor.
<b>2.00</b>	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
	<p>Call for Councillors declaring an interest in matters to be discussed:            None declared at this point.</p>
<b>3.00</b>	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 15th December, 2025
3.01	<p>Amendments: The following amendments from the previous minute were requested:</p> <p>1)  <i>“6.02 Local Priorities Fund Applications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dunbar Christmas Lights – granted, with the proviso that the lights team give consideration to an alternative to the canopy should further damage occur in the future.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>This should read:</b>  <i>“Community Benefit Fund Applications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dunbar Christmas Lights – granted, with the proviso that the lights team give consideration to an alternative to the canopy should further damage occur in the future.”</li> </ul> <p>2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“1<sup>st</sup> Dunbar Rangers and 1<sup>st</sup> Dunbar Guides (applying separately for the same event) – DCC agree in principle, but the Treasurer will discuss further with both applicants on the items applied for.)”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>This should read:</b>  <i>“The Dunbar Rangers and Dunbar Guides have been informed that we will not cover transport costs. But they have been asked to submit a new application for tents and equipment that would benefit the whole Guide and Rangers community.”</i></p>

3.02	<p>Adopted subject to the above amendments -  Proposed - Stuart C  Seconded – Ree Rolph</p>
4.00	<p>Visit from Cris Thacker, Communications Manager, Fred. Olsen Renewables. (<a href="https://crystalrigwindfarm.com/">https://crystalrigwindfarm.com/</a>)</p> <p>Cris was welcomed and gave the meeting some background on Fred Olsen Renewables (FOR) and Crystal Rig Wind Farm. Crystal Rig Phase 1 first operated in 2003, consisting of 25 turbines. The number of turbines in operation grew steadily, in phases, to 102. An additional 11 are currently in the process of being energised (Crystal Rig IV).</p> <p>FOR anticipates a 35 year operating period and thinks long term, in decades, not years.</p> <p>Information is communicated to local communities each week, including any transport movement expected, any major traffic, heavy vehicles etc. Information is available on the website. These types of movements have reduced recently, and there are none planned in the meantime. Any roads affected are, or will be, re-instated, as was.</p> <p>Consideration is given to biodiversity, including the reinstatement of hedgerows. On-site, minor adjustments are made where possible, should there be any changes around a turbine base etc.</p> <p>Over £8 million has been/will be paid out in Community Benefit Funds over the 35 year project, from the projects/phases. Community Benefit Funds deliver for the local and regional communities across East Lothian and the Scottish Borders. These are made available to local organisations, charities and projects through Community Councils in the area.</p> <p>The CCs are:</p> <p>East Lammermuir Community Council  Garvald and Morham Community Council  Cranshaws, Ellemford &amp; Longformacus Community Association  Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston Community Council  Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council</p> <p>There are no plans to extend the funding beyond the existing areas, however, if any initiatives taken benefit other Community Council Areas, or there is the possibility of joint working between areas, FOR would consider how they can support this.</p> <p>Cris gave updates in response to questions:</p> <p>Crystal Rigg 1 (ECU00005089/25/00005/SGC):</p> <p><i>For information – Crystal Rig 1 has been operational since 2003. The wind farm was at the forefront of the renewables revolution in Scotland. However, the 62.5MW site has come to the end of its life. We are proposing to repower the project – replacing the ageing turbines with new, more powerful, and efficient models.</i></p> <p><i>Re-powering existing wind farms is a very effective way to improve the efficiency at existing wind farm sites – which typically have very good wind conditions.</i></p> <p>(<a href="https://crystalrigwindfarm.com/repowering-and-decommissioning/">https://crystalrigwindfarm.com/repowering-and-decommissioning/</a>)</p> <p>ELC Planning Department removed their recommendation to object from the council agenda last week, so they could take into account further considerations.</p>

