

Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group



Minutes of

AGM and Open Meeting

10th March 2025 @ 7pm

Harbour Chapel Dunbar

Attendees

- Pippa Swan
- Alasdair Swan
- Mike Shaw
- Gill Last
- Rob v Nues
- Sheila Sim
- Malcolm Thomson
- Jane Robertson
- Eric Robertson
- Wendy Robertson-Fyfe
- Brian Cox
- Kenny Maule
- Mark Cavanagh
- Fiona Veitch
- Ewan McIntyre
- Elaine Lister
- Barbara Royle
- Susan Christopher
- Fiona Smith
- Louey Glen
- Dave Maxfield (Max)
- Aga Reut
- Shawn Small
- Lawren Fraser

Apologies

- Liz Curtis
- Ian Dane
- Teresa Barnes
- Cathie Ramsay
- Jo Waddell

Ref	Item	Action
1.00	Welcome	
1.01	Pippa Swan chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone thanking them for their continued support. Special thanks were extended to Fiona Veitch and Ewan McIntyre for welcoming us into The Harbour Chapel and allowing us to use the venue again for the coming year.	
2.00	Minutes of AGM – 15th February 2024	
2.01	<u>Action Items, Amendment and Adoption</u>	
	1. Action Items – all attended to as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Chair's Report and Minutes posted after amendment to include Kenny Maule's work at the Victoria St. Wellhead.b. Funding applied for.c. Facebook page and website admins handed over to Gill Last and Sheila Sim respectively. 2. Matters arising – All action items were attended to following the meeting and there were no matters arising. 3. The minutes of AGM were adopted. (Proposed/Seconded: DM/AS)	
3.00	Chairman's Report – Pippa Swan	
3.01	The Chairman's 14 th Annual Report for AGM 2025 was presented. AS proposed that the very impressive story of achievements should include reference to the East Beach Kelp Management. PS apologised for the omission and will correct this.	
	<i>The amended Chair's Report for AGM 2025 is appended to these minutes.</i>	
4.00	ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	
4.01	Receipt and Adoption of Annual Accounts 2024 - Brian Cox	
	<u>Annual Accounts</u>	

Brian Cox reported that the group had received a grant of £272 from ELC to cover printing, copying etc as well as the cost of venue hire. The installation of the handrail at East Beach was £150 which was funded from £375 of donations received immediately after last year's AGM. The balance of this fund will be retained for East Beach social area improvements.

Writers Court/ Colvin Street Neighbourhood Project received £2280.00 from ELC to cover printing, publicity and public consultation costs. EMA Architects had donated their professional time pro-bono.

At the end of the financial year the balance in the account was £5175.49 of which, £3862.90 is restricted to identified projects.

A copy of the Accounts is appended to these minutes.

4.02

Agreed Payments

Fiona Veitch and Ewan McIntyre have very generously offered to continue to host up to 5 meetings at the Harbour Chapel in the coming year, including a Christmas Social. It was agreed that £250 of our ELC grant should be paid to Harbour Chapel for the use of the Chapel over the coming year. DSHNG recognises that this payment in no way reflected the real cost to the Fiona Veitch for the use of the hall and sincerely thanked Fiona for this.

FV to invoice DSHNG via Brian Cox.

FV/BC

5.00

Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

5.01

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 –	(not confirmed at meeting – but see note below)
Tenant's Rep –	Fiona Veitch
Web Manager –	Sheila Sim

Members –

Kennny Maule
Ewan McIntyre
Mark Cavanagh
Elaine McGregor
Gill Last

Elaine Lister kindly agreed to take the minutes for the AGM but asked to step away from the role for the coming year. Following the meeting Louise Glen's offer to take the role of Secretary was warmly accepted by PS.

6.00

Amendments to Constitution

6.01

Nil

7.00

Special Presentation

7.01

Colvin Street/Writers Court Regeneration Project – Emcl

Ewan McIntyre updated the Group on this exciting project. Following a decision made last year to pursue a project to try to upgrade the area, Ewan had gathered a team of about 15 people who had all helped over the past months. The group

had met several times to form a plan of action and, after two public consultations, had developed a proposed new plan for the area which included planting, seating, lighting, new paths, play areas and bike parking for residents and visitors. Ewan had been in contact with East Lothian Housing Association who are responsible for much of the open ground and they are largely supportive of the proposed changes which will see a fundamental change to the character of the area.

