

Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group



Minutes of

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24th March 2026 @ 7.15pm

Harbour Chapel, Victoria Street, Dunbar

Attendees

- Brian Cox
- Cathie Ramsay
- Pippa Swan
- Alasdair Swan
- Mike Shaw
- Gill Last
- Rob v Nues
- Andy Sim
- Sheila Sim
- Amy Divers
- Sandra Stuart
- Jay Kirkland
- Malcolm Thomson
- Deb Harman
- Guy Westoby
-
- Elaine McGregor
- Mark Cavanagh
- Fiona Veitch
- Ewan McIntyre
- Eric Robertson
- Jane Robertson
- Pippa Hall
- Jamie Forrester
- Andrew White
- Sally White
- Elaine Ross
- Kenny Maule
- Joanna Best
- Barbara Royle
- Fiona Smith
- +2

Apologies

- Jan + Allan Green
- Susan Christopher
- Jo Waddell
- Lawren Fraser
- Liz Curtis
- Ian Dane
- Elaine Lister
- Pam Maule
- Wendy Robertson Fyfe

AGM

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.00	Welcome	
1.01	Pippa Swan (PS) chaired the AGM and welcomed everybody, especially new faces, to the Harbour Chapel.	
2.00	Minutes of AGM – 10th March 2025	
2.01	<u>Action Items, Amendment and Adoption</u> The minutes of last year's meeting were circulated a year ago for comment/amendments and none were received. All action items were attended to following the meeting and there were no matters arising. The minutes of the AGM were adopted. (Proposed/Seconded: Alasdair Swan/Brian Cox).	
3.00	Chairman's Report – Pippa Swan	
3.01	<u>The Chair's Report</u> for 2025 was presented and is appended to these minutes. The report includes updates on all projects as well as information on the East Beach sea defences and Lamer Street works.	
3.02	<u>Matters arising:</u> a. Amy Divers asked what the group's plans might be to mitigate the anticipated effects of High Street parking controls on private parking	

areas such as Woodbush Place. PS believes from her past role with Dunbar Community Council that parking controls, if introduced at all, will be significantly different from those mooted in May 2025. Access to the southern rail platform is also nearing completion which will change the traffic dynamic into town. It was felt that we needed to wait to see what the impacts prove to be before any action is taken.

- b. **Dog fouling** was again reported to be an issue in our area. ELC do still operate [Dog Watch](#) and people can report directly on line or by phoning 01620 829 917/01620 824305. It was suggested that posting photos on [Dunbar On Line](#) facebook page had also resulted in people being shamed into picking up. This approach is certainly on that people might try.

4.00 Receipt and Adoption of Annual Accounts – Brian Cox

4.01 Annual Accounts

Brian Cox (BC) tabled accounts for 2025/26 and a copy is appended to these minutes.

Accounts were prepared to our financial year end of 31st January 2026 and were reconciled with a surplus of £3054.88. This is comprised of a restricted fund of £1706.8, ringfenced for support of the Playgpark, and an unrestricted fund of £1348.07. A grant of £300 has been received from ELC for our room hire and admin/printing costs.

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 place with the AGM Minutes.

4.02 Matters arising:

- o BC asked that consideration be given to amalgamating the restricted fund into our unrestricted pot. ELC had proved very supportive of maintenance of the Playpark and it was felt that funds could be used well for projects in our area. The proposal was unanimously agreed.
- o Fiona Veitch and Ewan McIntyre have generously offered to continue to host our meetings. PS to write to FV.

BC

PS

4.03 Adoption of Accounts

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

The Accounts were signed by Pippa Swan as Chairman. A copy is addended to these minutes.

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 -

- Chair – Pippa Swan
- Vice Chair – Mike Shaw
- Treasurer – Brian Cox
- Secretary – Louey Glen (in absentia)
- Tenants' Rep – Fiona Veitch

Members -

- Kenny Maule Flood Defence Lead
- Gill Last Facebook Lead
- Max Maxfield Website Lead (in absentia)
- Ewan McIntyre Project Lead
- Mark Cavanagh
- Elaine McGregor

PS will make contact with Louey Glen and Max Maxfield to ensure that they were, in fact, happy to continue in post.

