



Dunbar Community Council Ordinary Meeting (Open)
Minute of meeting held on Monday 16th March, 2026,
7.00 p.m., Council Chambers, Town House, Dunbar

ITEM	
1.00	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present: DCC: Kirsten Harper, Stuart Cameron, Alexander Coull, Catherine Acton, Jacquie Bell, John Robertson, Hannah Renton, Bev Anderson, Ree Rolph, Bea Taylor. <p>ELC: Norman Hampshire Press: Cameron Ritchie (Courier) BeGreen: Anouska Wood Presenter: Chris Bruce, Chair, East Lammermuir Community Council Attendees: 6 members of the public attended part, or all of the meeting, including Cris Thacker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies: Gayle Bell. • ELC: Donna Collins and Lyn Jardine were unable to access the Town House, DCC offer apologies for this to both.
2.00	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
	Call for Councillors declaring an interest in matters to be discussed: Jacquie B declared an interest in Dunbar Day Centre and took no part in the related item (6.02)
3.00	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 16 th February, 2026
3.01	Amendments: There were no amendments to the previous meeting
3.02	Adoption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed – Jacquie Bell • Seconded – Alexander Coull
4.00	Visit from Chris Bruce, East Lammermuir Community Council (ELCC): Chair introduced Chris who presented information on the energy projects in his area, and also wider areas where these are being developed or planned as part of Scotland’s Climate Change Plan - 2026 – 2040, to achieve the target of net zero emissions by 2045. The Berwick Bank project calculations indicated overall big savings, but these would be much lower if full build and installation costs were fully taken into account. The developers expect there to be a net gain to biodiversity and will work with the wider SSE team to minimise and mitigate any risks to seabirds. It is less clear whether the net gain will be within the project area, or elsewhere. Best practice guidance on risk to seabirds is still being developed from monitoring

other sites.

Chris explained the purpose of the Branxton sub-station and convertor station. These will bring in power from Berwick Bank and send this to Co. Durham. Information can be found on the website and in the Energy Projects News Bulletin. <https://eastlammernmuirdevelopments.co.uk/>

There will be a large increase in traffic movements. Fred Olsen had set a good baseline for best practice through learning lessons over the time of their windfarm development. They initiated a speed limit, updated local people on traffic movement and provided a direct point of contact, regularly reviewing the situation.

Some applications in relation to energy infrastructure are made to the local authority and some to Scottish Ministers, through the Energy Consents Unit (<https://www.energyconsents.scot/Default.aspx>). It was noted that of 1025 applications made to the Energy Consents Unit, only 7 were turned down.

Speculative developers were putting in planning applications for solar farms and battery storage (BESS) in and around East Lammernmuir. A timetable is available from the web page (above). Due to the number of these, ELCC invited developers to meet with them and 12 different developers attended, including SSE who offered to host a website for developers, provided the other 11 were willing to share their information within it. ELCC produced a Local Place Plan 2024 – 2034, and with funding from the 12, they have been able to pay for this to be developed to encompass a broad range of issues including biodiversity and local transport provision. There is now an Energy Projects Partnership Manager in a three year post to involve council, community, developers and others in identifying key areas. These have a focus on, amongst others, transport, warm homes, and better path links.

There will be a sum of £8 millions pounds to be shared within the areas at each end of the cable link for Berwick Bank. The reach of the fund could be wide and include areas impacted visually by Berwick Bank, as well as more directly. Funding will also be allocated to ELCC from other streams. ELCC will align with Foundation Scotland to maximise these funds and progress on these ELCC key areas.

Several residents within the East Lammernmuir have a wide expertise in areas such as biodiversity and arable practices and are part of the Biodiversity Community Liaison Group, whose purpose is to protect and enhance the area.

There is broad support in the ELCC area for community ownership of power.

Chris was thanked for sharing this presentation.

Two questions from the floor related to accommodation for workers during the various developments. The expectation is that some will regularly travel to sites and some will need accommodation locally. There was a strength of feeling that this needs to be seriously considered and planned for ahead of an influx. Norman Hampshire said ELC are in discussion with developers who are considering solutions.