ELC have already applied for planning consent to demolish the brick walls in the middle of the proposed development area.

Next steps include securing funding for the bike parking, commencing change at the garden ground and paving in front of Colvin Street flats and securing agreement from East Lothian Housing Association over reassignment of garden ground.

Ewan invited members to examine the illustrations and offer their comments and contributions while they enjoyed refreshments. The presentation was very well received indeed with considerable excitement expressed over the possibilities presented by the site. He and his team were warmly thanked for all of their very hard work.

Indicative image of two display boards attached at Appendix 3.

8.00 Matters to be considered by the AGM

Existing Projects to be pursued

After discussion it was agreed that the following existing projects will be pursued in the coming year 2025. Project leads as indicated:

1. Sea Defences Action is definitely required to make good the breakwaters and monitor risk to the sea wall.	P Swan/K Maule
2. Kelp Management This will require ongoing management if the current success is to be maintained.	A Swan/L Glen
3. Seating Area maintenance & Lamer Street planting LF reported that the group will receive a donation of an estimated £300 worth of plants from Dunbar Garden Centre	L Fraser
4. Creel Loaders hedging Will be trimmed periodically	A + P Swan
5. Safer Routes Lawren Fraser and her team will continue to monitor as part of the seafront project and High St parking consultation. The ambition is to ensure that all roads in our shorefront area are safe for pedestrians	L Fraser
6. Colvin Street/ Writer's Court upgrade Ewan McIntyre will continue to lead this project.	E McIntyre
7. Flood Defence Kenny Maule will continue to offer guidance to Shore Dwellers to give advance notice of storms/dangerous seas.	K Maule

East Beach Playgarden requires funding and there were no champions to lead this at the meeting.

Estate Inspection – Full Estate Inspections will not be reintroduced. All members are encouraged to report defective lighting, pot holes, fly tipping, dog fouling etc via the ELC website. <https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/report>

8.02

New Projects for 2025/26

After discussion, it was agreed that the following new projects will be initiated this year:

1. Adopt a Close – There are a number of closes and vennels in the area that are dirty or difficult to navigate for older people. It was agreed that this would be a fun project if we could persuade individuals or small groups to 'adopt a close'.	P Swan/L Glen
2. Writers Court Stories Writers Court and the Colvin St area has a rich history and members felt that it would be fun to explore how these might be told, particularly by engaging with older people. This might include a story telling event or short play(s)	Gill Last/Fiona Veitch
3. Writers Court History In addition to Colvin St stories, it was felt that history panels or other interpretation material might be good.	L Fraser

Kenny Maule came to the meeting with images of ingenious planting walls and consideration will be given to including something similar in the Colvin St/Writers Court project.

8.03

Group Admin

1. Facebook Gill Last will continue to look after the Facebook page. Members were encouraged to share good news stories and pictures of our area. It will remain an ambition that the site only tell good news stories and that gossip is not shared on this platform.	Gill Last
2. Website Despite the best efforts of Pippa and Sheila Sim, the website has not been refreshed. It is considered that good maintenance of the site is important, particularly if we are hoping to attract funding for our projects. Dave Maxfield (Max) offered to take this over. PS to ensure transition to Max	Max

PS

8.04

Frequency of Meetings

Fiona Veitch has kindly agreed to host up to 5 group meetings a year, including a Christmas Social, for which we are very grateful indeed. Dates to be agreed and advised.

9.00

AOB

9.01

Nil

10.00

Next Meetings

10.01

To be advised

Minutes by Elaine Lister/Pippa Swan
Circulated to:
Members
ELTRP(for their records)

Appendix 1 – Chair’s Report for AGM 2025

CHAIR’S REPORT FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING March 2025

Dunbar
Shore and
Harbour



Welcome to this, our 14th Annual Report for our Tenants and Residents Association.

The Christmas Social at the end of 2023 was a great fillip for the group and our last AGM, held in February 2024 saw a big jump in members with, as importantly, an increase in the number of people who wanted to help or lead projects.