PS

Elaine McGregor offered to continue to seek out and communicate funding opportunities for the group.

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 continued:

1. **Maintenance of Fishermens' Monument**, *per Dunbar Harbour Trust*. Funding will be required for further maintenance coats of limewash, previously contracted to the Ridge. **Alasdair Swan** to lead
2. **Creel Loaders Garden Maintenance**
The Escallonia hedges need an annual haircut in late summer/early autumn. **Alasdair Swan** will seek out additional help when this work becomes due.
3. **Sea Defences**
DSHNG will continue to push for close involvement in any new plans to design new sea defences. **Pippa Swan** to lead, hopefully with support from 5/6 people when the time comes.
4. **Kelp Management**
Louey Glen, Sally White and **Alasdair Swan** will continue to liaise with ELC over kelp removals.
5. **East Beach Seafront Planters and Seating Area**
The seating area and planters have been badly affected by the Lamer Street/sea wall works. Access to the beach is restricted and the beach is largely now, considered to be unsafe.
Lawren Fraser will paint and refresh the barrels when there is safe access to the seating area. Sally White has spoken with Lawren to discuss the planters. PS meet with Lawren to see if she has any ideas for these and will then revert to Sally and Avril.
The East Beach Seaside Award report from last year suggested that consideration be given to bike racks, recycling bins and to changing the perspex in the noticeboard. Again, PS will discuss with Lawren

PS

PS

and form a plan. If anybody would like to help with the planters, noticeboard or bike racks, contact Pippa. Shore_harbour@yahoo.co.uk

6. **Safer Streets Project**

PS felt that the review of Lamer Street and the sea defences might lead naturally to consideration of the longstanding plan to consider how the roads between High St and East Beach might be made safer.

Jamie Forrester expressed an interest in taking a lead on this. PS will discuss with Lawren Fraser, who had previously expressed a wish to take this on, and a plan will be formed.

PS

7. **Colvin Street/Writers' Court Neighbourhood Project**

Ewan McIntyre spoke to this, as project lead. As previously reported, indicative designs have been prepared, following group workshops. The eco-friendly bike store is agreed with ELC and they will install the base and, hopefully, buy the shed. An application for planning consent has been submitted and we hope to have this by the end of June. We will prioritise work on the southern garden, outside the Colvin Street flats, this year. We have been fortunate to have been offered the support of Karin Chipulina of the [Trellis Trust](#) to lead two workshops. The first will be to help us to finalise a workable and sustainable design for a garden that will be managed by the community and the second will be a planting workshop when we hope to create spaces with willow hedging. The costs for these will be £180 each, including travel costs. Dunbar Community Council has declined to support the group in this, which is a huge shame. PS is pursuing other funding channels and if all else fails, the costs will be met by private donation. The project WILL proceed!

Beach Cleans were discussed. Whilst the idea of resurrecting these was attractive, it was felt that the beach was too unsafe at the moment, with all the construction materials and machines, to encourage the public to get involved. Susan Mowatt and Rob v Nues are regular beach cleaners but everybody was encouraged to do their bit if they can – and feel safe doing so.

When the group started, we used to carry out annual **Estate Inspections**. The area was divided up into sections and small teams walked their patch to record their thoughts on what might or should be done to improve their area. In recent years, we have followed Kenny Maule's lead and encouraged people to report infrastructure issues directly to East Lothian Council via their [Report It](#) portal on their website.

PS

(Post meeting note: in post-meeting conversation, there seemed to be some appetite for adopting small areas, as previously. This might include consideration of improvements to the vennels that lead from Church St/Castle St to High Street, many of which are not owned or managed by ELC and could benefit from regular litter picks, lighting etc. PS will try to organize this, so that people can report back at our next meeting.)

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

7.02 Admin Issues

1. **Meetings**

It was agreed that we will meet again in:

June, September, December and March and allow for a further 1 or two project meetings, as needed, in between. Our funds will cover room rental for 5 meetings in total.
Dates to be agreed.

Comm

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 – June – Date TBA**

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
24th March 2026**

Dunbar
Shore and Harbour
Neighbourhood



Welcome to this, our 15th Annual Report for our Tenants and Residents Association.

