



DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING (OPEN)

Monday 17 August 2026, 7.00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Town House, Dunbar

1.00 Welcome and introductions

Category	Record
DCC members recorded	Kirsten Harper; Stuart Cameron; Catherine Acton; Jacquie Bell; Alexander Coull; Beverly Anderson; Bea Taylor; John Robertson; Hannah Renton.
Apologies	Ree Rolph
ELC councillors recorded	Cllr Norman Hampshire; Cllr Lyn Jardine; Cllr Donna Collins.
Members of the Public	Mael Dussaud, Gary Blyth, Rev. Keith Mills, Peter McDonagh.

1.01 Tribute to Tom Anderson

The Community Council paid tribute to Tom Anderson, a well-known and highly regarded figure in Dunbar, who died peacefully in hospital on 8 July at the age of 99.

Tom was born in a flat on Dunbar High Street. Apart from National Service, his life and work remained in Dunbar. He took over the family newsagent business at 64 High Street and ran it for 37 years before retiring.

His interests included gardening and Dunbar's history, particularly the High Street. He was a founding member of the Dunbar Traders Association and the Dunbar and District History Society, and a long-standing contributor to the Dunbar Flower and Vegetable Show. He readily shared his detailed local knowledge.

Tom was the first recipient of the Community Council Award in 1995. Members described this as fitting recognition of the contribution made to the community by a quiet and humble gentleman.

2.00 Declarations of interest

Hannah Renton declared an interest in planning application 26/00606/P.

3.00 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2026

Amendments: None recorded.

Decision: The minutes were adopted.

Proposed: Stuart Cameron.

Seconded: Jacquie Bell.

4.00 ELC, – Councillor reports

4.01 Cllr Norman Hampshire — action update and report

Road safety issues

External funding applications had been made for crossing improvements at several locations. Transportation officers were monitoring vehicle speeds on walking and cycling routes to school, including the downhill section at Dunbar Grammar School, Summerfield Road. A conventional speed table near the fire station was considered unsuitable for emergency access, and lower-profile options were to be considered.

A crossing near the new station access was also under consideration. Junction changes at Countess Crescent by the Masonic car park were discussed, along with concerns about speeding, pedestrian safety and congestion on Belhaven Road and Spott Road, where the pavement is narrow.

Outcome: Transport officers will continue monitoring and report on funding and design options.

East Beach / Lamer Street

Temporary rock-filled bags or similar works had been installed to protect the coastal road while engineers developed a permanent solution. Without further work, the road and nearby property or services could be at risk. Options included a new wall in front of or alongside the existing structure, or an offshore breakwater. The latter might also help restore beach sand.

The scheme was estimated at approximately £2 million and would require external government funding. Residents had been consulted, but no preferred design or funding package had yet been agreed.

Outcome: Temporary protection remains in place while design and funding options are developed.

Queen's Road wall

The Queen's Road wall remained in poor condition, with loose or projecting stonework creating safety concerns.

Outcome: Ownership, enforcement options, interim protection and a current quotation remain to be resolved.

White lines — Eweford Road to Yosemite

The road-marking request had been passed to the white-lining contractor and was expected to enter the works programme on the contractor's next visit to Dunbar.

Bus shelters — Gala Green and High Street

The shelter opposite St Andrew's House had been replaced after damage or theft. A separate stop close to St Andrew's House was associated with antisocial behaviour, obstruction and safety problems for pedestrians. Moving it to a wider pavement location was suggested so passengers could wait without blocking the route. Officers were to inspect the options. Norman also referred to the earlier controversy over the Gala Green shelter, but was nonetheless asked to pursue the installation on the North side of Gala Green.

Whitesands toilet block

It appeared that the toilet had sometimes been left open informally. Norman raised concerns about possible vandalism, unsupervised access and antisocial behaviour. The authorised opening and management arrangements required clarification.

Parking charges

Cllr Hampshire told the meeting that, in his view, 'the operation seems to be working' in North Berwick and that 'significant income [is] coming to the council to cover the cost of our parking'. He said that data had been gathered on business effects, car-park and on-street occupancy, length of stay and displacement to streets outside the controlled area. Senior officers had met North Berwick traders and community representatives and were willing to explore improvements.

Cllr Hampshire further stated that he considered the policy to be the right decision. He said he had received positive feedback from some visitors who had enjoyed their experience because they were able to find a parking space, and that some traders had privately expressed satisfaction with the arrangements. He suggested that traders who supported the policy might be reluctant to say so publicly because of abuse directed at people expressing that view.