My sincere thanks to the committee elected last year.

GROUP ADMIN

The elected committee for 2023/2024 was:

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Secretary
Web Manager
Tenants’ Rep

Pippa Swan
Mike Shaw
Brian Cox
Elaine Lister
Sheila Sim
Fiona Veitch

Member (Flood Resilience/Estate Inspection Lead)
Member (Facebook manager)
Member
Member
Member

Kenny Maule
Gill Last
Mark Cavanagh
Ewan McIntyre
Elaine McGregor

We haven’t actually met as a committee but have, though, communicated by email to agree action, when needs have arisen. Brian Cox, our Treasurer, has worked quietly away to manage our accounts and we are very grateful to him for this.

The whole group has met every couple of months or so, as agreed last year, and we have all very much enjoyed getting to know each other better as we share a glass or two at the Harbour Chapel. Mixing business with pleasure seems to have been popular and our socials have forged new friendships and made us all much more aware of our neighbours...which is what we wanted to do when we set up our group in 2011. Success!

PROJECTS

In addition to being good neighbours, our group’s other raison d’être was to make things better beside the sea and we have been really busy this year.

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 left the breakwaters diminished by some 1.5m. This reduction in height seems to have

had a hugely negative impact on the beach and it is now largely scoured of sand. We have seen more issues with weed, kelp flies and an ongoing threat to Lamer Street.

A small group continued its liaison with East Lothian Council over plans for sea defences, with, as a priority, the wish to see the groynes reinstated to the original design. This work would have had an estimated cost of £150k. We were initially hopeful that we would get the work done before Christmas – indeed we were promised this – but the work failed to materialize and we are now told that there is no money to make good.

East Beach Kelp Management

Accumulations of kelp bring with it major issues of fly infestation. Alasdair Swan has worked really closely with Louey Glen to finally achieve a kelp management plan that should see kelp removed within a week of any significant dump (100 tons +) at no cost to ELC, as it is lifted for commercial scale composting whilst still clean. This achievement has been incredibly hard-won but it seems to be working and will be closely monitored.

East Beach Seaside Award

On a positive note, East Beach received a Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Award again this year and that is entirely thanks to the work of our member volunteers. The 2023 beach report suggested bike racks, better signage from High Street, and replacement Perspex to the noticeboard, none of which we have yet tackled but remain on the radar.

We have, though, been hugely fortunate to have Lawren Fraser and her team who have been absolutely brilliant at making the seating area and Lamer Street so inviting. They have placed a new bin, painted and planted and transformed the spaces. Even on dull days, people are drawn to the seating area, which is testament to the success of their scheme.

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

Your own incredible generosity and Mike's speedy action in working with the blacksmiths from the harbour ensured that we had a new handrail in place within a couple of weeks of that request being made. This small thing, which makes a huge difference to improving access to the beach for everybody, is a perfect example of what can be done if we want to do it!

East Beach Play Park

We are indebted to Dave Maxfield, who, despite a hectic professional life, did an enormous amount of work determining how best to upgrade the playpark, including replacement of all the defective edging. The costs for this were large and the project has stalled because we didn't have anybody to take the matter forward with ELC. The park does need an upgrade and some of the missing kit should be replaced. On the bright side, ELC did repair the rope rides which are well used and we must thank Mike Shaw for repairing the flagpole and keeping the flags flying.

East Beach Signage + Fingerposts

The cast iron finger post sign at East Beach became dangerous and, thanks to Kenny Maule, ELC did finally remove this. Kenny, who has previously repainted all the fingerposts in our area and done all the work for the interpretation boards at the harbour, opposite the swimming pool, and at Victoria wellhead, worked with members' feedback and Andre

Coner, to design an inexpensive replacement for the Play Park sign which now has grant funding from Dunbar Community Council. New signs will be in place this summer.

Safer Streets Project

The proposal for a trial to change the road layout to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists is still on the back burner but may come into its own this year.

Flood Resilience

Kenny Maule has also been our lead on flood resilience 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

Creel Loaders

Alasdair Swan and Lee Porter have kept the hedge in order and, after a few months of looking like twigs, it is looking good.