	<p>There will be a reduction in the number of turbines required, meaning more space between each turbine.</p> <p>The planning application will take into account environmental concerns (such as historic sites etc.), as well as biodiversity issues. Any redundant bases will be returned to nature.</p> <p>A Cumulative Impact Assessment – an EIC (European Innovation Council) impact report, including environmental issues, will be carried out.</p> <p>A socio-economic analysis for evidence of benefit (by BiGGAR Economics) will be shared.</p> <p>FOR are open to discussing the possibility of a shared ownership model and are committed to ensuring the existing turbines are decommissioned and repurposed or recycled for local projects, where appropriate.</p> <p>Cris also gave examples of some of the successful projects resulting from the CBF, including village hall restorations or replacement, subsidised swimming lessons and other creative uses of the funds.</p> <p>Cris was thanked for his attendance and useful update on the projects, past and future.</p>
<p><b>IA:</b> Item adjust ments</p>	<p>Agreement made that items from 10.02, 10.08 and 11.00 a) on the agenda be heard at this point:</p> <p>10.02 ELC Placemaking Consultation, Town House. This is recorded more appropriately below, Item 5.01, 1.</p> <p>10.08 Town Centre Action Group – Ree updated the meeting: In response to work by the Town Centre Action Group last year, working with The Ridge and Dunbar in Bloom, East Lothian Council had prepared two options for redesigning the street furniture layout of the high street. Option 1 involves custom planter/bench designs that would be designed and built by The Ridge. Option 2 uses commercially available off-the-shelf benches in combination with Ridge planters. The council have advised the latter, for risk and compliance reasons, but ultimately the decision has been deferred to the community council. Members agreed on Option 2, and were glad to note that The Ridge will be involved. Ree will action a response on the Option choice, but asked that The Ridge also be contacted by DCC on their decision, in recognition of their submission. The Chair or Vice-Chair will action.</p> <p>11.00 a) Town of Culture – Department for Culture, Media &amp; Sport (DCMS)  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-ever-uk-town-of-culture-competition-to-restore-pride-in-communities">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-ever-uk-town-of-culture-competition-to-restore-pride-in-communities</a></p> <p>The UK Government's Town of Culture 2028 competition opened, offering £3 million of culture funding to the winning town, along with £250,000 for two runners up. Ree had circulated information to DCC members ahead of the meeting regarding the competition and the possibility of a bid being made on behalf of Dunbar. Ree believed that Dunbar was a good position to make a bid, and based on the experience of places that have participated in City of Culture competitions, the bid alone would be a good way to promote the unique qualities of the town.</p> <p>The categories are based on population and Dunbar would be in the category of 'Small Town'. Brief extracts from the link above inform that:</p>

	<p><i>“Applications will be open until 31 March 2026 for Expressions of Interest.” “The strongest bids will progress to a shortlist, with each shortlisted town receiving £60,000 to help deliver their full bids for the competition.” “Three finalists – one small, one medium, one large town – will be chosen.”</i></p> <p>Ree asked for opinion, including any comments from local councillors present and for consent to take this forward by forming a sub-group with wide representation from groups and organisations in the town.</p> <p>The breadth of the area cover of the bid was discussed, and perhaps a joint bid with other towns in East Lothian, possibly ‘seaside towns’ – Ree informed the meeting that immediate villages and hamlets could be included; however, there is a need to bear in mind that too wide an inclusion area could take the bid into a different category. The area he had considered would be that covered by EH42.</p> <p>There was full support for Ree to initiate a meeting for interested parties. He asked for assistance and several other members of DCC volunteered: Jacquie Bell expressed willingness to help. He will organise a meeting to scope out interest, inviting any representatives of relevant groups to attend.</p> <p>Ree asked about funding of a venue for February 28th to run consultation about the aforementioned projects, and hold an AGM for the Town Centre Residents Group. This was unanimously agreed.</p>
<p><b>5.00</b></p>	<p><b>ELC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</b></p>
<p>5.01</p>	<p>Cllr Norman Hampshire – Carried forward</p> <p>1. Action Update and Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset Review – Town House <p>Norman reiterated that ELC had many property assets, the maintenance of which were expensive to upkeep. This is not a situation that can continue. Some assets would need to operate differently to present, as this is not sustainable. The community needs to decide on what use they want from the Town House. There is no plan as yet, and change will take place over a period of time.</p> <p>Ree was able to provide an update on his progress regarding the ELC Placemaking Consultation, Town House (item 10.2, DCC Projects Update) - <i>I have received a list of townhouse users from the museums service, and been invited by the Architectural Heritage Fund to submit a stage 2 application for funding from their Project Feasibility Fund, which would help to assess what model is likely the most viable to keep the townhouse as an active, accessible community building. The application must be submitted by March 3, and I intend to ensure that we are in the best possible position once the infrastructure is in place on the council's side to engage.</i> The members fully support Ree and will assist if required. - Ongoing</p> </li> <li>• Safer Routes to School – Norman outlined the issues of congestion and safety at Countess Road/Countess Crescent junction again, as well as possible means of resolution, previously minuted. There is no straightforward solution. Regarding the Ashgrove underpass, Network Rail have identified the land, owned by them, close to where the previous underpass was situated. They (Network Rail) would need to provide the design and apply to planning. Funding will be sought through various sources including Sustran, Transport</li> </ul>

