



Meeting (Open)

Community Council Ordinary

MINUTES

Monday 16th February, 2026

7.00 p.m. Council Chambers,

Town House, Dunbar

ITEM	
1.00	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>Present – Kirsten Harper, Stuart Cameron, Alexander Coull, John Robertson, Ree Rolph, Jacquie Bell, Bea Taylor, Catherine Acton, DCC Norman Hampshire E L Councillor; Cameron Ritchie, East Lothian Courier; Philip Immirzi, Sustaining Dunbar; Rep, DTA;</p> <p>Apologies – Hannah Renton, Gayle Bell, Bev Anderson, DCC Lyn Jardine, Donna Collins E L Councillors</p>
2.00	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
	<p>Call for Councillors declaring an interest in matters to be discussed:</p> <p>Jacquie B – declared an interest in item 6.02 Community Benefit Fund application and would abstain from the vote.(Private)</p> <p>Alexander Coull – declared an interest in item 8.07 Additional Item – Planning application 26/00145/P Erection of cafe and changing rooms at Jamspot, as a director of Dunbar Community Development and Heritage Trust (DCDHT). He would abstain from the discussion.</p> <p>Kirsten Harper and John Robertson declared an interest in item 8.01 The Space, Broxburn, ref.25/01272/P as directly affected neighbours and both would leave the room during the discussion.</p>
3.00	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 19 th January, 2026
3.01	<p>Amendments</p> <p>4.00 – Visit from Cris Thacker, Paragraph 1:</p> <p><i>“This first operated in 2003. The number of turbines in operation grew steadily, in phases, and there are now turbines.”</i></p> <p>Should read: “Crystal Rig Phase 1 first operated in 2003, consisting of 25 turbines. The number of turbines in operation grew steadily, in phases, and there are now 102.”</p>
3.02	<p>Adoption -</p> <p>Proposed – Jacquie B Seconded – Bea T</p>
4.00	<p>Visit from Philip Immirzi from Sustaining Dunbar.</p> <p>Sustaining Dunbar is the community development trust for the Dunbar and East Linton ward, including the villages of Tynninghame, West Barns, Stenton, Spott,</p>

Innerwick and Oldhamstocks.

“Summit to Sea” - The Chair welcomed Philip, who introduced the River Catchment Regeneration Project. This is an initiative by Forth River Trust and Sustaining Dunbar which aims to join up fragmented habitats and increase biodiversity, starting with streams and burns in East Lammermuir, from the uplands to the sea, and everything in between – “Summit to Sea”. This will involve exploring how landowners, community and business can take practical action to encourage biodiversity improvements across landscapes.

The goal is that: uplands form a dynamic mosaic of heather, bog, scrub, woodland and small wetlands; rivers flow freely and naturally; riverbank and natural woodland thrive; habitats are connected across the landscape; coastal dunes and salt marshes are resilient.

One task will involve volunteers of all ages and experience gathering samples from rivers and burns over the summer to gauge the amount of river flies larvae present. This ultimately illustrates the quality of the water, and is a great way to encourage children, and others, to engage with their environment. The benefits of improved biodiversity and an understanding and enjoyment of the environment links well with legislation nationally and locally, meeting outcomes of strategies and local plans. Health and well-being of people, communities, wildlife and all environments is increased.

Philip answered questions on the influence of climate change and possible erosion on agricultural land. This is a recognised risk, however good agricultural practices can help, as can a willingness for farmers, landowners and community to adapt. Jackie B suggested that a link to Edinburgh University, College of Art, Global Environment and Society Academy, BlueHealth Project could be useful and provided a contact.

Treescapes – Philip described this project as a way to restore trees into the everyday landscape by starting small and only supporting planting where long-term care is secured and clearly strengthens landscape character and connectivity. It involves carefully positioned individual trees or small groups of trees, of the right species, properly protected. Even single trees can make a difference by supporting biodiversity and contributing to water management and carbon storage. He asked that DCC give some thought as to where any possible sites for planting in the town might be.

