



**ABBEY ST BATHAN'S, BONKYL AND PRESTON
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held by Zoom
on 22nd January 2026 at 7.30 pm**

Ref	Action
<p>Present: K Dickson (Chair & Secretary), V Dobie (Vice Chair), P Chandler (Treasurer), J Dobie, C Dobie, H Goldie-Scot, C Dickson.</p> <p>Guests: K Blacklock, I McCreedy, D Pate, K Wilkie.</p>	
<p>1. Introduction & Apologies:</p> <p>KD welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	KD
<p>2. Monashee Wind Farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A revised planning application for the proposed wind farm at Monashee was submitted to SBC on 21 January 2026. The developer is now proposing a reduction in the number of wind turbines from 4 to 3 and for one of the turbines to be re-sited. All of the turbines are proposed to be at a height of 180 metres. • Comments on the revised application can be made up until 31 March 2026 and the SBC Planning Committee will discuss the proposal on 20 April 2026. It is not clear whether those people who have already made comments need to resubmit the comments again or whether they will be automatically taken into account. • KD agreed to write to SBC to confirm the position regarding comments already made. KD will also draft a communication to go out to residents to update them on the revised application. <p>K Wilkie left the meeting at this point.</p> <p>Trail Bikes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HGS advised that he has written to Police Scotland using the FOI process to request details of incidents logged with them over the last 10 years. HGS confirmed that incidents are still occurring with damage being caused to property within the community. 	KD

3.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Approval of Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of the meeting of 27/11/2025 were approved previously by correspondence. 	
4.	<p>Action Point Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see Action Point Log 	
5.	<p>Agenda Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borders Tree Grant Scheme - CC discussed an initiative which will provide funding of up to £1,000 for the community to plant trees of up to 0.25 hectares. The scheme is open to both the community council/trust and residents and includes tree support and protection. CC agreed it was an initiative that PACT may apply to, although the current deadline of 31 March 2026 may be challenging. It was agreed that the initiative should be advertised to residents via Facebook/Mailchimp and KD agreed to organise this. <p>D Pate left the meeting at this point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preston Cemetery Headstone Repair - KD advised that two quotes have now been received for the repair of 7 headstones at Preston Cemetery. They are £3860 and £4200. So far it hasn't been possible to obtain estimates for the 3 headstones at Bonkyl Cemetery as the ground there is too overgrown. CC agreed that a funding proposal should be put forward to PACT for the headstone repairs at Preston Cemetery. KD agreed to take this forward and to also circulate a document he has which gives more information about the individual headstones Preston Footpath/Track Repair – KD advised that a resident has pointed out that the track requiring repair is classed as a Permissive Customary Footpath and as such SBC should work with the landowner to ensure that any repairs are carried out. SBC has been approached and so far have been non-committal on funding the repair work although discussions are ongoing. CC felt that offering to provide some of the money from wind farm funds might help and KD agreed to include this in the ongoing conversation with SBC. Speeding in Law View/The Anvil Preston – At the last CC meeting Cllr Greenwell agreed to take this issue to the Road Safety Committee. His subsequent advice was to approach a department in SBC that carries out roadworks on an income generation basis. KD advised that he had done this, but his request had ended up back at the original SBC team. He is still in discussion with SBC but it seems unlikely that we will be able to 	<p>KD</p> <p>KD</p> <p>KD</p>

	<p>implement any traffic calming measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Events – VD outlined a recent paper that had been circulated to CC and PACT members regarding how we take forward Community Events. A core team of Victoria Dobie, Ian Repsch and Pip Chandler has been established and the aim is to hold 4 large events each year as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burns Supper; Summer BBQ; Winter Warmer; Children’s Christmas Swimming Party. <p>The core team will work with other volunteers to deliver the events and residents will also be encouraged to organise their own events for which they can apply to ABPCC/PACT for funding.</p> Winter Fuel Support 2026 – KD advised that to date 184 applications had been received which is higher than the total number received in each of the previous years. As the exercise runs until 28 February 2026 there is a concern that we might exceed the funding amount received from Quixwood which was for 200 applications. KD agreed to write to VD with details of the costs to date and an estimate of what the total costs might be and VD will contact Quixwood to seek further funding. 	<p>KD VD</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Local Place Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CC discussed a draft document that had been prepared by VD which takes information from our Local Place Plan and defines a set of deliverable Projects set against a Short, Medium and Long Term timeline. It was agreed this was a very helpful way of setting out what needs to be delivered and that this could be built upon to develop a communication booklet that could be issued to all residents. It was recognised that not everything captured in the Local Place Plan can necessarily be delivered as there are resource and cost implications. Most of the Projects will fall to PACT to deliver and VD will be taking this document to the next PACT meeting for discussion. 	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Chair’s / Secretary’s Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All items covered elsewhere on the agenda. 	

8.	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Triodos bank balance available as of 31/10/25 was £40,877.70. This includes money that belongs to the Preston Community Café and there is a piece of work underway to quantify how much this is. PC has started the process of getting the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 ratified. 	
9.	<p>PACT Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preston Village Hall phase 2, which will deliver the renewable element of batteries and solar panels is underway and will be delivered by the 20 March 2026. VD advised that following on from the next PACT meeting Trustees will be having a discussion regarding the PACT Strategy for the future. 	
10.	<p>Grants Subcommittee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A copy of the latest Grant Subcommittee Report was made available to CC members. 	
11.	<p>Funding Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that CC members had agreed to the purchase of replacement AED pads for the Blackerstone AED by correspondence since the last meeting. The cost was £147.60 and the pads have now been purchased and installed. KD advised that the current Driving Lesson Support Scheme which runs to 31 March 2026 is fully subscribed but another application had just been received. CC members agreed that an additional £200.00 should be added to the scheme and the application accepted. CC agreed that another Driving Lesson Support Scheme should be run from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. KD agreed to prepare a funding application for the next meeting. 	KD
12.	<p>Reports from Grant Recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No feedback has been received from recipients. 	
13.	<p>Resilient Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CD raised a recent issue in Abbey St Bathans where the ice had made it difficult for residents to leave their homes. It was agreed that CC should look to purchase a 	CD

	<p>small number of Yaktrax shoes which could be kept as part of resilience equipment at locations within the community. CD agreed to put together a funding application for the Yaktrax.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was also highlighted that grit is available at Abbey Farm near to the village hall. JD is happy for people to take this on the basis that a funding application will be made to replace the grit if the demand is high. • Once the Yaktrax have been purchased KD agreed to draft a Mailchimp/Facebook communication to advise residents of their availability and to also highlight the location of the grit at Abbey. 	KD
14.	<p>Planning & Licensing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application for planning permission for the erection of a garage block at Cruicksfield House had been circulated to CC members earlier in the month. No comments were received. 	
15.	<p>AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD asked whether it would be possible for employees within the community to be invited to community events. VD advised that this is similar to previous requests for people outside of the community to be invited which has been considered in the past. It was agreed that this is a good idea and should be considered on an event by event basis in the future depending on the availability of places. 	
18.	<p>Dates & Venues of Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 March 2026 via Zoom • 28 May 2026 – Abbey St Bathans Village Hall • 23 July 2026 – Preston Village Hall • 24 September 2026 – Abbey St Bathans Village Hall • 26 November 2026 – Preston Village Hall (to include election and AGM) 	