

Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group



Minutes of

AGM + Open Meeting

5 February 2013

Methodist Church Hall Dunbar

Attendees:

- Mike Shaw
- Alasdair Swan
- Kevin Heffernan
- Brian Cox
- David Bates
- Cindy Stephens
- Simon Flower
- Pippa Swan
- Gordon Nicolson
- Joan Johnson
- PC Lorna Scott
- CW Jimmy Wilson
- Michael Veitch
- Cathie Ramsay
- Robert Ramsay
- Rodney Thomas
- Sue Guy
- Janis Adams
- Karen Deitz
- Ian Dane

Apologies:

- Norman Hampshire
- Paul Laidlaw

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

item

action

1 REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2013

Pippa Swan led the meeting through the Annual report on what has been a busy and productive year for the neighbourhood group. She thanked all those present for their contributions to the group projects which seemed to have brought a good deal of fun and satisfaction to all those who had contributed, even by keeping up with the news!

The report on all our activities and finances was distributed to members and supporters prior to the AGM by email or hard copy and a copy will now be made available on the website. Further paper copies will be posted on the harbour and East Beach noticeboard.

2 RECEIPT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Brian Cox, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts.

Grant aided projects totalled almost £30,000 and all projects were completed on time and on budget. An enormous amount of professional time and personal resource has been donated to the group over the year and without this, the work of the group could not have happened.

The group finished the year with an annual gain of £66 and a total of £451 in the bank at present.

A paper copy of the accounts was shared with the meeting. There being no comments, the accounts will now be signed by the Treasurer and Chair before being sent to ELC for audit.

A copy of the accounts will be posted on our group website.

3 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2013

The existing committee stood down, in line with constitutional requirements.

After a brief discussion, Alasdair Swan proposed that the whole committee be re-elected to their posts. The proposal was seconded by Gordon Nicolson.

The committee for 2013 therefore stands as follows:

Chair	Pippa Swan
Vice Chair	Sue Guy
Treasurer	Brian Cox
Secretary	Ian Dane
Member	Joan Johnson
Member	Alasdair Swan
Member	Mike Shaw
Member	Rodney Thomas

The post of Tenant Representative remains unfilled.

The whole committee was thanked for their input over the past year.

4 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

There were no amendments to consider.

5 MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY AGM

No specific matters were raised for consideration.

OPEN MEETING

item

action

1.00 Minutes of Meeting of 16 October 2012

1.01 Amendments
None

1.02 Action Items

With the exception of the undernoted, action items have been attended to:

3.01 Update on Colvin St flats and East Links Rd flytipping

Jimmy Wilson was able to update the group and reported that he was actively pursuing the flytipping issues at Colvin St and the flats. He will continue to liaise with ELC to ensure that large items are removed as soon as possible. He will monitor the litter problem.

Jimmy has also taken measures to have the Colvin St steps repaired. This has been reported by David Bates and Pippa Swan and logged on the FixMyStreet website. Jimmy will continue to put pressure on ELC as he shares the view that the steps represent a very real hazard.

2.00 Constitution

2.01 Committee - Secretary

The vacancy for Tenant Representative remains.

3.00 Project Update

301 Fishermen's Monument

The monument work is complete. The limewash will need to be re-cated very two to three years and this will become a further group project in due course.

3.02 Coastlife Centre

The November trial went very well indeed with over 1600 people attending the trial site, supported and helped by a team of . Half the visitors came from outwith Dunbar. Phoenix Economics' feasibility study will be published this

month and will be made available to all members, supporters and stakeholders.

The report has demonstrated that a Coastlife Centre based on the Igloovision technology would be warmly supported in Dunbar and that it could be financially viable without a café or shop, even with ticket prices set at £5 and £2.

The next steps therefore will be:

- 1) to approach the site owner to see if a deal can now be done to purchase the site for the community
- 2) If so, establish a charitable body which will make application for funding for the purchase of the land
- 3) Upon completion of the purchase, proceed with the development of the centre, seeking grant funding to do so

It is hoped that the project momentum will keep up and that we will know within a relatively short time if the site can be ours.

The Coastlife Charitable body will be separate from the DSHNG as it remains the ambition that DSHNG should be able to continue to represent the views of all those who live and work in the shore and harbour area.

David Bates will give Pippa contact details for Bill Gardner who played a key part in the establishment of both the Seabird Centre and the Ornithologists' Club.

