DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Community Council AGM and Ordinary Meeting (Open) MINUTES
Monday 19th October, 2026
7.00 pm. Council Chambers, Town House, Dunbar

ITEM	
1.00	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (if applicable)
Present	DCC: Kirsten Harper (Chair), Stuart Cameron (Vice-Chair), Catherine Acton (Secretary), Jacquie Bell, Alex Coull, Ree Rolph, John Robertson, Bea Taylor, ELC: Donna Collins In Attendance: Anouska Woods, CWP, BeGreen; Rev Keith Mills, Dunbar Baptist Church; Jo Waddell, DTA.
Apologies	Bev Anderson, Gayle Bell, Cllr Norman Hampshire, Cllr Lyn Jardine

2.00	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
	Call for Councillors declaring an interest in matters to be discussed: Jacquie Bell – Sustaining Dunbar
3.00	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 21st September 2026
3.01	Amendments: None
3.02	Adopted: Proposed - Jacquie Bell Seconded – Bea Taylor
Additional Item	Tributes: **Gordon Easingwood** was a Dunbar fisherman and local historian. He was a well known and popular man, never happier than when sharing his knowledge about Dunbar, past and present. His contribution to Dunbar History Society is immeasurable, managing many short and long-term projects, including the Vaults at Dunbar Castle and a graveyard survey of Dunbar Parish Church. One of the earliest members of the Society, and Chair for 23 years, Gordon's enthusiasm and leadership led to a rise in membership and today's thriving group. He had many interests, including an active role within Dunbar Harbour Trust, supporting Dunbar United Football Club and Dunbar RNLI. A well-loved family man, Gordon's pride in his town and interest in people from all walks of life will be sorely missed. Adapted from: https://dunbarhistory.org.uk/2026/10/a-tribute-to-local-historian-gordon-easingwood/

	https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/26587005.dunbar-mourns-death-gordon-easingwood-jim-thompson/ **James Thompson** was a former volunteer, trustee, and President of Friends of John Muir's Birthplace. His roles included fundraising for the purchase of the building, and he served as a member of the Friends Council and Convener and President of Friends of John Muir's Birthplace, for many years. Jim was also active within Dunbar & District History Society, Rotary and Probus. A true stalwart, he spread the word on John Muir, at home and in the USA, and Jim's efforts saw him receive recognition from Dunbar Community Council when he was awarded the Community Service Award in 2018. Adapted from: https://www.jmbt.org.uk/news/
3.03	MEETING BROKE FOR AGM – SEE SEPARATE MINUTES
4.00	ELC COUNCILLOR REPORTS
4.01	Cllr Norman Hampshire – a written report was read in his absence 1. Action Update and Matters Arising • Road Safety Issues – Council Road Team are working on a proposal to improve safety on the road network at Station Road and Queen's Road. They have committed to install speed recording equipment on Countess/Summerfield Road near the Doon Avenue junction. No time scale given. The issue at The Sycamores is still to be discussed. • 38 High Street – this has been cleaned up and all the tenants have been told that they must look after their waste. The Council's Community Protection Team will keep close attention. Discussions are taking place between Housing Officers, the Protection Team and Waste Managers to see what improvements can be made to the area.
4.02	Cllr Lyn Jardine – not in attendance but Jacquie Bell was able to give an update on the coastal water quality 1. Action Update and Matters Arising • Coastal Water Quality – SEPA report remains outstanding with some residents or campaigners considering an FOI request. A new alliance between environmental and water quality organisations are seeking year round monitoring. Concern remained regarding recurring discharges from local outfalls.
4.03	Cllr Donna Collins 1. Action Update and Matters Arising • Hospital Road – closure and signage: still ongoing • Signage at Recycling Area – near misses had been reported. Cllr Collins to follow up with Roads Dept. • Questions were raised regarding enforcement and the powers available to the Council where developer activity created ongoing risk and disruption.

