



Dunbar Community Council Ordinary Meeting (Open) MINUTE

**Monday 21st September 2026, 7.00 p.m., Council Chambers,
Town House, Dunbar**

ITEM	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	
1.00	Present	DCC: Kirsten Harper (Chair), Hannah Renton, Bev Anderson, Alexander Coull, Gayle Bell, Bea Taylor, Catherine Acton ELC: Norman Hampshire, Lyn Jardine
	Attending – Press/Others	Cameron Ritchie, Courier; Rev Keith Mills; Mike Shaw; Peter McDonagh
	Apologies	John Robertson; Jacquie Bell; Stuart Cameron; Ree Rolph, Donna Collins
2.00	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Call for Councillors declaring an interest in matters to be discussed: Alexander C would not be part of any discussion relating to planning item 7.04.	
3.00	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 17th August, 2026	
3.01	Amendments: None	
3.02	Adoption • Proposed – Bea T • Seconded – Bev A	
4.00	ELC COUNCILLOR REPORTS	
4.01	Cllr Norman Hampshire Action Update and Matters Arising: i) Road safety issues – speed checks are to be carried out in specific areas of concern (e.g. Summerfield Road). Concerns on speeding on Queens Road were reported. Some action may be needed at and around Station Road for pedestrian and cyclist safety. Kirsten H confirmed that speed awareness signs and banners had been purchased and would be situated around key areas, in agreement with relevant ELC officers. Vehicle access to/from Sycamores will be monitored, following change of use to Funeral Directors. This is likely to reduce the use for school-drop/pick up. ii) East Beach/Lamer Street update – Temporary coastal protection works had been undertaken. The Council was working with specialist engineers on a longer term design, including possible works to the sea wall. A public update was anticipated as the design progressed. An indicative cost of £2 million was mentioned. Funding had not been secured, and further funding applications would be required. iii) Queen's Road Wall – Building Control, ELC had placed barriers at crumbling areas. Discussions were ongoing with the owners for a permanent solution.	

	iv) White lines on Eweford Road to Yosemite – no update. v) Bus Shelters – Gala Green. To be situated on north side. An extension to the pavement will be required and a raised kerb inserted. Norman was thanked for his help with this. vi) Bus Shelters – High Street. To be progressed – Closed vii) Bins and refuse at 34 High Street – Catherine A confirmed that the situation remained unsatisfactory, with no improvement to date. Norman reported that changes to the use of the accommodation were under consideration; no final decision had been taken. viii) Parking Charges – confirmation of dates: No implementation dates were reported. Members raised concerns about extending the scheme before the impact of existing arrangements had been reviewed. Report: - Local Development Plan 2 – Housing: sites within East Lothian for 6,650 housing units over the next 10 years required to be identified. 5,000 had already been approved, with a further 1,650 sites across the county to be identified. A possibility is that some units may be built on land at the retail park, Spott Road, along with a care facility. No decision had been taken, as yet. - Spott Road pavement – It is unlikely that a path parallel to Spott Road, on the opposite side of the wall, can be achieved due to land ownership and tree preservation. Widening of the existing pavement is not possible; nor is an alternative on the East side. An alternative access to High Street is suggested, via Kellie Road/Brunt Court/Lochend Road/Ashfield. Catherine A pointed out that this was not helpful to Spott Road pedestrians wishing to access the East end of the town (Walker Homes/Queens Road and beyond). - Summerfield Road/Gala Green junction: vehicles experiencing difficulties exiting Summerfield Road were witnessed, with traffic at a standstill in all directions. Reasons included bus routing, turning space and the effect of pavement build outs. There was a suggestion that the Border bus service (253) could turn at Beltonford roundabout, rather than the present Dunbar Grammar School car park. This would have the added benefit of an extra service to/from West Barns. Norman would ensure this was suggested.
4.02	Cllr Lynn Jardine Action Update and Matters Arising: i) Water Quality Update: Discussions on water quality had taken place, with SEPA, a representative of West Barns Community Council and the River Catchment Restoration Project. With the bathing season finished, the aim was to improve the reliability of monitoring for the following season. Report: CAPP – Broader participation in the community policing forum was discussed. Relevant community groups, including groups supporting vulnerable people and the community resilience group, could be considered.