5.00	ELC COUNCILLOR REPORTS
5.01	<p>Cllr Norman Hampshire – Action Update and Matters Arising: None</p> <p>Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamer Street – Norman informed the meeting that the road is likely to be closed for some time. Repairs are ongoing, however the wall has several cracks and there is a risk of collapse. Engineers are planning to fix steel straps, bolted to the road, along with a parallel wave barrier to decrease the force of waves hitting the wall. This will all take time. • Hallhill Centre – The lighting on the pathway that links the centre to the car park is poor. This path is reaching the stage of being adopted by ELC and lighting will be improved.
5.02	<p>Cllr Lynn Jardine (See Item 1, bullet point 3)</p> <p>Action Update and Matters Arising :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biel Burn discharge and notification system <i>Since noted by email that an update from SEPA is still awaited.</i> <p>Report:</p>
5.03	<p>Cllr Donna Collins (See Item 1, bullet point 3)</p> <p>Action Update and Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital Road – closure and signage – ongoing, and still of concern. <p>Report:</p>
5.04	<p>Questions/Concerns to Councillors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawson Place – a suggestion had been received that it may be safer to make Lawson Place a one way system, due to carriageway being very narrow and difficult for two vehicles to pass. Norman advised that DCC would need to contact the transport department at ELC, who would give this consideration. • High Street lighting – a complaint had been made regarding the low level of lighting on High Street. Norman reported that there had been difficulties getting replacements for repairs to the existing lampposts. A replacement of all the fittings will be carried out as soon as possible. • Newtonlees Cemetery – Deer Park is at capacity, other than previously purchased lairs. The cemetery at Newtonlees will begin use. There is concern in the area that there is a lack of clarity regarding parking and possible safety issues accessing the cemetery on foot. Norman felt that people attending would park, as at present, at Deer Park. A crossing point to Newtonlees Cemetery is in place.
6.00	<p>TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p>Dunbar Community Council</p> <p>Finance Report – February 2026</p> <p>General Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bank statement balance at the month end was £105,999.79

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

Community Windpower Fund	£100,583.40
Local Priorities Fund	£ 3,840.04
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	£104423.44

- 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	(£ 880.87)
VAT to be allocated back to funds	£2457.22
TOTAL FUNDS	£105999.79

There was 1 grant paid out in February.

Paid Out

- Treeline for Woodland Group (CB) £2880.00

Christmas Lights Account:

- The bank balance at the month end stood at **£ 16492.38**
- 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 **£ 1,871.08**

Remaining donator contacted and advised to stop.

Local Priority Grant Applications	Amount	Review	Awarded
Dunbar Magazines Distribution	370	April	Awarded
High Street Regeneration Room H	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	Committee
Town of Culture	500	Feb	Committee
Dunbar Writers group	267	Feb	Committee
Total	8503		

	<p>Committed or under review £8503.00 Local Priorities Available: £2883.00 <u>Maximum Budget Total: £11,386</u></p> <p>Current Year Fund: £10425 Brought Forward: £961 <u>Total: £11386</u></p> <p><u>Local Priorities Available £2883</u> Not yet paid: £75.00 (East Beach sign) Kindred £115.00 (submitting invoices) Town of Culture: £500 (submitting invoices) Dunbar Writers Group: £267 (paid 1st March)</p>
6.01	Matters arising/questions: None
6.02	<p>Grant Applications:</p> <p>Local Priorities Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Culture (approved) • Dunbar Day Centre – to be contacted for further detail. • Dunbar Flower Show – allocated to CBF <p>Community Benefit Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two application to be discussed <p><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></p>
7.00	POLICE REPORT
	<p><u>Comments/Questions for CAPP</u></p> <p>Date of next meeting: 9th April, 2026 – any issues to be passed to Stuart C or Catherine A.</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: DCC views submitted. Determination awaited.</p>
8.02	<p>Planning application 26/00145/P Erection of cafe and changing rooms at Jamspot: DCC views submitted. Determination awaited.</p>
8.03	<p>Snack Bar at Shore Road Car Park (26/00208/P): Discussed. JB to submit DCC views. Request for the same conditions to be given as for the previous tenant of the ELC owned pitch e.g. hours of operation; to be removed every evening; litter and waste management maintained; review after 1 year.</p>
8.04	<p>Retail Park 926/00238/PM: Discussed. JB to submit general views e.g. concerns on road safety (lack of pavement), road congestion, need to mitigate impact on town centre, no biodiversity report or strategy document, no environmental impact assessment, no provisions of solar panels on roof, drainage to Brox Burn.</p>