5.00	**TREASURER'S REPORT**
5.01	Dunbar Community Council Finance Report – September 2026 General Account: The bank statement balance at the end of September was: **£96,459.62** The restricted funds held within the General Account at the end of the month were: ● **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 were, at the month end: **Total unrestricted funds**: £1330.48 There were no grants paid out in September. **Civic Week Account:** The bank balance at the month end was unknown. **Christmas Lights Account:** The bank balance at the month end was **£26,440.98** **Local Priorities as of April 2026:** Annual Fund as of April 2026: £11310

Local Priority grant Applications	Amount	Review	Awarded
Dunbar Day centre	£640	April	Awarded
Kindred	£562	April	Committed
Good Neighbour gang	£1211	May	Awarded
Good Neighbour Gang Room hire for first aid course	£70.00	May	Awarded
1st 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**		

Committed or under review from April 1st: £ 5823.00

Local Priorities remaining: £5487.00

5.02	Grant Applications (LPF: Local Priority Fund; CBF: Community Benefit Fund): There were no applications for discussion. *(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)*

6.00	**MATTERS TO ACTION / UPDATES TO BE GIVEN**
6.01	CAPP – speeding e-bikes and e-scooters, including unsafe use by children and adults without helmets, identified as a priority for the next period.
6.02	Community Resilience – discussions were ongoing regarding building availability during an emergency. The Bleachingfield Centre remained important as emergency and catering equipment was stored there. Alexander C would continue to liaise with relevant ELC Officers.
6.03	Promotion of DCC and Redesign of Website/Social Media – no substantive update as representatives were absent.
6.04	Grant Application Overhaul – no substantive update
6.05	Community Benefit Subsidised Lease Policy and Town House – A consultation on the future use of the Town House was expected to run from January until 26th April 2027. Members noted that this period would overlap with the local-government election period and that the final report would go to the incoming Council. DCC wished to clarify whether possible commercial uses were being explored separately from the public consultation. The local history society and museum service were interested in early discussion about future uses of the building.
6.06	Safer Routes to School – Road-safety banners were available and volunteers were sought to help install them at approved locations. Councillors and local schools had suggested priority sites. Plans were also being developed with school and active-travel representatives for a safer route from Edinburgh Road towards Hallhill. Two possible raised-table crossings were highlighted: one on Edinburgh Road and one outside the launderette on Summerfield Road. Officers were being asked whether available funding could allow these measures to be delivered before March 2027. Hallhill Car Park – lack of lighting and adoption status remains unresolved. DCC will continue discussions with Hallhill and ELC.
6.07	Lochend Woods: Pump Track – Members discussed the long-running works and closure affecting the path between Hallhill, the school road and the pump track. A nearby resident had reported early-morning noise and lighting from works; this had been passed to the officer overseeing the project. A meeting was expected on 5 November concerning proposals for a mountain-bike route in the woodland, including safety risks. Further complaints had been received about litter and fly-tipping in the woods.
6.08	Heart of Dunbar Festival – no further report was available.
6.09	Defibrillator Update – An intended wider SP Energy Networks funding application for defibrillators across the area had not progressed as planned, partly because some organisations had recently received other funding. Further options and coverage requirements will be reviewed.
6.10	DGS and Commonwealth Graves – no update, Kirsten H to follow up.
6.11	Telegraph Pole at Bayswell Road / Lauderdale Park – no update available.
6.12	SPEN Funding – 1st round due to close on 6th November. Strong demand was expected and a further round was not guaranteed. Applicants were encouraged

	to use the advertised drop-in sessions and online webinar.
6.13	DCC noted two vacancies and agreed for these to be promoted.
7.00	**PLANNING**
	26/00922/P – Erection of cycle shed on land within grounds of 10 Ashfield Court. Application by ELC, (Scott Robertson). Information circulated by JB on 3/10. Comments in support sent to ELC by JB. **26/00951/P – Erection of garage and associated works** (includes solar panels) 161A High Street. (James Allan) JB had circulated information on 3/10.Comments in support sent to ELC by JB. ***Approved*** **26/00498/P Extension to Garden centre**. Approved on 30th September **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 attended Planning Committee on 6th October after call in by Cllr Collins. Approved by 9 votes to 1. There had been concerns about fire safety due to the proximity of the shed to another dwelling but that was not thought to be a planning matter. ***Approved*** *(As the planning meeting relating to this retrospective application had fallen between DCC meetings, the Chair confirmed that the standard process in these circumstances had been followed and DCC concerns, as presented at the planning meeting, had been a fair reflection of views. This received unanimous agreement.)* **26/00767/P** – **Conversion of Police Station into 4 houses and offices.** JB had sent note of DCC support. To be determined. **25/01272/PM TheSpace** – To be determined. **26/00438/P** – **Greggs Drive Thru coffee shop**. This had been on the Expedited list on 31st August but the Portal hadn't been updated. JB had asked for an update. Planner Amelia Smith said that the application had not been called in. However, the approval is pending a S69 agreement for funding of improvements to part of Spott Road. Once concluded the Portal will be updated. **26/00468/P** – Application to vary condition 42 of 22/01380 for extension of placement of the purple structure at Hallhill for a further 60 months. The portal has not been updated since this was submitted in May. JB had asked for an update. The Planner has advised that the Agent is still to provide the correct details of the landowner which were wrong on the original application in March. The Agent had been informed of the correct details some months ago and is being chased for the correct certificate. **26/000619/CAC – Certificate of Lawfulness for demolition and replacement of Bowmont Cottage, East Links Road and 26/00618/P Erection of 1 property at East Links Road**. Information had been circulated and DCC support submitted. The Planner has advised that changes have been made to the height and fenestration of the replacement dwelling and thus a new application will be needed. **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. The lane had been flooded during heavy rain on 23rd June.