Philip was thanked for his informed update on the projects and DCC wish them every success.

5.00	ELC COUNCILLOR REPORTS
5.01	<p>Cllr Norman Hampshire –</p> <p>Action Update and Matters Arising</p> <p>Asset Review – Town House. No update.</p> <p>Safer Routes to School. Dunbar Fire Station had suggested to DCC that they be consulted on any changes in the area of the fire station. Norman reported that they would be fully consulted, along with other neighbours, once any proposals had reached the planning stage.</p> <p>Report – Changes to the rate of Council Tax will be voted on by ELC next Tuesday (24/02), with papers on the proposals likely to be available on Wednesday of this week (18/02).</p> <p>In the absence of Lyn J, Norman informed DCC that funding applications for the Changing Places Toilet at Dunbar Leisure Pool had advanced, with a grant for the design submitted and a decision on the capital grant from Scottish Government awaited.</p>
5.02	Cllr Lynn Jardine -

Action Update and Matters Arising

Changing Places Update (see 5.01, Report, above)

Biel Burn Discharge and notification systems – Lyn reported by email that “I’ve reached out to both ELC and SEPA about the water quality issue and both ELC and I are waiting for SEPA to get back with the details. I’ll let you know as soon as I get anything.”

Jacquie B reported ongoing concerns about the system for notification of poor water quality and additional concerns on the need for the identification of septic tank sites. West Barns Community Council are currently monitoring the situation at the Biel Burn.

5.03

Cllr Donna Collins -

1. Action Update and Matters Arising

Hospital Road – closure and signage – ongoing, and still of concern.

5.04

Questions/Concerns to Councillors – there were no further questions. Norman left the meeting.

6.00

TREASURER’S REPORT

**Dunbar Community Council
Finance Report – January 2026**

General Account:

The bank statement balance at the month end was **£108937.44**

The restricted funds held within the General account at the end of the month were -

Community Windpower Fund	£103463.40
Local Priorities Fund	<u>£ 3,840.04</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>£107303.44</u>

The unrestricted funds held within the General account were, at the month end– Expenses out related to the December social evening and car parking charges.

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>£ (823.22)</u>
VAT to be allocated back to funds	£2457.22
TOTAL FUNDS	£108937.44

There were 2 grants paid out in January with 2 further committed on receipt of invoice.

Paid Out

Dunbar Christmas Lights (CB)	£4080.30
DGS meals (CB)	£5000.00

Committed on receipt of invoice.

Dunbar Harbour Trust Battery Path (CB)	£1940.00
Kindred (Hall hire) (LP)	£115.00

There was a VAT repayment of £2,457.22 at the beginning of January 2026

Christmas Lights Account:

The bank balance at the month end stood at **£ 16,797.07**

Income for grant award for Canopy

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 **£ 1,865.33**

Local Priority Fund Applications	Amount	Review	Awarded
Dunbar Magazine Distribution	370	April	Awarded
High Street Regeneration Room Hire	190	April	Awarded
Dunbar Community Bakery	500	July	Awarded
Dunbar Day Centre	1661	Sep	Awarded
Dunbar Civic Week	2000	Sep	Awarded
Dunbar Christmas Lights	2000	Sep	Awarded
DGS Association	500	Nov	Awarded
Carers of East Lothian	400	Dec	Awarded
Kindred	115	Jan	Committed

Committed or under review £7736.00
Local Priorities Available: £3650.00
Maximum Budget Total: £11,386

Current Year Fund: £10425
Brought Forward: £961
Total: £11386

Local Priorities Available £3650
Not yet paid: £75.00 (East Beach sign) (side note I've asked about this but not yet heard back.)
Kindred £115.00 (submitting invoices for room hire to be paid to West Barns Hall directly)
Per January Finance Report: £3840

6.01 Matters arising/questions

- 1) Progress of signatories and hand over – to be completed soon.
- 2) Woodland Management Plan – plan had been received and invoice paid.
- 3) Annual Insurance – to be aware that this will be up-coming.