	Members were encouraged to discuss suitable representation with neighbouring community councils and organisations.																																								
4.03	Cllr Donna Collins – Unable to attend.																																								
4.04	Questions/Concerns to Councillors: Addressed above																																								
5.00	TREASURER’S REPORT Dunbar Community Council Finance Report – August 2026 General Account: The bank statement balance at the end of August was: £96,571.17 The restricted funds held within the General Account at the month end: • Dunbar Against Litter - £1,149.47 • Community Windpower - £87,925.43 • Local priorities - £6054.24 Total Restricted funds = £95129.14 The unrestricted funds held within the general account at the month end: Total unrestricted funds = £1442.03 Grants paid out in August: Dunbar Music Festival: £5000 Dunbar Girls Colts - £800 Run for Her - £500 Dunbar Christmas Lights - £4000 DACYP - £1140.00 Civic Week Account: The bank balance at the month end was £9051.60 Income and expenditure relating to festival Christmas Lights Account: The bank balance at the month end was £24,525.51 Income relating to light sponsors Local Priorities as of April 2026: Annual Fund as of April 2026: £11310 Committed or under review from April 1st: £ 5823.00 Local Priorities remaining: £5487.00 <table><tr><th>Local Priority Grant</th><th>Amount</th><th>Review</th><th>Awarded/ committed</th></tr><tr><td>Dunbar Day centre</td><td>£640</td><td>April</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Kindred</td><td>£562</td><td>April</td><td>Committed</td></tr><tr><td>Good Neighbour Gang: First Aid Course</td><td>£1211</td><td>May</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Good Neighbour Gang: room hire</td><td>£70.00</td><td>May</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>1st Dunbar Guides</td><td>£500</td><td>May</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Coffee & chat club</td><td>£340</td><td>June</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Run for Her</td><td>£500</td><td>August</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Dunbar Christmas Lights</td><td>£2000</td><td>August</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£5823.00</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Local Priority Grant	Amount	Review	Awarded/ committed	Dunbar Day centre	£640	April	Awarded	Kindred	£562	April	Committed	Good Neighbour Gang: First Aid Course	£1211	May	Awarded	Good Neighbour Gang: room hire	£70.00	May	Awarded	1 st Dunbar Guides	£500	May	Awarded	Coffee & chat club	£340	June	Awarded	Run for Her	£500	August	Awarded	Dunbar Christmas Lights	£2000	August	Awarded	Total	£5823.00		
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5.01	Matters arising/questions: None
5.02	Grant Applications: <u>Local Priority Fund</u> - None <u>Community Benefit Fund</u> (<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>)
6.00	MATTERS TO ACTION / UPDATES TO BE GIVEN
6.01	Update on Police Meeting – Catherine A had attended a meeting on 20 th August, to raise concerns about policing levels and response times. Chief Inspector Ben Leathes, Paul McLennan MSP, and Lyn Jardine were present. CA had circulated the report to DCC members.
6.02	Comments/Questions for next CAPP Meeting: these are to be passed to Stuart C or Catherine A before the meeting on 8 th October.
6.03	Community Resilience: Alexander C reported on a community resilience meeting he had attended. Scottish Power and other organisations had contributed. Community groups were encouraged to progress their resilience plans more quickly. Alexander was developing a shorter plan using practical bullet points. Potential premises for refreshments, support and, if necessary, emergency accommodation included Bleachingfield. Alexander would continue work on this plan.
6.04	Promotion of DCC and Redesign of Website/Social Media: The input to Facebook had increased. Work on the website was hoped to have progressed by the next meeting in October. A meeting of the sub-group would be arranged (BA, GB, RR).
6.05	Grant Application Overhaul: Sub-group to arrange a meeting (BA, KH).
6.06	Place Making Project: Consultation concerning community buildings, including Dunbar Town House, will take place between January and April 2027. “East Lothian Council is seeking views on whether community organisations may be interested in taking on a greater role in the management of some buildings through long-term community benefit leases or, where appropriate, community asset transfer arrangements.” https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/2026/opportunity-communities-help-shape-future-facilities DCC will discuss further. Ongoing.
6.07	Safer Routes to School: Work on safer school routes was continuing with officers, the school and Parent Council. A plan covering the route from the Edinburgh Road traffic lights towards Hallhill was to be taken to consultation. Some measures could be delivered relatively quickly, while others required funding. Funding options for cycle safety were being explored, including a stock of bicycle lights for the primary school and grammar school. A cycling funding source mentioned in an email raised a possibility. Kirsten H would follow this up. Poor lighting in the Hallhill car park was raised, particularly where children walked to and from parents’ vehicles. Ownership, responsibility and the adoption process required clarification. Contact with Norman H was proposed.
6.08	Pump Track: Jacquie B had circulated a pump track update. Progress remained

