



**Preston and Abbey Community Trust
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Held at Abbey St Bathans Village Hall
20th February 2025 at 18:30**

Ref	Present: Victoria Dobie (Secretary), Keith Dickson, James Dobie, Ian Repsch. Remote Attendance: Dianne Repsch (Treasurer) Apologies: James Robson (Chair), Pip Chandler Administrative Officer: Kat Chisholm	Action
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. 	
2.	Introductions and Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD noted apologies from James Robson and Pip Chandler. • VD noted that Dianne Repsch would be leaving the meeting early due to other commitments. 	
3.	Conflict of Interest (VD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None were noted. 	
4.	Minutes from Last Meeting (paper attached P1-200225) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved by all Trustees. 	
5.	Action Log Review (paper attached P2-200225) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACT65 (COABP Flyer/Logo): Agreement on a new logo has been obtained. Agreed to close. • PACT70 (PATHS Project): The Trustees agreed to put this action on hold until the Preston Village Hall Project is completed. • PACT78 (Preston Village Hall Project): On Agenda (Item 12). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACT86 (Local Place Plan Update): On Agenda (Item 9). • PACT92 (Review of Accountancy fees): On Agenda (Item 6). Agreement to close. • PACT96 (Mailing list review): DR has had comments back and the updated list will be finalised shortly. Agreed to close. • PACT97 (PACT Member sign up on website): Ongoing. • PACT98 (Changes to ParentSpace course): On Agenda (Item 11). • PACT101 (Aikengall Grant payment): On Agenda (Item 13). • PACT102 (Aikengall Ila Community Benefit): On Agenda (Item 13). 	
6.	<p>Treasurer's Report (DR) (papers attached P3(a-f)-200225)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR circulated, prior to the meeting, the PACT financial statement, projected funds, Aikengall and Penmanshiel spreadsheets for the period 01/04/2024 to 31/01/2025. • The PACT bank balance as of 31/01/2025 stands at £ 248,393.98. • VD noted that that Abbey St Bathans Village Hall had not yet claimed their annual £5000.00 maintenance grant. • The Trustees agreed a further £10,000.00 allocation from the Penmanshiel fund towards professional and consultancy fees with regards to the ongoing Preston Village Hall project. • The Trustees agreed to remove the £6,000.00 general allocation for Preston Village Hall (not approved) from the Aikengall budget. • The previously approved £300.00 towards advanced drivers' lessons for older drivers (65+) was discussed by the Trustees. The organisation of these lessons is not as straightforward as anticipated, and it was agreed to re-visit this proposal in the future but not proceed at this time. <p><i>Accountancy Fees Review</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR completed the review of accountancy fees and the Trustees agreed to retain the current firm of accountants. 	
7.	<p>Website Update (IR/DR/VD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD confirmed that she has spoken to DR with regards to the current PACT membership joining process on the website and what steps could be taken to improve this process. They will report back in due course on actions. <p><i>Website Grant Funding Report (VD) (paper attached P4-200225)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trustees discussed the grant funding report that is made public on the community website. As background VD explained that the initial purpose of putting the list of grant awards on the community website was to inform residents of successful grant applications and activities and to inspire further applications. The added feedback 	VD/DR (PACT97)