	Other **Fred Olsen Repower**- Waiting on ECU to proceed after ELC objected. Various new documents. **Springfield Bank BESS/Solar Farm** – Public Inquiry will be held at Dunbar Parish Church from 12th to 15th January. There will be an open community meeting on January 14th . New information has been submitted by the developer on cumulative impact with a further consultation period closing on October 30th. JB is involved for WBCC. There is considerable community opposition to the plans. **West Barns Mains Data Centre** – Concerns continue and meetings are being held locally and nationally. Scottish Parliament Climate Action Committee and Economy , Environment and Tourism Committee are conducting a joint survey of public views on Data Centres on the Scottish Parliament website. It closes on November 15th. There will be a march in Edinburgh on November 14th opposing Hyperscale Data Centres. **Berwick Bank Windfarm –** a campaign continues against the development. ***Development*** *On shore* ELC Planning Committee have unanimously approved 2 phases of onshore works and proposals will be forthcoming for a 3rd phase. *Offshore* – Works are dependent on approval of a seabird death mitigation plan. This is linked to a Marine Licence. The developer had applied for variation of the licence to deal with the seabird mitigation plan in phases. On 14th October they had withdrawn the proposal, Therefore, the mitigation plan has to consider mitigation and compensation for seabird deaths for the while site. To go ahead the development has to be seen as economically viable. **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. Construction has started. Catherine Acton has contacted ELC for signage to be erected at the exit of the Recycling Centre to warn people that construction vehicles will be coming from the left. **South of Scotland Convention of Community Councils**- JB and Kathleen O'Brien (WBCC) had met with Bob Hope, Chair of the South of Scotland Convention. Updated information has been circulated for discussion by AELCC and local community councils. JB had shared with DCC. **Energy Conference September 25th** – JB had attended. She had circulated a report to DCC. There had been presentations from Paul McLennan MSP, Laurence Rockey, Gemma Bone-Dodds of Lothian Heat CIC, Beth Landon of East Lammermuir CC and a number of developers. JB will circulate notes when they are available.
8.00	**DCC & COMMUNITY GROUPS UPDATE**
8.01	CARS Project – Members expressed concern about limited communication and the late emergence of a possible public-realm budget, estimated in discussion at between £20,000 and £50,000, which may require match funding and expenditure before the end of March 2027. An urgent meeting and clarification of eligible projects, contribution requirements and timescales were requested.
8.02	DELAP – A circulated report indicated that funding remained available in two

	pots, with applications due by 31 October 2026. The next meeting was expected on 23 November.
8.03	Hallhill Sports Centre – updates concerning lighting and ELC adoption were noted in 6.06.
8.04	Dunbar Christmas Lights – a liaison meeting with the Christmas Lights team is still to be arranged.
9.00	**AOB**
9.01	Community Councils and National Policy – Members discussed a recent conference motion advocating abolition of community councils. The arguments used were considered to misunderstand the representative and voluntary role of community councils. DCC supported work towards a unified statement in defense of community councils and agreed that the matter should be raised with the Association of East Lothian Community Councils.
9.02	Cultural and Memorial Consultations - Members noted prospective consultation on a county cultural initiative and information about a proposed national memorial to Queen Elizabeth II. Details had been circulated or would be recirculated when located.
9.03	Reuse of Postcards – unused postcards, blank on one side were offered to community groups for reuse rather than disposal
9.04	Vaccination Access – Concern was raised that Dunbar residents were being offered appointments at Edington Hospital, North Berwick, or Haddington, including early appointments that were difficult to reach by public transport. The vaccination service was prioritising its two hubs and care-home visits, with outreach to be considered later. Community transport may be available but could involve a charge. Members questioned whether a local venue such as Belhaven could again be used. A follow-up request would be made.
10.00	NEXT MEETING
	Proposed to be 16th November, 2026, 7.00 pm., Town House, Dunbar.