It feels to me that our move to meet regularly in the Harbour Chapel has fundamentally changed the feel of our group – and very much for the better. 15 years ago, a maximum of 20 of us would sit around a table in this room, as it was then. Gloomy, tired and nothing to cheer the souls...the room, I mean, not the team!

We have met five times since our last AGM, including a session dedicated to the regeneration project at Colvin Street. It has been lovely to see smiling faces!

As a Tenants and Resident's Association we are obliged to meet annually to formally record our work and present our accounts so tonight's gathering will mean quite a lot of talking, mostly from me, I'm afraid. Please do feel free to get up and go the bar at any time to refresh your glasses. Could I also ask you to be sure to sign the attendance sheet at the door, just to help with the minutes. If you are new to the group or you think we don't have your correct email address, please jot this down. No contact details are needed if we have them and they are unchanged. So now to the report stage.

GROUP ADMIN

The elected committee for 2025/2026 was:

a. Chair	Incumbent	Pippa Swan
b. Vice Chair	Incumbent	Mike Shaw
c. Secretary	Incumbent	(Louey Glen)
d. Treasurer	Incumbent	Brian Cox
e. Tenant's Rep	Incumbent	Fiona Veitch
f. Facebook Manager	Incumbent	Gill Last
g. Website Manager	Incumbent	Max Maxfield
h. Flood Resilience	Incumbent	Kenny Maule
i. Project Leader	Incumbent	Ewan McIntyre
j. Member		Mark Cavanagh
k. Member		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. You will hear his short financial report next.

PROJECT UPDATE

East Beach Sea Defences

The breakwaters installed in 2020 did seem to have been doing their job and the East Beach built up steadily over three years. Storm Babet in November 2023, followed by relentless

winter seas, played havoc with the defences and, we believe, reduced them in height by some 1.5m. Coincidence or acts of God, we don't know but the beach has eroded badly since then and, as we know, Lamer Street has taken a series of hits.

We were really sad to see such negative press for ELC and AG Thomson, the Civil Engineering contractors for both have been absolutely brilliant at responding to the series of recent sea wall breaches and road collapses at Lamer Street. The reality is that there has been no cash for anything other than 'responsive' action. The wall have been inspected regularly and were last repaired with pointing in December, before the storms of January and early February. ELC and AG Thomson have both worked incredibly hard and both have really been thinking outside the box to effect repairs. The innovative, net gabions are an example...there to form a temporary buttress to the wall which is deemed to be in danger of rotational collapse onto the beach – and in the formation of the temporary access ramp at the seating area.

The good news is that Tom Reid, Head of Infrastructure at ELC, has stated that ELC are now going to go into battle with Scottish Government, Crown Estates and other stakeholders to make a case for a permanent solution. From our own work with Royal Haskoning DHV and OOBE design, we can estimate that a complete redevelopment with new and additional breakwaters might cost some £10m. We will continue to do all that we can to support ELC in their endeavours and hope and expect to be front and centre of any design brief.

In the meantime, Lamer Street will remain closed to through traffic. In the coming week, signage will be located at the top of Woodbush Brae to stop people trying to drive through to the harbours and yellow lines will be painted on Woodbush Brae and part of Woodbush to leave clear access for emergency and service vehicles. This proposal was consulted on in 2024.

Kelp Management

We had almost no issues with kelp management from the time of the new breakwaters to the partial collapse of same in 2023. Kelp management has proved problematic in the past year as access to the beach has been nigh on impossible with the exposed boulders and a need to bring all plant and machinery in from Golf House Road. Hopefully the new access ramp will mean that when machines DO need to get on to the beach, they can reach the kelp quickly and



economically. Louey Glen, Alasdair Swan and Sally White have been our Kelpies.

East Beach Playpark

Huge thanks go to Max Maxfield for leading on the regeneration of the Playpark. He put a huge amount of work into investigating options for containing new playpark and then liaised with ELC to see that it got done. The end result is just great – so huge thanks to ELC also!



Directional Signage – The Whistling Man

Kenny Maule worked his sign magic again by working with us all to agree a new form of directional signage to replace the dangerous cast iron sign that broke off at the playgarden. The Whistling Man is a joy to behold. The sign was inexpensive to produce and looks great so this may be the way forward for any additional signs that we feel we might need in the future.