	<p>from successful grant applicants was to give local residents more direct feedback on the benefits the grant funding are giving to the local community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trustees discussed what level of information was appropriate for the website and how far reaching the report should be. It was agreed that completed grant awards would be outlined in this report, along with Quixwood community award grants. 	
8.	<p>Community Communications (DR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR reported on the success of the Winter newsletter. The invitation for the Burns supper was included in the newsletter which was a cost savings as no postcards were sent out for this event. • It was agreed that the next newsletter will go out after the completion of Preston Village Hall. 	
9.	<p>Local Place Plan (KD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR not in attendance for this discussion. • KD discussed the feedback we have had from the community over the last few years and the work that has been put into filling in the gaps in the consultations. This has been done with the support of independent consultants Community Enterprise. As part of the work to round up the consultation process for the Local Place Plan, Wendy Reid, VD and KD have worked with Community Enterprise, supported by Connect Berwickshire, in putting together a Local Place Planning Youth Survey which will be asking all young people between the ages of 14 to 25 to share their opinions on what matters to them. A further, separate survey will go out for the 26 to 40 age group. • A local business roundtable event, also part of this further consultation process, was held on Tuesday 18th February at Abbey St Bathans Village Hall. A summary report of the findings from this meeting will be sent to local businesses that were not able to attend. • KD confirmed that the final feedback event is to be a community social and supper on Friday March 7th in the Abbey St Bathans Hall. At this event Community Enterprise will be presenting our ideas and asking for views and priority setting. It was agreed that the costs of the meal would be taken from the fund agreed for the Local Place Plan budget. • In June 2024 the PACT Board agreed to a budget of £6000.00 for Wendy Reid to provide phase 2 of the Local Place Plan which would take the project to the stage of submission to Scottish Borders Council. As Wendy has been successful in securing a £6000.00 grant from Scottish Borders Council for the Community Enterprise costs, no more than £3000.00 of PACT funding is required to pay for Wendy's work and remaining costs. • Additional costs for a summary leaflet/action plan for residents were discussed and the costs to post this out. As Wendy's costs have come in under budget it was agreed that any excess from this budget could be used for the summary leaflet/action plan costs. 	<p>KD (PACT86)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trustees approved an extension to Wendy Reid's contract until the end of May 2025. 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Community Events (DR)</p> <p><i>Burns Supper 25.01.25</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DR summarised the written report she had sent Trustees on the success of the Burns Supper. The event was attended by the maximum numbers that the hall could comfortably handle (47). Bookings were taken in advance and 9 people were unable to book due to the event being fully subscribed. 24 persons were booked onto the coach with 5 pick up/drop off points. The event costs worked out at £15.00/per head with £220.00 from drink sales raised for the Duns Foodbank. <p><i>Community Social and Supper 07.03.25</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DR reported that 11 bookings have been received to date, and it was noted that the bookings have come from residents who have not attended previous events. The Trustees agreed that this was extremely positive. <p><i>Future events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trustees approved £1000.00 towards the costs of a Seniors (65+) Day out at Abbotsford House. This would cover the costs of a coach, tour, admission and lunch for 14/15 persons. It was agreed that each resident can bring a friend and if booking numbers are low that the age range could be lowered. 	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Grant Applications (paper attached P5-200225) (VD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VD advised that there was some work to do on the Quixwood Register within the grant application spreadsheet. VD agreed to update this for the next meeting. <p><i>Grant Applications Subcommittee Activity (paper attached P6-200225)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trustees thanked VD for the update report. VD stated that only one application for funding had been received but there were no major concerns from Trustees as there are often less applications at this time of year. <p><i>25-02-01-PrestonArtGroup (approved by email)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to this meeting the Trustees discussed, by email, the application submitted by the Preston Art Group for the sum of £134.00 to cover costs for the hall rental costs in Duns incurred due to Preston Village Hall being unavailable. The Board approved the application for £134.00 by email on 01/02/2025 with the funds coming from Aikengall. <p><i>24-09-01-DunsArcheryClub (KC – update)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KC advised that the 2 taster sessions for the Duns Archery Club were fully booked and that the club had reported 4 new members as a result. 	<p>VD (PACT103)</p>

	<p><i>23-12-06-ParentSpace (VD – update)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trustees has previously approved funding for ParentSpace courses to be moved to 2025. VD advised that ParentSpace are now planning to run courses in May 2025. The Board had originally approved funding of £1123.00 to run the courses face to face. Revised budget from ParentSpace is now £1374.00 (in person) or £990.50 (online). • The Trustees considered the updated costs and benefits to the community and have approved £1374.00 (in person) or £990.50 (online) on the condition that at least 3 local families attend the courses. The Board also agreed that PACT would assist with promotion of the courses on their channels. <p><i>25-02-02-BorderIceRinkRenewableHeating (papers attached P7(a-b)-200225)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR in attendance for this discussion. • The Trustees discussed the application submitted by Borders Ice Rink who are seeking funding towards a renewable energy heating system. Circa £32,000.00 will be required to cover an air source heat pump and radiator improvements. • The Grants subcommittee recommendation was to approve £5000.00 on the condition that (a) the funds are only being made available when the funding for the solar panels and batteries are in place and the work planned, and (b) they have been awarded the full funds required for the air source pump and pipe works and (c) membership subsidies are in place to offer free coaching for curling and skating for all residents and juniors (under 16's) could join the skating club for free. • The Trustees agreed with the subcommittee recommendations and £5000.00 was approved, to be used by the end of March 2026, and the funds to come from Aikengall. 	<p>VD (PACT98)</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Community Projects</p> <p><i>Preston Village Hall Project (JD) (papers attached P8(a-c)-200225)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JD advised that work was continuing with the project on budget and estimated to be completed in April 2025. • JD discussed some desirable additional items to the project such as the external painting of the building and re-surfacing of the car park. Funds are available from Quixwood and the Trustees approved this in principal subject to quotations circulated to the Board. 	<p>JD/PC (PACT78)</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Wind farm Communications</p> <p><i>Aikengall Ila Community Benefit (VD)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD confirmed that the letter enquiring about community benefit funds from Aikengall Ila was sent to CWP by the Community Council, but no reply had been received. It was agreed that VD would follow this up with Councillor Mark Rowley in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Community Council. <p><i>Recent Aikengall grant payment</i></p>	<p>VD (PACT102)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DR has given JD the breakdown she received from Rob Fryer. JD will pass this onto VD to be shared with the Trustees and to be put on file. <p><i>Funders Lunch January 2025</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VD reported on the successful Funders Lunch in January. A similar lunch may be organised once Preston Village Hall re-opens. 	JD (PACT101)
14.	Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that the proposal to move to meetings every 3 months be added as an agenda item for the next meeting. JD let the Trustees know that an updated progress report will be sent to Community Windpower and Penmanshiel at the end of March 2025. JD wanted to give specific thanks to the Grants Subcommittee for all their hard work. 	
15.	Future Meeting Dates <p>To be held at Abbey St Bathans Village Hall, at 6.30pm on Thursday 17th April 2025.</p>	