	dependent on further work, including drainage matters: Ongoing.
6.09	Torness Consultation Proposal: No update available.
6.10	Woodland Management Plan: The Woodland Management Plan had been adopted by the Dunbar Community Woodland Group at its recent AGM. Priorities had been set, including the removal of a number of diseased ash trees. The plan would also help to support a funding application for woodland improvements.
6.11	Heart of Dunbar Festival Update and Accounts: A verbal update was given, with a formal report to be completed. The festival was reported to have been generally successful, with positive feedback and good attendance. The rebrand, new name and logo had been well received. A number of operational problems and lessons for future festivals had been noted at a committee meeting. Several people had come forward to join the committee. Regular updates to DCC would help members offer support.
6.12	Defibrillator Update: A defibrillator funding application had been unsuccessful. Further funding opportunities and applications through an appropriate local group would be explored. Electrical work at the Lauderdale telephone box was reported to be progressing. This would enable relocation of the defibrillator from Lauderdale Park and allow 24 hour access. Around 23 defibrillators were said to cover Dunbar, West Barns and the surrounding area, although a possible gap near the west end of the town and Belhaven Hospital was identified.
7.00	PLANNING Alexander C spoke to the update report Jacquie B had provided: For Comment – No new applications other than small extensions and replacement windows. Approved 26/00709/LBC, 26/00707/ADV., 26/00708/P 25 High Street Dunbar. Signage, installation of a pharmacy dispenser. JB had sent DCC comments. Approved on 31/8. 26/00238/P – Erection of 3 stores at Retail Park – JB had attended Planning Committee on 18/8. Approved on 18/8 with conditions including drainage and biodiversity. 26/00668/ADV- Advertising consent for signs on roundabout near Cement works. JB had submitted DCC views. Approved 28/8 26/00693/P Request to vary conditions of previous planning application at 17 West Port. JB had submitted DCC views. Approved 28/8 Withdrawn 26/00507/P Change of use of prime agricultural land to outdoor education centre and campervan park. JB had sent DCC comments. Withdrawn by the applicant on 10th September. However, they are considering strengthening the proposal and resubmitting in due course. ELC officers had raised concerns e.g. about flooding, access, impact on sensitive areas in the country park. However, the applicants have indicated on social media that they will be working to strengthen the proposal and resubmit a new application in due course. Awaiting Determination 26/00498/P extension to Garden centre. JB had sent note of DCC support