	<p>Scotland, Scottish Government and Network Rail. Costs are predicted to be around £3 million. - Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Bus Service 130 – the re-tender for a local bus is unlikely to be issued imminently, as these generally take place once every three years. Discussions on a replacement alternative were felt to be unviable. Members of the community council are asked to consider more creative solutions, perhaps jointly with other community councils in the area. - Ongoing</li> </ul> <p>2. Report – Cllr Hampshire reported that serious savings need to be made in order that ELC attains a balanced budget. The full council vote on the budget will take place on 24th February, with papers likely published the week before. Cross party discussion continues in a bid to find consensus.</p>
5.02	<p>Cllr Lyn Jardine -</p> <p>1. Action Update and Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking Charges – Members of DCC are asked to invite any constituent who mentions having written to her in her capacity as East Lothian Councillor on the matter of parking charges, and not received a reply, to please re-send the message to her email at <a href="mailto:ljardine1@eastlothian.gov.uk">ljardine1@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>. Councillor Jardine has replied to all, however some constituents report not having had a reply.</li> <li>Changing Places Toilet – Progress is slow, however discussions with relevant parties involved continue. Pippa Swan is the representative for Dunbar Community Council, the other parties being East Lothian Council and Enjoy Leisure.</li> <li>Biel Burn Discharge – there have been issues of sewage discharge into the Biel Burn and on towards the bay, from an unknown source. SEPA are investigating.</li> </ul> <p>2. Report – Cllr Jardine reiterated Cllr Hampshire’s budget update and the difficulties faced.</p>
5.03	<p>Cllr Donna Collins – Not in attendance, carried forward.</p> <p>1. Action Update and Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital Road – closure and signage: It was noted that there is still no signage about the closure on local roads or from the A1. Vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists are still using the road.</li> </ul> <p>2. Report</p>
5.04	<p>Questions/Concerns to Councillors: Guidance on shop front painting and signage on Dunbar High Street was requested. The meeting was informed that there is a particular palette of colours offered, and businesses must acquire planning permission in order to meet the conservation status. This is not time restricted and will required to be complied with.</p>
6.00	<p><b>TREASURER’S REPORT – <i>Circulated in advance.</i></b></p> <p><b>Dunbar Community Council</b></p> <p><b>Finance Report – December 2025</b></p> <p><b>General Account:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The bank statement balance at the month end was <b>£116,039.83</b></li> <li>The restricted funds held within the General account at the end of the month</li> </ul>

Community Windpower Fund	£ 112,543.70
Local Priorities Fund	£ 3,840.04
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>£116,383.74</b>

- The unrestricted funds held within the General account were, at the month end

**TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS** £ (343.91)

(See VAT note below)

**TOTAL FUNDS** £116,039.83

There was one grant paid out in **November**. (Maybe December?)

- Carers of East Lothian £ 400

There is a VAT repayment of £2,457.22 at the end of December recoverable in January 2026, which partly relates to the Unrestricted Funds.

**Christmas Lights Account:**

- The bank balance at the month end stood at **£ 13,051.32**
- There was no income during December
- Expenses related to on-going maintenance and repairs.

**Civic Week Account:**

- The bank balance at the month end was **£ 4,525.60**
- No change.

**Dunbar against Litter Account:**

- The bank balance at the month end was **£ 1,859.58**

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	1661	Sep	Awarded
Dunbar Christmas Lights	2000	Sep	Awarded
Dunbar Civic Week	2000	Sep	Awarded
DGS Association	500	Nov	Awarded
Carers of East Lothian	400	Dec	Awarded

**Committed or under review** £7,621

*Local Priorities Fund available* £3,765

**Maximum Budget Total** £11,386

Current year fund £10,425

Brought forward fund £961

£11,386

*Local Priorities Fund available* £3,765

**Not yet paid** £75 **East Beach sign**

Per December 25 Finance Report £3,840

6.01

Matters arising/questions:

Progress of signatories and hand over – Still requires to be finalised. Catherine Acton will need to be added as signatory. Hannah will confirm the procedure asap.