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.

Estate Inspection Reports

We used to prepare a weighty tome listing the infrastructure defects that we wanted ELC to address. We agreed last year to use the ELC 'Report It' portal to report pot holes, safety issues, flytipping and streetlights which seems to have worked moderately well. The more formal report is still something that we can prepare if there was an appetite for this. It is great that Castle Street has finally been re-surfaced as that has been on the 'doing' list for years!

Planning Matters + Heritage Preserved

There were no significant planning applications in the area this year. Works to East Beach House and the Assembly Rooms have continued and we look forward to seeing changes to what was John Thomson's house at the bottom of Woodbush Brae, which will remain a family home.

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 email 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.

Facebook Page and Website

Dunbar's East Beach facebook page was set up by DSHNG and Gill Last 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. Sheila Sim and I both tried to find time to address this but to no great effect so this is still a matter to address. The

website presence is important, particularly when we want to show how active we actually are.

https://www.facebook.com/DunbarsEastBeach?locale=en_GB
<https://ourlocality.org/dunbarshoreandharbour/>

Colvin Street/Writers Court Project

Our biggest and most exciting project to date is the Writers Court/Colvin Street Regeneration Project led by Ewan McIntyre working with a great group of volunteers. Over the past seven months, they have met, discussed, planned, designed, leafleted, held consultations with those most likely to be impacted by any change, raised funds and have generally done an enormous amount of work to develop the exciting proposals that will be made public shortly. Very special thanks must go to Ewan and the team in his office who have done the professional work 'pro bono' and to Fiona Veitch who has so very kindly welcomed the group to use the Harbour Chapel for workshops and consultation events.

The implementation of this work will be challenging but we are confident that we will be able to deliver most, if not all, of the re-greening plans in the coming couple of years so the group will continue.

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. I very much hope that members will wish to continue all the wonderful work that has been done over the last twelve months and, perhaps, seek to start some new projects focusing on areas that appeal.

Of particular note will be a necessity to properly engage with proposals that will come forward from ELC this year for changes to parking in the town centre. Any changes on High Street, West Port and at the swimming pool will necessarily impact on parking in our area and we really need to be switched on to this.

The parking discussions may also naturally lead into further discussions about our safer streets project, so that is worth bearing in mind.

More joyful than parking will be a new project led by Fiona Kibby, Dunbar's Harbourmaster, to restore a traditional, clinker built Norfolk Oyster and some of you have already volunteered for this.

I am also very much hoping that you will feel that regular business and social meetings are a good idea and that we can continue to enjoy each other's company here at the Harbour Chapel.

Coming to these gatherings to support projects and share wine with your neighbours is every bit as important as being 'hands on' so thank you to you all... and may the coming year be a good one for us all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P.A. Swan". A blue line is drawn through the "A" and "Swan".

Pippa Swan
Chair

10th March 2025

Appendix B – Annual Accounts

Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group

Financial Statement

1/2/2024-31/1/2025

1.BALANCE AT CLOSE OF LAST STATEMENT	£2849.09
2.INCOME	
RBS, interest on account	£53.50
East Lothian Council, administration grant	272.00
Donations, East Beach handrail	375.00
East Lothian Council, Writers Court/	
Colvin Street consultation grant	<u>2880.00</u>
	£3580.50
	<u>£6429.59</u>
3.EXPENDITURE	
Harbour Chapel, social gathering	£83.00
Harbour Chapel, group meetings	250.00
M&D Welding, account	150.00
Lothian Printers, account	50.00
Harbour Chapel, consultation venue	240.00
EMA, printing & survey data	433.91
Lawren Fraser materials East Beach	<u>47.19</u>
	£1254.10
	<u>£5175.49</u>
BALANCES AT CLOSE	
Restricted funds	£3862.90
Unrestricted funds	<u>1312.59</u>
	<u>£5175.49</u>

Agreed @ AGM.
10th March 2025.

P.A. Shaw

Appendix 3

Colvin Street/Writers Court Regeneration 2024 -

EMA produced a suite of boards to illustrate both the issues in the area now and the opportunities for change in the future. Examples below.

