



**Preston and Abbey Community Trust
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Held Remotely via Zoom
17th April 2025 at 18:30**

Ref	Present: James Robson (Chair), Victoria Dobie (Secretary), Dianne Repsch (Treasurer), Pip Chandler, Ian Repsch. Apologies: Keith Dickson, James Dobie Administrative Officer: Kat Chisholm	Action
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JR opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. 	
2.	Introductions and Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JR noted apologies from Keith Dickson and James Dobie. 	
3.	Conflict of Interest (VD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 12 (Swimming lessons and Memberships): VD advised that she plans to apply for membership in 2025. DR also advised that she has a current subsidised membership. 	
4.	Minutes from Last Meeting (paper attached P1-170425) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved by all Trustees. 	
5.	Action Log Review (paper attached P2-170425) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACT70 (PATHS Project): On hold until the Preston Village Hall Project is completed. • PACT78 (Preston Village Hall Project): On Agenda (Item 12). • PACT86 (Local Place Plan Update): On Agenda (Item 9). • PACT97 (PACT Member sign up on website): Ongoing. • PACT101 (Aikengall Grant payment): DR agreed to provide the grant payment breakdown to VD for PACT records. Agreement from all Trustees to close. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACT102 (Aikengall Ila Community Benefit): On Agenda (Item 13). • PACT103 (Quixwood update on Grant Applications spreadsheet): On Agenda (Item 11). Agreed to Close. 	
6.	<p>Treasurer's Report (DR) (papers attached P3(a-f)-170425)</p> <p><i>Financial Review</i></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 31/03/2025. • The PACT bank balance as of 31/03/2025 stands at £ 281,047.91). • DR reported that the year-end paperwork for the 2024/5 financial year is ready. The Chairs Report will be sent, along with the financial paperwork, to the accountants and she agreed to liaise with JR and VD on the content for the Chairs report. • DR advised that a meeting will be set up with the accountants to review the year end paperwork and to set a firm date for completion of the accounts. • DR agreed to provide a list of minor underspends for the Trustees. There was agreement to remove these minor underspends and put them back into PACT general funds. • DR agreed to provide an updated Budget for the next meeting in June 2025. <p><i>PACT grant to Abbey St Bathans Village Hall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD reported that the annual grant to the Abbey St Bathans Village Hall has been paid. • JR reported that the Abbey St Bathans Village Hall Trust has been advised by their accountants that an audit is required. JR agreed to liaise with the Village Hall committee and provide guidance as necessary. 	DR (PACT104)
7.	<p>Website Update (IR/DR/VD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updates to the current PACT membership joining process on the website are ongoing. DR will update in due course. 	DR/IR (PACT97)
8.	<p>Community Communications (DR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR is collecting information for the next community newsletter which will be sent out once the Preston Village Hall project is completed in the Summer of 2025. The newsletter will also outline upcoming events in the community calendar (see Item 10 for more details). 	
9.	<p>Local Place Plan (VD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trustees discussed the Draft Local Place Plan (LPP) and Wendy Reid's update circulated to the Trustees prior to this meeting. • Work on the final designed Local Place Plan, and the first designed draft, will be completed by 30th April 2025. The draft plan has been 	KD (PACT86)

	<p>sent to Jess Houghton, Community Place Planning and Regeneration Officer, with a request to respond with any feedback by the end of May 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD confirmed that Community Enterprise submitted their invoice to Scottish Borders Council, for their work to date on the preparation of the LPP, at the end of March 2025. This payment forms part of the £6,000.00 funding agreed by Scottish Borders Council towards the preparation of the Local Place Plan final submission report. • The final draft LPP document will have a 28 day consultation period and a copy of the draft LPP will be sent to all adjoining Community Councils (Duns, Grantshouse, Reston & Auchencrow, Chirnside, Allanton, Whitsome & Edrom, Cockburnspath & Cove, Lammermuir, Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth) and local elected officials (John Greenwell, Donald Moffat and Mark Rowley). • It is anticipated that the final LPP will be submitted to the Scottish Borders Council around the week commencing 23rd June 2025. • The draft LPP outlines community priorities with an interactive map defaulting to the village halls for location for community “priorities”. This has been done until definite decisions and consultations are had on exact locations for the community plans. There was some concern over this and it was agreed that JR and VD will speak to local landowners to ensure they understand why this has been done. 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Community Events (DR)</p> <p><i>Abbotsford House Day Out</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR reported that she is in the process of organising a day out to Abbotsford House which was previously approved - £1000.00 towards the costs for Seniors (65+) and a friend which will cover the costs of a coach, tour, admission and lunch. It was agreed to limit the event to sixteen persons as this was the most practical coach size to book. <p><i>Chain Bridge Honey Farm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR is currently in discussions with the Chain Bridge Honey Farm on a possible day out. It was agreed that this event should be targeted at children due to other events in the community events calendar being aimed at adults. <p><i>Preston Village Hall Grand opening</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trustees agreed that a grand opening of the newly refurbished Preston Village Hall should take place in late June/early July 2025. The Trustees further agreed that DR should obtain an alcohol licence and funds raised to go to a nominated local charity. <p><i>Summer BBQ at Abbey St Bathans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trustees agreed that this should go ahead in Summer 2025. 	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Grant Applications (paper attached P5-170425) (VD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD advised that the updates to the Quixwood Register have been completed to match our records with Point North. There was some 	