East Beach Seating Area and Planters

Avril Nicholson and Lawren Fraser have taken a lead on these two projects and what a difference they have made. Lawren's magical use of her electric drill, saws and paints transformed old planters and tired benches and the seating area and planters have been kept pretty fresh and sparkling over the past summer. The storms have pretty much destroyed the planters now so there is new project on the horizon for anybody who wants to join in and help.



Creel Loaders

The Creel Loaders statue continues to give great pleasure to anybody who passes it. The hedge is a bit dominant now, despite aggressive hair cuts, so there may come a time when the type of hedging needs to be reconsidered. It is working well for now.



East Beach Seaside Award 2025

As a result of all this hard work, East Beach won its 13th consecutive Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Award. We have to continue loving our beach, warts and all, if we are to keep our record intact. 2026 will require us to work on the seating area and noticeboard, consider bike racks and consider the reinstatement of what were hugely fun beach cleans over the summer months. Volunteers needed!



Colvin Street/Writers Court Community Garden



In 2023, we resolved to see what could be done to upgrade the garden ground and derelict playpark adjacent to Writers Court. Two years on and great progress has been made. Great thanks go to everybody who has contributed to the workshops that informed the masterplan prepared, pro-bono, by EMA Architects. Subject to further successful grant applications for materials, plants and seating, we are hoping to build out the southern end of the scheme over the winter 2026/27 by which time our brilliant new eco bike shelter will be in place, offering secure storage for bikes for locals as well as hosting bugs and bees! All hands will be needed on deck!

We have been fortunate to have been offered support from Trellis, a charity dedicated to making 'wellness' gardens and an outreach worker will, with your approval, be invited to talk us through the development of the final designs and the technical aspects of making the garden ourselves. The information boards are on view at the old playpark.



1. New path



2. Bouldering wall



3. Wildlife pond



4. Seating recess



5. Perching bench



- 1. New path
- 2. Bouldering wall
- 3. Wildlife pond
- 4. Seating recess
- 5. Perching bench
- 6. New steps from upper path and slide
- 7. Small trees in planters
- 8. Tarmac area appropriated
- 9. New entry point
- 10. Bike rack with goal / bouldering panel



6. New steps and slide



7. Small trees in planters



8. Tarmac area greened



9. New entry point



10. Cycle rack with goal / bouldering panels



Neighbourhood Watch

The group joined Neighbourhood Watch three years ago. We get regular alerts – mostly regarding scams. We only forward the messages that we think you will read and/or find interesting. Sometimes, information that comes through seems to be a bit of blizzard.

Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership

DSHNG have been members of this overarching panel of community representatives for 12 years now and Mike Shaw continues to attend quarterly meetings on our behalf

Stephen Bunyan Award 2025

Our second award of the year, the Stephen Bunyan Award, was given by Dunbar Community Council to DSHNG in recognition of our 15 years of volunteering in our area – with so many tangible improvements made along the way. It is an incredible accolade for our group, as a whole, and a fitting 'full stop' to my annual report!



P.A. Swan

Pippa Swan Chair

24th March 2026

DUNBAR SHORE AND HARBOUR

NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1/2/2025 – 31/1/2026

1. BALANCE AT CLOSE OF LAST STATEMENT		£5175.49
2. INCOME		
RBS, interest on account	£40.48	
East Lothian Council, grant	<u>300.00</u>	
		<u>340.48</u>
		£ 5515.97
3. EXPENDITURE		
Harbour Chapel, venue hire	£240.00	
Lothian Printers, leaflets	50.00	
EMA, professional services	866.09	
EMA, ELC planning fee	1000.00	
Harbour Chapel, venue hire	250.00	
Fantasy Prints, signage	<u>55.00</u>	
		<u>2461.09</u>
		£ 3054.88

BALANCES AT CLOSE

Restricted Fund

2023/24	balance	£1529.00
<u>Add</u>		
2024/25	surplus on handrail project	<u>177.81</u>
2025/26	balance	<u>£1706.81</u>

Unrestricted Fund

2025/26	balance	<u>1348.07</u>
		<u>£3054.88</u>

Adopted at AGM.
24th March 2026

P.A. Swan

Pippa Swan - Chair.