These comments prompted surprise and challenge from members. It was pointed out that the views being reported publicly by traders, residents and visitors had generally not reflected Cllr Hampshire's positive account. Members questioned whether traders were in fact happy with the charges. The minutes therefore record the statements above specifically as Cllr Hampshire's account to the meeting, rather than as an agreed finding or a view endorsed by DCC.

Tranent and Musselburgh were expected to be the next towns reviewed. Dunbar and Haddington were described as being further down the programme, with Dunbar unlikely to be considered before the following summer and any decision potentially falling to the next council administration. When asked whether this would happen before the council election, Cllr Hampshire replied, 'How long is a piece of string?'

The cost and independence of the parking impact study were also debated. The council's position was that specialist independent expertise was required.

Outcome: No immediate change was confirmed. Evidence and community feedback will continue to be reviewed.

4.02 Cllr Lyn Jardine — report

Water-quality notifications

It was acknowledged that the response during the previous autumn had not been good enough. Environmental Health and Scottish Water were following up water-quality notifications. Members questioned whether some Scottish Water measurements accurately reflected conditions and asked for the data to be reviewed. A reported discharge at East Beach was also being investigated.

4.03 Cllr Donna Collins — Hospital Road and heavy vehicles

Cllr Collins raised concerns about heavy construction vehicles using local residential routes and reported that Taylor Wimpey was expected to reinstate signage.

4.04 Questions and concerns to councillors

High Street bins

Housing and Environmental Health officers were addressing recurring waste around St Andrew's House, described as temporary accommodation at 34 High Street and in the ownership of a housing association, not ELC. Residents had now been allocated individual numbered bins, and a letter was being prepared for all residents about responsibility for their waste. A clean-up was being arranged after both residents' waste and dumped rubbish accumulated. A gate or screening improvement had been considered. Generally, better-separated public recycling bins throughout the High Street were suggested when the bins next require replacement. Members were advised that the existing waste processor already extracts recyclable material from mixed waste where possible, while multi-stream street bins would carry additional cost.

Gulls:

Residents and businesses reported early-morning disturbance, scavenging and aggressive gull behaviour. Legal protections limit when nests, eggs or birds can be disturbed. Pest-control work had taken place around the primary school, and residents were advised to seek specialist guidance. More gull-resistant street-bin arrangements were also discussed.

Outcome: Reports can be made directly to ELC Environmental Health/pest control, however actions are limited – information on ELC Website. Residents should be reminded not to feed gulls as this attracts them to the area. DCC will provide information on the Facebook page.

5.00 Treasurer's report and grant applications

5.01 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report was received and no concerns were raised.

Dunbar Community Council

Finance Report – July 2026

General Account:

- The bank statement balance at the end of May was: £107,805.35
- The restricted funds held within the General Account at the end of the month were –
- **Dunbar Against Litter** - £1,149.47
- **Community Windpower** - £96,865.43
- **Local priorities** - £8,593.74

Total Restricted funds: £106,609

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

Total unrestricted funds: £1196.71

There were 5 grants paid out in June:

ELAF £5000

The Space £5555

Dunbar Castle Quilters £500

Dunbar Shed £1000

Coffee&Chat Club £340

Civic Week Account:

The bank balance at the month end was **£4525.60**

Christmas Lights Account:

The bank balance at the month end was **£19199.10**

Local Priorities as of April 2026:

Annual Fund as of April 2026: £11310

Committed or under review from April 1st: £ 3,253

Local Priorities remaining: £8057.00

Local Priority grant Applications	Amount	Review	Awarded
Dunbar Day centre	£640	April	Awarded
Kindred	£562	April	Committed
Good neighbour gang	£1211	May	Awarded
1 st Dunbar Guides	£500	May	Awarded
Coffee & chat club	£340	June	Awarded
Total	£3253		

5.02 Local Priority Fund — women’s wellbeing event

A Dunbar-based project requested £500 towards venue hire for a women’s wellbeing event at Whitekirk, with a total event cost of approximately £5,000. The programme combined wellbeing, mental health, movement, education and connection, with workshops and specialist practitioners. More than 100 tickets were reported as sold.

Members debated whether DCC should fund an event outside its area. Supporters stressed that the project served Dunbar women and needed several rooms not readily available locally. The application was approved by six votes to two, with one abstention.

Community Benefit Fund

The agenda records that DCC met in private on 10 August to discuss applications and that any further funding request was to be considered in private after the open meeting or at a separate meeting. No decision from a private session is recorded in these open-meeting minutes.