6.02 Grant Applications:

Local Priority Fund – Application from Dunbar Writers Group, part of a charitable organisation dedicated to fostering a love of writing and encouraging personal and creative expression within the community. The grant will be used to fund a 'Meet the Author' session planned for June, with prize-winning Scottish poet and author Michael Pedersen who is current Edinburgh Makar and writer-in-residence at the University of Edinburgh. This event will take place at Dunbar Library and will be open for free to the whole community. Decision: Agreed to in full.

Community Benefit Fund – One application received, for decision at the end of this meeting.

(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)

7.00 POLICE REPORT

Comments/Questions for CAPP

	<p>The police report had been circulated and included a note of the CAPP meeting on 12th February, attended by Catherine A. The only additional information was a discussion that took place regarding the cycle/ pedestrian path from White Sands road end to Oxwellmains. It was noted that an unauthorised camp site had been set up over the end of 2025 into 2026. All appropriate steps had been taken and the unauthorised camp site had been abandoned. The landowners will be taking steps to tidy up and have secured access.</p> <p>Date of next meeting: 9th April, Bleachingfield Meeting Room 1 at 6pm.</p>
8.00	PLANNING, ROADS AND LICENSING
8.01	<p>The Space, Broxburn, ref.25/01272/P – Multi-use community, leisure and entertainment space with ancillary infrastructure including public realm, play facilities, car parking, servicing and access, and associated works. Response extended to 6th March on request: (KH and JR left the meeting) DCC felt the community would benefit from the facilities proposed. However, there were questions to raise: e.g lack of public transport; parking availability; road safety at Broxburn onto the old A1, storm water and waste drainage which are intended to go into the Brox Burn which floods. These would be submitted by 6th March. (KH and JR returned to the meeting).</p>
8.02	<p>The Space 26/000073/P- Portocabin at Hallhill Sports Centre – Auxiliary container to provide community office space and storage, with associated decking and fencing. Permission is now being sought for permanent planning permission following the lapse of the temporary permission – DCC had no objection. DCC views had been submitted.</p>
8.03	<p>Drainage Outlet at Broxmouth – DCC views had been submitted.</p>
8.04	<p>Data Centre</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Data Centre Proposal at West Barns Mains – no further update. 2) Data Centre Application at Oxwellmains – Planning Application 25/01412/P Erection of Data Centre building and associated works (Retrospective): DCC had no objection to the change of use of the building, but would like it added as a requirement that the building be dismantled and the land restored safely to nature at the end of its use. This had been a condition on the original application for the waste sorting shed which is to be re-purposed. JB had had contact from Chris Bruce from East Lammermuir CC, who were suggesting a condition on a Heat Plan for the heat generated to link to a proposed District Heat Network. JB will respond.
8.05	<p>Dunbar Golf Club – Application for Provisional Premises License: DCC had no objection.</p>
8.06	<p>Unauthorised Development near Pikeman Crescent – no further update, item closed pending any further information.</p>
8.07	<p>Additional Item – Planning application 26/00145/P Erection of cafe and changing rooms at Jamspot. This was from Hallhill Limited which operates the Sports Centre on behalf of DCDHT. Previous plans from DCDHT had been approved in October 2024 for similar facilities in two separate buildings in Lochend Woods beside the pump track etc. This plan is for one building to house the facilities. DCC had several concerns about the application e.g. no waste and recycling provision to the café, no facility for delivery to the café, flood risk at the site. JB will raise these in response. (Alexander Coull took no part in the discussion)</p>
9.00	MATTERS ARISING
9.01	<p>Town of Culture Competition Bid – Ree R has taken the lead on this. The expression of interest needs to be made by the end of March. DCC will carry out</p>

