

Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group



Minutes of

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15th February 2024 @ 7.15pm

Harbour Chapel, Victoria Street, Dunbar

Attendees

- Brian Cox
- Cathie Ramsay
- Pippa Swan
- Alasdair Swan
- Mike Shaw
- Susan Christopher
- Patrick Dolan
- Jo Waddell
- Andrew Waddell
- Teresa Barnes
- Gill Last
- Lawren Fraser
- John Foot
- Cilla Foot
- Rob v Nues
- Andy Sim
- Sheila Sim
- Elaine McGregor
- Mark Cavanagh
- Liz Curtis
- Fiona Veitch
- Ewan McIntyre
- Ian Dane
- Maggie Thomson
- John Thomson
- Elaine Lister
- Callum Duguid
- Eric Robertson
- Jane Robertson
- Pippa Hall
- Barbara Royle
- Val Foster
- + 8

Apologies

- Fiona McMiken
- Jan + Allan Green
- Andrew + Sally White

AGM

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.00	Welcome	
1.01	<p>Pippa Swan chaired the AGM and welcomed everybody, especially new faces, to the Harbour Chapel. Gill Last's social media advertising was a great success and it was wonderful to welcome some 40 people to the meeting. Huge thanks, too, to hosts, Fiona Veitch and Ewan McIntyre, who have welcomed us again into what is fast becoming our 'home' place, once more... and ran the bar!</p> <p>Before the business of the evening commenced, Pippa asked that Colin Barnes and Robert Ramsay be remembered. Both men had been absolute stalwarts of the group and both will be sorely missed. Pippa thanked Teresa and Cathie for coming to the AGM, which she knew will have been difficult, and for their continued support.</p>	
2.00	Minutes of AGM - 16th February 2023	
2.01	<p><u>Action Items, Amendment and Adoption</u></p> <p>The minutes of last year's meeting were circulated a year ago for comment/amendments and none were received.</p> <p>All action items were attended to following the meeting and there were no matters arising.</p> <p>The minutes of the AGM were adopted.</p>	

3.00 **Chairman's Report – Pippa Swan**

3.01 The Chairman's Report for 2023 was presented and is appended to these minutes.

It was noted that although the group had not held a business meeting at all during the year, a great deal of work had still been carried out by volunteers. The group profile remained high and it was recognized as valuable community contributor by ELC.

The Christmas Social was attended by about 35 people and was a thoroughly enjoyable event...to be repeated. Again, huge thanks to Harbour Chapel.

3.02 Matters arising:

AS asked that Kenny Maule's work on the Victoria Street wellhead be noted in the report before circulation.

PS

4.00 **Receipt and Adoption of Annual Accounts 2022 – Brian Cox**

4.01 Annual Accounts

Brian Cox tabled accounts for 2023/4 and a copy is appended to these minutes.

The group currently has a restricted fund of £1529.00 ringfenced for support of the Playgarden and an unrestricted fund of £1320.09.

It was recognized that it was in the group's interest to spend the ELC grant to enable us to continue to meet, hopefully in the Harbour Chapel

There were no further comments or questions and the accounts were approved and adopted.

The Accounts were signed by Pippa Swan as Chairman and a copy will be placed with the AGM Minutes.

4.02 Matters arising:

- A further maintenance grant will be applied for, to cover costs of meetings etc

BC

5.00 **Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members**

5.01 All committee members stand down at the end of each business year. Following discussion, it was agreed that the committee for the coming year will be:

Office bearers -

- Chairman – Pippa Swan
- Vice Chairman – Mike Shaw
- Treasurer – Brian Cox
- Secretary – Elaine Lister
- Tenants' Rep – Fiona Veitch

Members -

- Kenny Maule
- Gill Last

- Ewan McIntyre
- Mark Cavanagh
- Elaine McGregor

Pippa expressed her real pleasure that new members had offered to be on the committee and promised not to overload them!

6.00 **Amendments to Constitution**

6.01 No notices of necessary changes to the constitution had been advised and the constitution remains unchanged.

7.00 **Matters to be considered by the AGM**

7.01 Projects for the coming year

After discussion it was agreed that the following projects would be pursued:

1. **Maintenance of Fishermens' Monument**, *per Dunbar Harbour Trust*.
The space in front of the monument is to be cleared to allow space for people wishing to take photographs – **Alasdair Swan** to lead
2. **Creel Loaders Garden Maintenance**
The hedges need routine maintenance. Brian Cox is looking for younger people who could help Pippa and Alasdair to cut the hedge at least once a year. Please contact **Alasdair Swan** – alasdairswan@yahoo.co.uk. He has the kit and just needs help on a morning or afternoon to do the work
3. **Sea Defences + Kelp Management**
The East Beach Regeneration Group exists but would welcome new members. **Pippa Swan** to lead, pro tem.
4. **East Beach Seafront Management**
There was a wish to see the seafront tidied up and the planters and seating area, including the noticeboard improved. **Lawren Fraser** is to gather a team to progress this. DSHNG Committee to support. Please contact Pippa if you would like your name to be passed to Lawren for any of her projects. Shore_harbour@yahoo.co.uk
5. **Playgarden Upgrade**
The playgarden is in need of upgrade. ELC have some money and the contact here is Jennifer Lothian – jlothian1@eastlothian.gov.uk
The playgarden flagpole will also need repair.
Lawren Fraser and her team will look to include this work in the seafront works, above.
6. **Safer Streets Project**
Lawren Fraser and her team will look at this project as part of the seafront project.
7. **Colvin Street/Writers' Court Neighbourhood Project**
There is a long held ambition to look at ways in which the public open space in and around the Colvin Street flats and Writers' Court might be improved for residents and locals, alike. **Fiona Veitch** will take a lead on this project.
8. **Finger Post/Signage upgrade**
Kenny Maule will lead a project to see if we can get the corroded finger posts replaced with recycled plastic that will not require ongoing maintenance. If anybody would like to help with this, please contact Kenny - maule320@gmail.com

We won't do an **Estate Inspection** this year but rather, will follow Kenny Maule's model of addressing issues directly to the East Lothian Council website.

<https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/report>

Organised **Beach Cleans** were discussed with PS confirming that bags and grabbers could be obtained from ELC if organized events were considered a good idea. There was a preference at the meeting for beach cleans to remain informal, generally. Special thanks went to Rob v Nues and Susan Mowatt for their continued and repeated beach cleans.

Alasdair talked about **funding** for projects and assured the teams that he would do all that he can to help find the cash for the projects we want to deliver.

7.02

Admin Issues

1. DSHNG Secretary

It is wonderful that **Elaine Lister** has agreed to act as our Secretary. She will be invited to take notes at our meetings and circulate same. PS will continue with the background admin.

2. Facebook Page

Gill Last will pick up facebook for us. PS will ask Tanya Jepson to make her an Admin. It is hoped that facebook will be used more widely to promote the group and its work and to advertise and plan social events

PS

3. Website

The DSHNG website is on a wordpress platform supported by Our Locality/Sustaining Dunbar per Philip Immirzi. **Sheila Sim** will take on the website, supported by Pippa. PS will arrange for training.

PS

4. Meetings

It was agreed that more frequent, whole group meetings would be fun and that we might look to meet every 8 weeks, preferably at the Harbour Chapel. Meetings to be arranged.

PS

8.00

AOB

8.01

There was no additional business.

Pippa thanked everybody for making the meeting such a happy event and Ewan and Fiona were again thanked for making their venue and bar available to us.

9.00

Next Meeting

9.01

Harbour Chapel – Thursday 11th April – 7pm

This will be a catch up and social evening, with everybody welcome.

Minutes by Pippa Swan
Circulated to: Members + ELTRP

**CHAIR’S REPORT FOR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
February 2024**

Dunbar
Shore and Harbour
Neighbourhood



Welcome to this, our 13th Annual Report for our Tenants and Residents Association.

Whilst we only met once last year, as a group, for our excellent Christmas Social at the Harbour Chapel, the group remained active.

GROUP ADMIN

The elected committee for 2023/2024 was:

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

Web Manager +Tenants’ Rep

Pippa Swan

Mike Shaw

Brian Cox

(none – PS to act)

Tanya Jepson

Member (Flood Resilience/Estate Inspection Lead)

Member (Beach maintenance)

Member

Member

Member

Kenny Maule

Joan Johnson

Mark Cavanagh

Ewan McIntyre

Elaine McGregor

We haven’t had to do much and have not met as a committee. We do, though, communicate by email to agree action, when need arises.

PROJECTS

Our group was established in 2011 to make things better, beside the sea and although it has been a quiet year, projects have still continued.

East Beach Regeneration

The East Beach regeneration project seemed to be going so well following the building of the breakwaters and groyne in 2020 but repeated storms and bad weather since October 2023 have scoured the beach, left mounds of weed, brought subsequent and unprecedented kelp fly invasions and collapsed Lamer Street... again.

A small group continued its liaison with East Lothian Council over plans to develop further breakwaters and the moves to the big, sea wall project.

Progress has been incredibly slow as there is no cash either at ELC or at Scottish Government level but we have had an undertaking from Norman Hampshire that East Beach is important and the ambition is still to get these projects ‘shovel ready’ so that we can act when cash does become available....as it surely must with sea levels rising as they are.