6.00 Matters to action / updates

6.01 Police meeting — 20 August (CA)

Catherine Acton was due to meet with Chief Inspector Ben Leathes in Haddington, at the invitation of Paul McLennan MSP. She had gathered views from older residents, carers, environmental groups and community organisations. Themes included reduced police visibility, limited resources, uncertain response times, shoplifting, antisocial behaviour, damage and fires, and the need for clearer guidance on when to call 999 or 101.

Suggested positive interventions included ongoing school visits and an increase in community protection officers. Current initiatives to address anti-social behaviour involve cycle-based engagement e.g. at TheSpace. Members were advised that two community police officers covered Dunbar, North Berwick and areas. A possible police hub at Bleachingfield was suggested. Members also discussed general pressures on the police system, including the effect of early prisoner release. Members stressed that antisocial behaviour should not be attributed to all young people.

Action: CA will continue gathering evidence and report back after the police meeting.

6.02 Comments/questions for the next CAPP meeting (SC/CA)

Suggested issues included speeding, visible policing, youth engagement and recurring antisocial behaviour. CA and SC will take the agreed themes forward to the next CAPP meeting on 8th October. Members can advise on any additional issues prior to that date.

6.03 Community resilience (AC/KH)

Members were invited to a resilience meeting on 5 September, expected to include a missing-person response exercise, contact guidance and an opportunity to update local contacts. A preliminary discussion with Scott Kennedy had focused on turning a community resilience plan of around 20 pages into a practical four-page working document.

Action: AC/KH to attend, update contacts and report back on the resilience plan progress.

6.04 DCC promotion and website/social media redesign (RR/BA/GB)

A working meeting was to be planned to review the existing website, agree improvements and clarify the relationship between the official website and social-media channels.

Action: Hold the meeting and agree changes, responsibilities and the relationship between the official website and social-media channels.

6.05 Grant application overhaul (HR/BA)

Work on the updated guidance and grant application forms for the Local Priority Fund and Community Benefit Fund was planned.

Action: HR and BA to process.

6.06 DCC Awards (SC/CA)

Thanks were recorded to the selection panel and everyone involved in organising the awards.

6.07 Community Benefit Subsidised Lease Policy (RR)

No separate update on the Community Benefit Subsidised Lease Policy was recorded.

6.08 Safer Routes to School (KH)

Designs were awaited for banners and signs addressing speeding, unsafe bicycle/scooter use and safer routes for children.

Funding was also being explored for bicycle lights for distribution through the school.

A speed gun was discussed. The Parent Council of West Barns Primary School had a device it might be willing to share, although the existing device was to be replaced. Stuart Cameron suggested that DCC consider buying its own speed gun. Volunteers would require Police Scotland training. The planned signs would also provide a visual deterrent.

Outcome: Await designs, clarify the progress of the WBPS Parent Council device and consider training and equipment options before revisiting any purchase.

6.09 Parking at the pump track (JB)

The site was described as resembling an active building site, with debris creating danger to the public. Contractors had been instructed to make it safe. Drainage works, including a filtration ditch serving the wider development, were under way or planned. Children were already entering or using the area.

Action: Contractor/developer to secure and tidy the site and complete urgent safety work.

6.10 Torness consultation proposal (RR)

No update on the Torness consultation proposal was recorded; the item was carried forward.

6.11 Path from Lochend Primary / Gospatrick Grange / Torry Wynd (CA/AC)

AC reported that the adoption status remained unclear. Tom Reid had arranged clearance of the path edges, but was clear that this was a one-off tidy. The Woodland Trust had been asked whether it could undertake volunteer maintenance, but had advised that they were a small group and were unable to undertake this. DCDHT is seeking funding for ongoing maintenance.

Outcome: The responsibility for the path lies with DCDHT who need to ensure regular maintenance is carried out.

6.12 DAL — bins update (CA)

CA reported that the two bins, as requested by DAL had been installed by the local amenities team – one at Edinburgh Road, Belhaven Caravan Park bus stop and one at Fairbairn Way/Brodie Road.

Action: CLOSED

7.00 Planning, roads and licensing

JB reported on current planning matters following return from holiday.

A change-of-use application and a separate domestic garden-ground application were discussed. Ownership and validation issues were noted.

An extension to a garden centre, validated on 25 July, was supported, subject to clarification of drainage/flooding information and the proposed use of an existing pipe.

Three linked applications for pharmacy premises—planning permission, listed-building consent and advertising consent—were supported provided the dispenser/display feature was no larger than the revised version previously agreed.

The proposed conversion of the police station into four homes plus office accommodation was noted.