	AC will submit more detailed information on the drainage report e.g lack of detail. Comments needed by 11th April
8.05	Application for Planning Permission to Erect Temporary Clubhouse Facilities Relating to Planning Permission 21/00997/PM Dunbar Golf Club: No objection.
8.06	Portocabin and storage containers at Hallhill Sports Centre (The Space) 26/00073/P: Approved for a further 5 years on 26th Feb.
8.07	Data Centre/AI facility 25/01412/P: DCC views submitted. Determination awaited.
8.08	Park and Ride 25/00947/P: Determination awaited
9.00	MATTERS ARISING
9.01	Town of Culture Competition Bid: There had been a successful information sharing and gathering on Saturday 28 th , outside the Town House. Town of Culture postcards were handed out and good conversations were had with visitors and local people alike. Ree and Catherine were joined for a time by Philip Mellor, Dunbar Traders Association and Donna Collins, local councillor. A Cultural Leaders Roundtable was held on 12 March 2026 at The Ridge, Paxton Room. Sixteen attendees from thirteen organisations participated, representing a cross-section of Dunbar's cultural landscape including festivals, visual arts, heritage, museums, community development, local government, and venue management – from the summary feedback circulated by Ree Rolph. Ree will liaise and refine the feedback from both activities into the Expression of Interest, to be actioned before 31 st March deadline.
9.02	Parking Management Proposals: TRO meeting 04/03/2026, minutes circulated
9.03	Eastern Link Park and Ride: no update.
9.04	Advertising of vacant DCC post: Carried forward
9.05	ELC Community Council Induction and Refresher Training sessions – next session 18 th March.
9.06	Queen's Road Wall: Ongoing, no progress noted.
9.07	Ridge Visit: Kirsten H and Stuart C arranged a visit to The Ridge, where several projects relating to community and social prescribing are available. The visit had taken place earlier today (16 th March). Both were very impressed by the warm welcome and environment, but especially by the extent of the projects and services on offer. They recommended that all community councillors visit, to build awareness of the breadth on offer.
9.08	Engagement survey on concept designs to improve northern access to Dunbar station: Jacquie B had joined an online meeting, however the local interest was limited and it was not clear what benefit any of the designs would bring. Jacquie's views were taken into consideration.
9.10	Any Other: None
10.00	DCC PROJECTS UPDATES (as appropriate)

10.01	Dunbar Civic Week update: The date of the week was confirmed to be 15 th August – 23 rd August. Conversations were ongoing around several events to be run by the committee, and there was expected to be a varied programme of events by local groups and organisation. Input was welcomed from a wide demographic.
	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS – UPDATE
10.02	ELC Placemaking Consultation – Dunbar Town House: No update
10.03	Viridor – Next meeting – 28/04/2026
10.04	Hallhill: Alexander C to circulate information.
10.05	High Street Notice Board: This had been cleaned and updated. This will be required on a regular basis (Stuart C and Catherine A): .
10.06	Good Neighbour Gang: quotes for first aid training still awaited.
10.07	Resilience Plan/meeting and membership: Carried forward.
10.08	Bleachingfield Centre Management Committee – There is no longer a committee for the Bleachingfield and this will soon longer be classed as charity.
10.09	John Muir Country Park Advisory Group: next meeting, Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 2pm
10.10	DCC Awards: For future consideration.
10.11	Any Other: Jacquie had circulated papers from the Energy Developments meeting held on 11 th March. Beth Landon, Energy Projects Partnership Manager, informed that the next meeting would be re-scheduled due to conflicting with the Scottish Government election – date to follow.
11.00	AOB
11.01	Wilder Outdoor Education: Carried forward
12.00	CONSULTATIONS etc. – circulated, no action unless stated.
12.01	Additional Support Needs provision: details of three statutory consultations regarding potential expansion of specialist Additional Support Needs provision at three schools – Law Primary School, Stoneyhill Primary School and Musselburgh Grammar School. www.eastlothian.gov.uk/asn-consultation
12.02	East Lothian Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036: February 2026 Partners' Update. Previous updates and further information are on the Community Planning pages; https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/community-planning .
13.00	NEXT MEETING: Proposed to be 20 th April, 2026