	<p>concern that keeping these records up to date wasn't straightforward due to a variety of factors but DR and VD would plan to work together to keep things on track.</p> <p><i>Grant Applications Subcommittee Activity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD stated that only one application for funding had been received but it was withdrawn. • The Trustees discussed the lack of current grant applications. It was expected that after the completion of Preston Village Hall and the Local Place Plan that applications would pick up due to publicity and changing priorities. <p><i>24-05-01-EllemfordShow2024 Final Report (paper attached P6-170425)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report received from the applicants and there were no further comments from the Trustees. <p><i>24-06-02-PrestonKidsArtClub Final Funding Report (paper attached P7-170425)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report received from the applicants and there were no further comments from the Trustees. <p><i>24-04-01-BerwickshireCountyShow Final Funding Report (paper attached P8-170425)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report received from the applicants and there were no further comments from the Trustees. <p><i>Communication with applicants -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trustees discussed communication issues with applicants. It was agreed that DR would add a secondary contact section to the application form to ensure that PACT had more than one contact. 	<p>DR (PACT105)</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Community Projects</p> <p><i>Preston Village Hall Project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trustees discussed the paper circulated by JD prior to the meeting. • Geowarmth have installed the new heating system at the end of February 2025 in order to meet the timeline designated by the grant awarding body. The award has now been paid in full. • As part of the new heating system installation Geowarmth have installed wiring for future solar panels. • Updated quotes for the solar panels and battery have been obtained. The Trustees agreed that an application for funding from CARES should be submitted. • The current completion date for the project is now set to mid-May and the project is currently on budget. • At the last meeting JD discussed some desirable additional items to the project such as the external painting of the building and re-surfacing of the car park. The Trustees approved this in principle subject to quotations. JD is considering which further items may be required. 	<p>JD/PC (PACT78)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed by all Trustees that the Preston Village Hall Committee should use their annual maintenance grant to cover any extras such as cutlery and outside seating. The Trustees discussed the legal and charitable responsibilities each village hall committee have and if changes to the PACT requirements to receive the annual maintenance grants should be considered. The Trustees agreed to consider this at a later date if required. <p><i>Older Drivers Refresher Course</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recently advertised Older Drivers refresher course was a success with a claim for £30.00 made for 2 persons. The Trustees felt that changes could be made to how future courses are publicised with more emphasis on the fact that the course is free and more clarity on the location of the course. It was agreed by all Trustees to set a limit of £300.00 for travel costs for any future course. <p><i>Swimming lessons and Memberships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that VD would ask Quixwood for a £15,000 allowance this year for 12 month memberships with a future approach to Aikengall for funding possible. 	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Wind farm Communications</p> <p><i>Aikengall Ila Community Benefit (VD)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the last meeting VD confirmed that a letter enquiring about community benefit funds from Aikengall Ila was sent to CWP by the Community Council, but no reply had been received. VD followed this up by writing to Councillor Mark Rowley in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Community Council but no reply has been received from the Councillor. The Trustees discussed the best approach to take on this matter going forward. It was agreed that a follow up letter from JR be sent to CWP and if no reply received for PACT to contact our local MSP Rachael Hamilton. JR and VD agreed to circulate this letter for majority approval from the Trustees. VD agreed to investigate the approved planning application and associated documents with the Scottish Government's Energy Consent Unit website and update the Trustees accordingly. <p><i>Penmanshiel annual report (VD) (paper attached P9-170425)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VD confirmed that the annual Penmanshiel report has been submitted. 	<p>VD (PACT102)</p> <p>VD (PACT106)</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed by all Trustees in attendance that meetings would continue to be held every 2 months. 	
<p>15.</p>	<p>Future Meeting Dates</p>	

	To be held at Abbey St Bathans Village Hall, at 6.30pm on Thursday 19 th June 2025.	
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