David Bates

ELC has been kept fully informed by the Coastlife Centre team and is enthusiastically supportive of the concept.

3.03 Blair's Garden

The team has had no response at all from an invitation to schools to submit plans for the garden.

Ian Dane is currently away and the team will come to a future meeting with proposals for the future.

PC Lorna Scott suggested that contact might be made with Susie Goodwin of North Light who might be able to assist with a growing project.

Alasdair Swan will provide Kevin Heffernan with Susie's contact details.

Alasdair Swan

4.00 **New Projects for 2013**

In addition to Blair's Garden and the Coastlife Centre, possible projects for the coming year were discussed and agreed:

4.01 Estate Inspection

The group felt that the Estate inspection was an essential annual project which could not be filled by ad hoc reporting or the use of the FixMyStreet website.

Pippa Swan

Pippa will organise this and make contact with members in the next fortnight to arrange inspection and reporting teams for the area.

A full survey and report on concerns over the sea defences and access to the beach would be embraced as part of the Estate Inspection.

The aim would be to get a report to ELC within 6 weeks.

4.02 Seaside Award 2013

It was agreed that the Keep Scotland Beautiful East Beach Seaside Award was to remain a key project for the group.

The beach has seen very many more visitors to it over the past year and there was a general sense that its management and cleanliness had had an impact on the sense of wellbeing in the community. There remains a very strongly held view that the beach is one of Dunbar's greatest visitor and resident assets and it was crucial that the group should continue to work with ELC to see that it is kept clear of kelp and litter.

Alasdair Swan has led the beach team for 2012. He reported that whilst the team and ELC had been able to work well and carefully, funds for kelp clearance had been spent by October.

An undertaking that Forth Resource Management (FRM) might be able to use a different and more cost effective machine to clear the weed had proved undeliverable. Alasdair and Pippa had visited FRM at Tommy Dale's invitation and seen the composting process in action. It was clear that seaweed compost will not be a core activity for FRM in the near future and the sight of men handpicking plastics from compost material in the wind and rain underlined the difficulty that Tommy has in handling seaweed that has lain on the shore for days or weeks, collecting debris, and accounted for the cost up uplift. A volume of weed in excess of 500 tonnes had been cleared to compost in 2012.

With funds for weed clearance all but expended, the seaweed dump in December had to be cleared into the sea as a low cost and urgent option to ensure that the beach was usable for the Dunbar Dip and the holiday period.

This method cleaned the weed of kelp fly larva but much of the weed was returned in the following weeks with a fly infestation in local houses in the early part of February. The beach is presently covered with kelp mounds that are being embedded in the sand. This will result in rotting below the sand and black water as the kelp rots. It is likely that there will be more infestations of flies.

The group felt that this was not acceptable.

A meeting is to be held with Duncan Priddle and, if needs be, with Councillors, to explore, once again, options for intelligent beach clearing and the more flexible use of ELC resources to ensure that the beach is cleared of kelp all through the year.

4.03 Fishermen's Monument

Brian Cox will co-ordinate periodic clean-ups around the Fishermen's Monument.

Consideration will be given to grant applications for the continuing upkeep of the monument and barometer casing.

4.04 Gardening

The Neighbourhood Group has offered support to Simon Glover and the families who have confirmed a commitment to resurrect the garden at the Post Office steps/Church Street (Rasul's Garden). Jimmy Wilson confirmed that additional support may be available from ELC to help clear the increased flytipping/dog

mess. This message has been conveyed to Simon Glover.

There remains a need to help keep the **Colvin St Triangle** garden weeded and tidied. Pippa will ask Lesleymay Miller and Su Nuttgens, founding members of the garden, to co-ordinate help as and when they feel they need it.

Pippa Swan

4.05 Civic Week Contribution

It was agreed that we should plan a contribution to Civic Week in July which should include a beach clean, perhaps a picnic and a beach fun day. Coast to Coast Surf School might be persuaded to join in as might the ELC Rangers.

Pippa will canvass support for this and try to gather a team.

Pippa Swan

4.06 Projects for future consideration

The following projects were discussed but considered too difficult or expensive to pursue at the moment:

Increased Tenant Participation

Pippa felt that the group could be doing more to engage with local tenants as an estimated 25% of local housing stock is tenanted. Her suggestion that she and Jimmy Wilson might make house calls and/or that house calls should be made as part of the Estate Inspection, were considered to be too bold. There was a suggestion that DSHNG might generate a very negative response by appearing to be interfering in a long established status quo.

