



**Preston and Abbey Community Trust
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Held at Preston Village Hall
4th November 2025 at 19:30**

Ref	Present: James Robson (Chair), Victoria Dobie (Secretary), Pip Chandler, James Dobie, Scott Holmes, Ian Repsch Administrative Officer: Elaine Burns – stand-in minute taker	Action
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JR opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. 	
2.	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies: No apologies were received. All Trustees were present. 	
3.	<p>Election of Office Bearers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Robson was elected to continue as chair (proposed by VD seconded by JR). JR indicated that he anticipates standing down from the Chair position after one year further year. • Pip Chandler agreed to take on the role of Treasurer (proposed by JR, seconded by JD). It was suggested that paid assistance from a bookkeeper or accountancy firm, could be a way forward in the longer term. IR and PC to liaise about access to the financial spreadsheets. • Victoria Dobie will continue as Secretary (proposed by JR, seconded by PC). 	
4.	<p>Conflict of Interest (VD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that SH is a trustee for Preston Village Hall. • VD agree to send would send induction information to Scott Holmes as a new Trustee • All trustees to confirm their adherence to the new Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest forms. 	

5.	<p>Minutes from Last Meeting (paper attached P1-041125)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no comments made. 	
6.	<p>Action Log Review (paper attached P2-041125)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACT70 (PATHS Project): JD said he is ready to take this forward and will start with information gathering. • PACT78 (Preston Village Hall Project): On Agenda (Item 12). • PACT86 (Local Place Plan Update): On Agenda (Item 10). • PACT102 (Aikengall Ila Community Benefit): On Agenda (Item 13). 	
7.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed to put this on hold until the handover exercise has happened. VD undertook to send copies of the spreadsheets from the last Board meeting to SH for information. • Currently spreadsheets and other files are stored on a googlebox account which IR has set up. PC to have access to files. • The current PACT Triodos Account holds xxxxxx 	
8.	<p>Community Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden tour at The Moorhouse (Ecoflowers) in Abbey St Bathans (25.10.25) was very successful with 12 attendees. • Christmas Wreath making in Preston Village Hall (with Ecoflowers) (06.12.25). A mailchimp to publicise this will be issued shortly. • Christmas Pool Party for children – same format as previous years (07.12.25). This is being organised by PC. • Christmas Social at Preston Village Hall (12.12.25). PC is organising this with support from IR. To be called The Winter Warmer. • Burns Supper, 7-10pm at Abbey St Bathans (24.01.26). IR has agreed to lead on this with support offered. 	
9.	<p>Community Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The summer newsletter has been issued to local residents. No further newsletters are planned until the winter edition, which will include information on the Winter Fuel Scheme* and upcoming Burns Night celebrations. • An opportunity has been identified to include an article or notice in the Duns newsletter to raise awareness of PACT activities and reach a broader audience. The Trustees advised caution on messaging to avoid confusion on eligibility for events and grants. • IR agreed to continue with responsibility for COABP website, temporarily being managed by Keith Dickson. 	<p>* Next meeting</p>
10.	<p>Local Place Plan (VD)</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been submitted to SBC for registration; no confirmation of acceptance has been received as yet. • At the 'Next Steps' meeting which was held to prioritise and allocate projects arising from the LPP it was evident that PACT would need the support of a Project Officer/Community Development Officer. • VD to look into the role and ways of taking this forward, involving all local agencies and knowledge available. 	VD (PACT86)
11.	<p>Grant Applications (VD) (paper attached P3-041125)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD confirmed that the updates to the PACT Grants and Projects Spreadsheet are all listed for discussion below: <p><i>Grant Applications Subcommittee Activity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Applications Subcommittee Activity (VD) – a summary was given on the working of this subcommittee for the benefit of SH. Trustees are content with the current process. • 25-09-01-BotanicalPrintingWorkshops (Email approval 07.09.25 for £360.00 under charitable purpose (f) Advancement of Community Development). Noted by Board. • 25-10-01-InternationalTartansTraining (Email approval 12.10.25 £1400 per course under charitable objective (b) Advancement of Education). In answer to a question about why only women. It was to provide a safe space, but that male young people were allowed on this course. The suitability of all applicants is assessed case-by-case. Noted by Board. • 25-10-02-SpellingtoCommunicate (Email approval 12.10.25 for £975.00 under charitable purpose (b) the advancement of education (for the resident) and (n) the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage (the planned outcome). Noted by Board • Further Funding for the book exchange (£125.00) approved, as part of the Preston Phone Box project. The actual cost of the phone box improvements may have exceeded £125, Trustees approved the further spending and commended the success of the phone box book swap project. • 24-11-01-BerwickshireYouthPipingDrumming (<i>Final Report paper attached P4-041125</i>). The Board acknowledged the success of this project. • 24-06-03-BerwickshireHighLibraryRefresh (<i>Final Report paper attached P5-041125</i>). The Board acknowledged the considerable success of this project. • 25-02-02-BorderIceRinkRenewableHeating (<i>update paper attached P6-041125</i>). It was agreed to extend the funding window on this project by six months. VD to inform applicants • 25-06-01-LanarkLodgeFacilities (approval to timeline changes) because conditions have not yet been met, as the facilities were to be installed by volunteers who were due to meet at the beginning of December, it was agreed to extend the timeline by six months. However, it was noted that Lanark Lodge has already received the approved £3,000. VD to discuss with applicant. 	

15.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><i>PACT subscriptions (IT systems, mailchimp, zoom, dropbox)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board agreed that PC/VD should look into the possibility of a PACT card for use in the case of subscriptions and other similar payments.• It is expected that problems with JR's access to Triodos to authorise payments has been reinstated. <p><i>NNG Windfarm Dronehill</i></p> <p>PC raised a recent communication regarding Community Benefit Funds generated by the off-shore windfarms. These appear to be restricted to the coastline CCs.</p> <p><i>Joint dinner between Trustees and Community Council</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was felt that it would be a good idea to organise such an event	
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