	Woodland Management Plan – Carried over to February meeting
6.02	Grant Applications (LPF: Local Priority Fund; CBF: Community Benefit Fund): There were no application for discussion. <i>(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>
7.00	POLICE REPORT- <i>Circulated in advance.</i> There were no questions arising from the report.
	<u>Comments/Questions for CAPP</u> Date of next meeting – The next meeting is planned for 12th February.
8.00	PLANNING AND LICENSING
8.01	Repowering of Fred Olsen Crystal Rig 1. (ECU00005089 and 25/00005/SGC) – This had been withdrawn from Planning Committee of 13 <sup>th</sup> January. ELC had asked for an extension on the time allowed to make a submission to ECU.
8.02	Eastern Green Link Park and Ride (25/00947/P) - awaiting determination by ELC
8.03	Unauthorised Development near Pikeman Crescent – no further information
8.04	Drainage Outlet at Broxmouth (25/01174/P) – to be determined by ELC
8.05	Alterations to buildings at erection of signage at High Street (Cutting Room and flats above) (25/01230/P and 25/01115/LBC) - Both approved on 15 <sup>th</sup> January.
8.06	Data Centres a) Thistle Sands Data Ltd Data Centre at West Barns Mains (25/00008/SCR) - Further information awaited. ELC have advised that an EIA is needed. b) Data Centre Application at Oxwellmains – Valencia will hold a public meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, 6.15 pm, Town House, Dunbar.
8.07	The Space (previously 25/00003/PAN) - An application had been submitted. ELC had asked for further information. Still to be validated.
8.08	Battleblent House (25/001246/P and 25/01254/LBC.) - Alterations to former stable block to form accommodation. JB had circulated information. Support submitted to ELC. To be determined.
8.09	Erection of watergates to roof and partial repainting of building at High Street (shop and flats at T Shirt shop) (25/01116/P and 25/01115/LBC) - JB had circulated information and submitted notes of support. Awaiting determination by ELC.
8.10	Detailed planning consent for Cable works between Skateraw and Branxton for Berwick Bank Offshore wind farm (25/01386/AMM) - JB had circulated information including the previous Officer Report and minutes for outline application 23/00162/PPM. The outline application had been approved despite objections from 4 Community Councils in December 2023. There had been a public inquiry into compulsory land purchase. Since then Berwick Bank had been given consent by ECU and had now received contract funding from the UK Government. JB had spoken to Keith Dingwall of ELC and Chris Bruce from East Lammernmuir CC regarding the application. Given that any concerns about the cable works eg road safety during construction had been raised at outline stage it was not felt that an objection could now be raised to the detailed submission.

	There may be issues to raise with other areas of the detailed application as they are brought forward as separate paperwork e.g. the substation. They will be circulated when available. DCC members agreed not to object.
8.11	<p>Energy Project Matters</p> <p>a) Energy Projects Bulletin – JB circulates this weekly update from East Lammermuir CC. It includes links to consultations.</p> <p>b) Scottish Government are consulting on potential raising of the threshold up to which local authorities can determine applications rather than ECU from 50 megawatts. The Link is in the recent East Lammermuir bulletin.</p> <p>c) ECU are launching a new online portal to make it easier to make representations on energy project applications.</p> <p>d) Jedburgh Convention of Community Council meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January. JB had circulated a report and paperwork on possible common statements for community councils to sign up to regarding energy developments.</p> <p>e) ELC Energy Forum meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January – JB had circulated a report on the meeting hosted by Paul McLennan MSP.</p>
<b>9.00</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING – Agenda</b>
9.01	<p>Parking Management Proposals (PCP) – The Chair updated on the meeting of AELCC (Association of East Lothian Community Councils) on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026, at Port Seton. The feeling of the majority of the council's represented was that they had no confidence in the process carried out by East Lothian Council, up to the point of the vote to progress to the next stage of the traffic regulation. The vote was held at the full council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. For information:</p> <p><a href="https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/article/14663/parking_management_proposals_move_to_next_stage_after_consideration_by_councillors">https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/article/14663/parking_management_proposals_move_to_next_stage_after_consideration_by_councillors</a></p> <p>At the request of AELCC, The Chair asked for a vote of no confidence in the process – after a short discussion, and clarification from the Chair, this was passed unanimously. The Chair will feed this to AELCC. DCC will continue to liaise with others and reinforce its continued objections to the proposals.</p>
9.02	Visitor Levy Update – no update.
9.03	Tribute to Dan Cairney, past Chair – the photograph and details were with a local picture framing business, awaiting completion.
<b>10.00</b>	<b>DCC PROJECTS UPDATE</b>
10.01	<p>a) Dunbar Christmas Lights – the meeting unanimously congratulated the Christmas Lights Team on a successful effort in erecting, maintaining and disassembling the display, which added a great deal to the festive season in Dunbar. Their efforts are appreciated.</p> <p>b) Dunbar Civic Week – Gayle updated the meeting on the progress for the event this year. There are plans for a change to the dates of the week, moving from June to August (22<sup>nd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>). The name will be renewed. Some competitions/events will be reinstated from previous years, and new events provided to include all generations. Volunteers are required to help on committee and at the events. Gayle will keep DCC up to date on meetings and plans.</p> <p>This led to a discussion around communication of DCC information. Ideally, this needs to be available to the public in at least three ways – public notice board, Website and Facebook. Ree is to take care of the notice board and Gayle will</p>