	26/00767/P – Conversion of Police Station into 4 houses and offices. JB had sent note of DCC support 25/01272/PMTheSpace – updated documents. JB had sent DCC updated comments. To be determined. 26/000619/CAC – Certificate of Lawfulness for demolition and replacement of Bowmont Cottage, East Links Road. Information had been circulated and DCC support submitted. To be determined 26/00528/P- Retrospective application for garden shed and other constructions at East Beach House at Lamer Street. JB had sent DCC comments. There were 8 public objections JB will attend Planning Committee on 6th October. Had been called in by Cllr Collins. 26/00806/P – Change of use of Masonic Hall to Funeral Directors (Class 1A) with associated works. JB had circulated information. Had submitted DCC support but with attention to road safety, parking and checking drainage on the access lane. Other Fred Olsen Repower- Waiting on ECU to proceed after ELC objected. Various new documents. Springfield Bank BESS/Solar Farm – Public Inquiry Initial Stage was held on August 27th. Lots of Documents. Main inquiry will start on January 11th. Public hearing on January 14th at a venue to be decided. JB is involved for WBCC West Barns Mains Data Centre – Concerns continue and meetings are being held locally and nationally. The Director Steve Ruggi had sold his involvement in the Branxton BESS to Zenobe who are to hold public consultation on the haul road to that project. He now shares ownership of Thistle Sands Data Ltd with Ken Ross. Dunbar Campaigners had joined a demonstration at Holyrood organised by APRS on 2nd September. This was calling for a Moratorium on Hyperscale Data Centre applications to allow for development of clear guidance for planning authorities, a definition of what a green data centre is. On 16th September the Scottish Parliament agreed to a pause on all applications and decisions on Hyperscale Data Centres until new guidelines are brought forward by the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government have said a report will be available by Christmas with detailed guidelines in place within 12 months. In addition, the Scottish Government had announced on 16th September that all Hyperscale Data Centre applications present and future must have an Environmental Impact Assessment. Eastern Green Link Park and Ride – JB had circulated a letter from Metlen Energy. Construction will start in the next few weeks and take around 3 months. JB had asked for clarification on drainage arrangements. No response yet. South of Scotland Convention of Community Councils – The Group had joined with other Conventions in Highland, NE Scotland, Shetland, Perth & Kinross to send a joint open letter to Gillian Martin, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs, calling on the Scottish Government to pause energy project applications in order to have a Pan Scotland Planning Inquiry Commission to look at the strategic and cumulative issues that energy development proposals present across rural Scotland. The meeting recognised and appreciated the effort put into the report.
8.00	Reports/Minutes Circulated
8.01	EGL1 SPEN Funding Consultation: Community Benefit Funding opens for applications on Monday 28 th September and closes Friday 6 th November at 5pm.
8.02	East Lothian Climate Hub – invitation to a screening of National Emergency

	Briefing on 29 th September
8.03	AELCC – awaiting Minutes of last meeting
8.04	Police Report – no further police reports will be produced
8.05	Any other – None
9.00	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS – UPDATE – if there is anything to be actioned by DCC, these items will be moved to 'Matters to Action'
9.01	Dunbar Christmas Lights: a meeting would be arranged to discuss the approaching display and switch-on. Kirsten H to organise.
9.02	RAGES (Rail Action Group, East of Scotland) – AGM had identified priorities for an hourly service to Dunbar; an early morning train from East Linton to Edinburgh; the possibility of opening a branch line to Haddington.
10.00	AOB
10.01	Commonwealth Graves and DGS – Catherine A put forward a suggestion that Dunbar Grammar School pupils who travel to the Battlefields could also visit the Commonwealth Graves in Dunbar Parish Church Cemetery. This could result in research and study of the fallen locally. Kirsten H to raise this with DGS.
10.02	Common Good Funding request for DCC view – not supported. The decision to award does not lie with DCC.
10.03	Catherine A had received a report that the telegraph pole at the landscaped area on Bayswell Road/Lauderdale Park was tilting. Bev A will check this and report to the relevant agency if concerned.
11.00	NEXT MEETING: Proposed for Monday 19 th October