	<p>information sharing on Saturday 28th February, outside of the Town House, Dunbar. An online survey will be made available, to indicate the level of interest and support. These will help to raise awareness of the bid.</p> <p>A meeting is planned for the week beginning 9th March, in a central venue, and will be open to all groups and organisations throughout the town. This will gauge enthusiasm and “buy in” to the bid, as it will require firm commitment in the event that it is successful. Ree needed assistance from other members of DCC. Costs for leaflets etc. could, initially, be accessed from the Local Priorities Fund. A sum of £500 was suggested and agreed.</p>
9.02	<p>Parking Management Proposals – Some community councils in East Lothian had formally recorded and submitted a vote of no confidence in the councillors responsible for advancing the proposed parking charges. AELCC asked that all East Lothian CCs consider taking their own vote of no confidence and attached an example. Dunbar Community Council had previously agreed to a vote of no confidence in the process that led to the parking management proposal being carried.</p> <p>The wording as suggested in the AELCC example largely reflected the feeling of members of DCC, and a vote was taken for DCC to recreate this. It was passed by majority vote of seven for, one against. Ree R asked that it be noted that, although he is against the imposition of the proposals, he could not support the wording of “no confidence in the councillors responsible”.</p> <p>Kirsten H will action this.</p>
9.03	<p>Eastern Link Park and Ride – Richard Hunter, SP Energy Networks had contacted Kirsten H as new Chair to DCC regarding the EGL1 project. He added Park and Ride Briefing Slides and offered to provide further information. Kirsten H has asked for a virtual meeting, date/time to be decided.</p>
9.04	<p>Advertising of vacant DCC post – Carried forward</p>
9.05	<p>ELC Community Council Induction and Refresher Training sessions – Catherine A recommended joining the sessions when possible; they had been very informative so far. The follow up slides are interesting, however the interaction is useful. A request had been sent for the recordings to be made available.</p>
9.06	<p>Future visit from representative/s of East Lammermuir Community Council – Chris Bruce is to attend the next meeting, focusing mainly on energy projects.</p>
9.07	<p>Dunbar Retail Park Planning Application – Possible visit from Alistair Dickie – no update.</p>
9.08	<p>Tribute to Dan Cairney, past Chair – BeGreen, 55 High Street, had agreed to display the photo and information about Dan. This is the shop from where Dan run his business. A local historian is following up on finding a photograph of David Bertram, past Chair, to complete the quartet.</p>
9.09	<p>Visitor Levy – Closed until further information.</p>
9.10	<p>Queen’s Road Wall – Carried forward</p>
9.11	<p>Community Transport Workshop update – East Lammermuir CC held the workshop on 22nd January, 2026, in Stenton. Jacquie B had circulated information including a Community Transport Survey. The workshop information and survey results will form the focus for the provision of community transport in the East Lammermuir area.</p>
9.12	<p>Energy Issues – The following were attended by Jacquie B for DCC: South of Scotland Convention in Jedburgh on 17th January, Energy Forum 19th January – Jacquie had circulated information on both. A common theme for the convention was small rural communities being faced by multiple large scale energy project</p>