	update the website and Facebook. The current members of DCC are listed, with photograph and short biography on the DCC Website, and Gayle will update the minutes from October 2025 to date.
	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS – UPDATE
10.02	ELC Placemaking Consultation – Dunbar Town House. Covered above, 5.01, 1, Asset Review, Town House
10.03	Viridor – Next meeting: 27 <sup>th</sup> February. Jacquie to attend.
10.04	Dunbar Community Development and Heritage Trust (Hallhill) – The AGM was held on 17 <sup>th</sup> December, 2025. The office bearers are as follows: Chairman – Paul Lees; Secretary – Pamela Munro; Treasurer – Robert Craig; Property Liaison – Alex Coull Alex informed DCC that notice of an over-grown path had been received. This path is still in the ownership of Ken Ross. The Council will adopt the path but it needs to be increased in height at a short bridge to deal with Tory Wynd’s drainage proposals. Visual inspection shows no immediate overgrowth, however the path edges will need to be maintained by the Trust, as required, until such time as a Woodland Management Plan is in place. It can then be reviewed. This is noted by the Trust.
10.05	Queen’s Road Wall – Ongoing
10.06	High Street Notice Board – the notice board will be updated before the next DCC meeting, including the meeting minutes. Ree will take responsibility.
10.07	Scotland’s Town Partnership – Carried forward
10.08	Town Centre Sub Committee – Street Furniture – dealt with at Item IA (beneath Item 4.00)
10.09	Good Neighbour Gang – DCC is awaiting more quotes for First Aid Training – Ongoing
10.10	Any other – Resilience Plan/meeting – Alex asked that his details be added to the ELC Emergency Planning circulation list as resilience lead for DCC. Another DCC name is needed for ELC records – Kirsten agreed to be part of this group. This update should be sent to <a href="mailto:emergencyplanning@eastlothian.gov.uk">emergencyplanning@eastlothian.gov.uk</a> Alex and Kirsten will take this forward.
<b>11.00</b>	AOB a) Town of Culture Competition – Bid: dealt with at Item IA (beneath Item 4.00) <a href="https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2025-0248/">https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2025-0248/</a> b) Planning Aid Scotland - <i>“Planning Aid Scotland is a leading national charity and social enterprise recognised for delivering high-quality training, capacity-building support and expert guidance across all areas of the Scottish planning system.”</i> Noted and Closed <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/planning-aid-scotland-114580068081">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/planning-aid-scotland-114580068081</a> c) Changing Places Update – a meeting of DCC will be held in private on Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January to plan how to best ensure the continuation of the considerable efforts and progress made toward this project prior to the new membership of DCC. All DCC members invited to attend. d) Advertising of vacant DCC post: Carried forward

	<p>e) ELC Community Council Induction and Refresher Training sessions: The first session will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, future sessions have been circulated. Members are encouraged to attend, or access the Power Points that are sent, following the sessions.</p> <p>f) Summit to Sea and Treescapes – Possible visit from Philip Immirizi. Carried forward.</p> <p>g) Dunbar Retail Park Planning Application – Possible visit from Alistair Dickie – <i>East Oakwood Development – “Apologies for update, we have now finally secure the legal agreement with the last tenant (Lidl) and are progressing the application to be in a position to submit for detailed planning permission for the retail scheme as proposed (Lidl/B &amp; M and M &amp; S) in 4-6 weeks to ELC for their consideration.”</i></p> <p>h) Solar Panels Inquiry – ECU: Carried forward</p> <p>i) Future visit from representatives of East Lammermuir Community Council: Carried forward</p>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING</b>
	Proposed to be 16 <sup>th</sup> February, 2026, 7.00 pm., Town House, Dunbar.