Use of the Methodist Church Hall as a members video film club

A suggestion that we might start some kind of communal video film club in the hall as a friendly social event or run a children's Saturday morning video film club met with no support. Mike Shaw would welcome any suggestions for ways in which the Methodist Church buildings might be more frequently used. Rental costs would be just those that would cover the set up and management/running costs for the period the spaces were used. Contact Mike Shaw for more details: Michaeljohn.shaw@btinternet.com

1Shore Street (Cuckoo Wrass) as an arts/music base

Karen Deitz asked the group to consider what options there might be for securing this building for the community. It is falling into deep disrepair and there are concerns not only for the visual impact on the community but also on the effect that it's deteriorating state might be having on adjoining properties.

Everyone saw the potential in this building and there was a general sense that the building was fondly regarded but it's state of disrepair meant that a very considerable sum, probably in excess of £200,000, would have to be spent in addition to the purchase price (currently reported to be about £110k) to bring it into use again.

Pippa suggested that adjoining neighbours might be able to make contact with ELC to see if they could serve a repairs notice on the owner to at least make it wind and watertight and address rot issues.

Any further thoughts on a use for this house would be welcome by the group.

Assembly Rooms

Concern was expressed yet again at the rapidly deteriorating state of the Assembly Rooms and the condition of the access gate at Lamer Street which has been blown in by the wind now. The building and site are reportedly

in the shared ownership of about 6 parties and any plans to secure the building for community use would be very difficult - but suggestions welcome! In the interim we will see if we can arrange to have the gate secured.

Pippa Swan

5.00 Neighbourhood Liaison

5.01 Community and Police Partnership (CAPP)

The presence of Jimmy Wilson and PC Scott at the meeting was warmly welcomed and their contributions throughout the discussions were helpful and insightful.

CAPP priorities for the coming month include securing repairs to East Links Rd and the Colvin St steps. ELC have reviewed the sea wall at Lamer St and repairs are being considered.

Concern was expressed at the CAPP meeting over the low visibility of traffic islands on the approaches to Dunbar. If anybody has any specific sites that they feel need additional marking, please make contact with Jimmy Wilson jwilson5@eastlothian.gov.uk

Dog Attacks

Jimmy Wilson reported that, following a serious attack on June Taylor's leashed dachshund, a brown Staffordshire Terrier type dog has been served with an order whereby the owner must keep it leashed in public. The dog has been seen unleashed on a number of occasions since the order was made and this defiance of the order has been followed up by the dog warden. Both the police and Jimmy Wilson would welcome any further reports of this dog being off the lead.

Alasdair Swan reported a neighbour's concern over a group of three collies, one of which had nipped him on the foot. He now feels that he cannot let his grandchildren use the beach unattended. Any further instances of this sort should be reported to Jimmy or the police.

Jimmy confirmed that a control order might be applicable to any dog which caused 'fear, apprehension or alarm to a person or other animal' and he will follow up any reports he receives.

Both Jimmy and Lorna will try to come to future meetings.

6.00 Publicity for Group and Projects

6.01 Website

Alasdair Swan will continue to update the website: www.ourlocality.org/dunbarshoreandharbour

East Beach Noticeboard

Notices will be placed on the board on a regular basis.

7.00 Treasurer's Report + Finances

7.01 Funding

No further comment following AGM report

8.00 Any other business

8.01 Growing Forth

Tommy Dale has started a new Community Interest Company which will employ people with challenging histories to grow and manage polytunnel gardens to grow fruit and vegetables for sale. The tunnels will be heated with a small biomass unit. Growing Forth will also sponsor training for young people wanting to learn skills to help preserve and maintain our countryside. A DVD is

available from Pippa with more information.

Tommy is interested in hearing from anybody who:

- Has a business or is involved in an enterprise (schools?) that generates food waste that might be usable in the biomass unit
- Farmers who have waste plastic to dispose of
- People who are interested in fresh vegetables

Find out more at www.growingforth.co.uk

9.00 Forthcoming Meetings

9.01 Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month until further notice.

7pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Victoria Street.

Minutes by Pippa Swan

Circulated to:

Members

Support groups including Councillors, Community Council, Dunbar Trades, LB Police