Planning Application 26/00606/P: A proposal beside Linkfield car park combined an outdoor nursery with a campervan site. Members supported both ideas in principle but considered the submitted information insufficient to demonstrate that the location was suitable. Concerns included flood risk, drainage, sanitation and water, on-site management, emergency access, parking, woodland management and ecology. The agreed view was 'a good plan, but the wrong space'.

Other updates referred to two applications approved over the summer, a retail-park matter with numerous conditions, the Springfield Bank public inquiry, a West Barns site/centre and LDP2 potential sites categorised green, yellow and red.

Action: JB and the Planning Group will check updated documents and submit the agreed comments by the published deadlines.

8.00 Reports and minutes circulated

8.01 Tarmac — Community Liaison Meeting, 26 June: Tarmac was thanked for keeping its area tidy. Apprenticeship and graduate engineering opportunities were noted. Tarmac had reportedly sought to adopt and maintain a small roundabout for around two years. Members were positive in principle, subject to safe and proportionate sponsorship signage.

8.02 EGL1 SPEN Funding consultation: The consultation was ongoing, involving a community-priorities exercise and local workshops.

It had been found to be impracticable to send the community priorities postcards to all households by post. A lower-cost local option for producing and distributing the postcards around Dunbar was being explored. A formal public launch would follow the workshops.

8.03 East Lothian Climate Hub: Invitation to a screening of the National Emergency Briefing on 29 September was noted.

8.04 AELCC: The 27 April meeting was noted; minutes had not yet circulated.

8.05 Police report: The police report for July had been circulated. There was no police report for August as yet.

8.06 East Lothian Community Benefits Newsletter and AGM: Noted.

9.00 DCC and community projects/groups

9.01 Heart of Dunbar Festival

Members were encouraged to attend and visibly support the upcoming Heart of Dunbar community weekend and its family activities.

9.02 CARS Project

A building inspection identified that one Christmas-light strand would need to be removed. This was expected to be reasonably straightforward.

9.03 DELAP

No update was recorded.

9.04 Hallhill Sports Centre

No update was recorded.

9.05 Dunbar Christmas Lights

A meeting was to be arranged between DCC representatives and the new Dunbar Christmas Lights committee.

9.06 Meetings to be attended before 21 September

The police meeting on 20 August and the resilience meeting on 5 September were among the meetings identified. Other meetings would be confirmed separately.

10.00 Any other business

10.01 Defibrillator request

Dunbar was reported to have 23 defibrillators, giving good overall coverage, but requests continued for additional defibrillators in specific areas. The need for bleed kits to be made available was discussed. Members discussed mapping current coverage, external cabinets and potential gaps.

Action: Map coverage, explore the possibility of the provision of bleed kits, identify potential gaps in defibrillator coverage.

10.02 Visitor levy consultation

Members noted the ongoing visitor levy consultation and discussed potential impacts on hospitality and the responsibility of accommodation providers to collect the levy. Individuals and organisations could respond directly. No formal DCC position was recorded.

11.00 Next meeting

Proposed date: Monday 21 September 2026, 7:00 p.m., Town House, Dunbar

Action list

Ref	Action	Owner	Due
1	Continue road-safety monitoring and report on crossing and junction options.	NH / transport officers	Next meeting
2	Progress East Beach/Lamer Street engineering options and the external funding case.	NH / ELC	Ongoing
3	Clarify Queen's Road wall ownership, enforcement and interim safety measures.	NH / estates	Next meeting
4	Inspect bus-stop relocation options and clarify Whitesands toilet management.	NH / relevant officers	Next meeting
5	Continue reviewing parking evidence and community feedback; clarify the timetable for Dunbar.	NH / ELC	Ongoing
6	Report on the police meeting and take the agreed themes to CAPP.	CA / SC	Next meeting
7	Attend the resilience meeting, update contacts and report on the practical plan.	AC / KH	Next meeting
8	Hold the website and social-media working meeting and agree responsibilities.	Working group	Before next meeting
9	Publicise the revised community-grant guidance after the workshops.	HR / BA	After workshops
10	Progress safer-routes designs and clarify speed-monitoring equipment and training.	KH / SC	Next meeting
11	Secure and tidy the pump-track site and complete urgent safety work.	JB / contractor	Urgent
12	Confirm responsibility for the Lochend Primary path and pursue maintenance arrangements.	AC	Ongoing
13	Continue the bin, frontage and bus-stop follow-up with Housing and Environmental Health.	NH	Next meeting
14	Check planning documents and submit agreed comments by the published deadlines.	JB / Planning Group	Urgent
15	Arrange a meeting with the Dunbar Christmas Lights committee.	Community projects group	Before next meeting
16	Map defibrillator coverage and consumables needs and develop suitable funding bids.	DCC	To be agreed