	applications. Key speakers were Helen Crawford from Highland and Nicola Loosely from NE Scotland. Both areas had brought together community councils to pull together agreed statements. Chris Bruce has presented an amended version for East Lothian Community Councils to consider at the AELCC meeting. This is to be considered further.
9.13	Local Bus Provision – Carried forward
9.14	Other – None
10.00	DCC PROJECTS UPDATES (as appropriate)
10.01	Dunbar Christmas Lights – No update
10.02	New Civic Week – No update
	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS – UPDATE
10.03	ELC Placemaking Consultation – Dunbar Town House: Carried forward
10.04	Viridor (meeting, 27 th Jan) – Jacquie B had circulated the minutes. Next meeting – 28/04/2026
10.05	Hallhill – Laura Smith had been the representative prior to her resignation. Catherine A is now the rep.
10.06	High Street Notice Board – Stuart C and Catherine A will update the notice board.
10.07	Scotland's Town Partnership – Closed
10.08	Town Centre Sub Committee – Closed
10.09	Good Neighbour Gang – Kirsten H and Stuart C had attended a recent meeting. Quotes for first aid training had been received. The advice of Donna Collins is being sought before a decision is made on the trainer. The aim is that volunteers link into an App that alerts them to an emergency situation within a given walking distance. Currently seven people from across Dunbar have come forward to volunteer.
10.10	Resilience Plan/meeting and membership – Carried forward
10.11	Bleachingfield Centre – meeting to be held on 6 th March, 2026. Catherine A to attend.
11.00	AOB
11.01	Solar Panels Inquiry – ECU: Closed
11.02	Water Source for Planters – Carried forward
11.03	DCC Awards – members agreed to move the awards to retain the link with Civic Week's new date in August – Carried forward
11.04	West Barns and Dunbar CC – links and liaison: Kirsten H had spoken with Kath O'Brien, Chair of West Barns Community Council to agree regular communication and liaison links, given that many issues are relevant to both CCs.
11.05	Local Area Coordination – Zoom meeting, 04/02/2026: Catherine A had circulated a note of the meeting. https://inclusiveneighbourhoods.co.uk/what-is/LAC is an asset based, preventative approach that focuses on the way in which people and families are supported within their communities to ensure everyone has enough support to be a full citizen. The aim is enable people to build non-service support and avoid crisis.

	In order to gather information to ascertain whether there is a will for further conversation, Kirsten H and Stuart C were to arrange a visit to The Ridge, where several projects relating to community and social prescribing are available.
11.06	Belhaven Community Garden – Community Asset Transfer: Kirsten H is to confirm the support of DCC for Sustaining Dunbar’s asset transfer request. Comments to loth.comempreq@nhs.scot before 2 nd March.
11.07	Local Governance Review Webinar, 25 th February, 6.00-7.30 p.m. For information only: <i>The Scottish Government Local Governance Review team will be providing an update on Democracy Matters policy development and to take any questions on the process and next steps.</i>
11.08	CARS (Dunbar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme) – funding was available to renovate one close on the High Street. The decision on which close had not been made.
11.09	Engagement survey on concept designs to improve northern access to Dunbar station – Jacquie B was to attend a Teams meeting on either Monday 23 rd February from 2-3pm or Tuesday 24 th February from 10-11am to assess and consider possible infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of Dunbar railway station. There is also a questionnaire which shows the three different early-stage concept design options: Dunbar Access to Station Survey – Fill out form
11.10	Twinning – Lignieres. A visit from Dunbar to Lignieres is planned from 8th to 12th May. Numbers are being sought. Jacquie B is the contact.
12.00	CONSULTATIONS – circulated, no action unless stated.
	<p>1. Scottish Government consultation on increasing the threshold for applications under the Electricity Act – received from Keith Dingwall, Head of Development, ELC</p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/onshore-electricity-generation-consultation-increasing-threshold-applications-under-electricity-act/</p> <p>2. Flood Risk Management Phase 1 Consultation – received from Peter Finnie, Public Affairs, SEPA</p> <p>3. Taxi Rank Provision – received from Licensing and Landlord Registration, East Lothian Council – Catherine A to reply for DCC.</p> <p>4. Short-Term Let Licensing Policy – received from Licensing and Landlord Registration, East Lothian Council: East Lothian Council has launched a public consultation on specific aspects of their Short-term Let licensing policy – whether Temporary Licenses and Temporary Exemptions should be introduced. The consultation is open from 5 January to 15 February 2026 and can be found at https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/council-resources/short-term-let-licensing-policy-2026/</p>
13.00	NEXT MEETING: Proposed to be 16 th March, 2026