East Lothian Council have funding for a major study of the whole of the East Lothian Coastline and we have asked that we be put right at the front of the study. We are hoping that this will happen.

The recent events impacting the beach and sea walls make action so much more pressing and I very much hope that we will be able to reconvene our group and push for action from ELC. Talking cannot be a solution and all these major plans take years to bring to fruition.

Flood Resilience

Kenny Maule has been our lead on this and his notifications to Shore Dwellers of swells, choppiness, splashiness and other excitements, have proved invaluable. Again, our very real thanks to Kenny. If you want to be on the mailing list, let Kenny know. maule320@gmail.com

East Beach Seaside Award

On a positive note, East Beach received a Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Award again in 2023 this year and that is entirely thanks to the work of our member volunteers. The beach report suggested bike racks, better signage from High Street, better and marked bins and replacement Perspex to the noticeboard. We can consider these.

The informal beach cleans make a big difference as does the maintenance of information on the notice board, the latter thanks to Mike.

We did use to do monthly beach cleans in the summer and this is something that we might consider revisiting as they were good fun and a good way for people to get to know each other. The kids had a ball and our highlight finds were a battery operated Buddah and a plastic wrapped, whole chicken!

Creel Loaders



Brian Cox and Alasdair Swan have kept the hedge in order and it is looking good, still well liked by visitors.

Fishermen's Monument

The Harbour Trust have now taken over the regular lime washing of the Fishermen's Monument, one of our earliest projects and we are grateful to them, for this.



Victoria Street Wellhead

Kenny Maule single handedly took on the consolidation of the wellhead at Victoria Street. He raised the money, organised the repointing and designed, commissioned and erected the information panel, which continues his legacy of panels throughout the harbour and Victoria Street.

Safer Streets Project

The proposal for a trial to change the road layout to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists made no progress this year due to lack of energy on my part in chasing East Lothian Council for even a response to our emails. The sudden and unexpected arrival of bollards were shock and had nothing to do with us. Perhaps fortunately, they were removed when the road collapsed in the late autumn.

Estate Inspection Reports

We used to prepare a weighty tome listing the infrastructure defects that we wanted ELC to address. Kenny Maule has grasped new technology and has led the charge, logging defects directly with ELC and this has worked well but it seems wrong for just one person to watch over 'our estate'. We should perhaps consider a re-awakening of an organized Estate Inspection so that our issues can be addressed to ELC for programming and action.

CAPP Liaison + Neighbourhood Watch

We no longer attend the Community and Police Partnership meetings as they are restricted to Community Council Chairs. We do, though, now belong to Neighbourhood Watch and selected notices and alerts are shared with members. We try to limit these to those we consider to be most helpful.

Dunbar + East Linton Area Partnership

Our TRA is represented on the Area Partnership by Mike Shaw. There is an opportunity to use this platform for support for our projects.

Planning Matters + Heritage Preserved

There were no significant planning applications in the year and we remain so impressed by the work that has been done to the Assembly Rooms – it has been a major project but it will be wonderful to see it fully back in use now, as a family home.

The Community Council will write, this month, in support of the use of appropriate uPVC in the conservation area here as the cost of replacing timber windows is prohibitive and modern timber just does not resist the ravages of the sea well.

Facebook Page and Website

Dunbar's East Beach facebook page was set up by DSHNG and Tanya Jepson has kindly monitored it and kept the postings live.

The website was maintained but has fallen into disrepair due to lack of time and interest and many of the posts are now well out of date, at first glance.

It is perhaps time to review both of these social media platforms again.

https://www.facebook.com/DunbarsEastBeach?locale=en_GB

<https://ourlocality.org/dunbarshoreandharbour/>

THE COMING YEAR

The Group will have a chance at the AGM to discuss how it would like to work in the coming year and our plans will be arranged based upon the capacity and willingness of members to champion the projects they care about.



Pippa Swan
Chair

12th February for AGM 15th February 2024

APPENDIX B – TREASURER’S REPORT 2023/24

DUNBAR SHORE AND HARBOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

GROUP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1/2/ 2023—31/1/ 2024

1. BALANCE AT CLOSE OF LAST ACCOUNT		£2514.77
2. INCOME		
RBS, interest on account	£36.32	
East Lothian Council , grant	350.00	
Liz Curtis , donation	<u>20.00</u>	<u>406.32</u>
		£2921.09
3. EXPENDITURE		
Harbour Chapel ,hire of hall		<u>72.00</u>
		£2849.09
4. BALANCES AT CLOSE		
Restricted fund	£1529.00	
Unrestricted fund	<u>1320.09</u>	
		<u>£2849.09</u>

PA Shaw,
Chair.
15.2.2024.