



Preston and Abbey Community Trust (PACT)

Registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) Charity No. SC046383

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For accounts to financial year end March 2024

Held at 18:00 on Thursday 17th October 2024

Preston Village Hall

Ref	Present: James Robson (Chair), Victoria Dobie (Secretary), Keith Dickson PACT Members: see attached Schedule 1 Administrative Officer: Kat Chisholm (remotely)	
1.	Welcome and Introductions – James Robson (Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Secretary advised the members and Trustees that the AGM was being recorded for minute taking purposes.• The current PACT chair James Robson opened the AGM and welcomed the Trustees and Members. He extended his apologies from the Trustees not in attendance: Pip Chandler, James Dobie, Dianne Repsch and Ian Repsch.• The Chair outlined the purpose of the AGM which was to review and sign-off PACT's financial and year-end report to 31st March 2024, election of the new Board of Trustees and to seek member approval to the resolution to amend the PACT Constitution.• The Chair advised that 2 proxy votes had been received from members.• The Chair extended thanks to current and former board members who served during this period. He also extended thanks to Kat Chisholm for ongoing administrative support, Dianne Repsch for her work as PACT Treasurer, Keith Dickson for his work on the new community website and to James Dobie for his work on the Abbey St Bathans Village Hall resilience project and his ongoing work on the Preston Village Hall refurbishment project.	

2.	<p>Election of Board Trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretary confirmed that 9 Trustees were elected in 2023 with Carol Dickson resigning in 2024. The Secretary extended the Boards thanks to Carol for her contribution. 3 Trustees stood down prior to the AGM as per the constitution: Limor Wolfe, Keith Dickson and James Robson. • The Secretary confirmed that 2 nominations were received: James Robson and Keith Dickson. • It was confirmed that no election was required, and 2 seats remain vacant and the Board now has 7 members: James Robson, Keith Dickson, Victoria Dobie, Pip Chandler, Dianne Repsch, Ian Repsch, James Dobie. 	
3.	<p>Approval: Minutes of last Annual General Meeting: 5th October 2023 and 2nd November 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th October 2023: Minutes approved by all members. • 2nd November 2023: Minutes approved by all members. 	
4.	<p>Chair's Report for Year to 31 March 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair presented an overview of achievements up to the financial year ending 31 March 2024. He outlined his main objectives as Chair – to move the Abbey St Bathans Village Hall from the Trust's balance sheet, to access more capital and co-investment and to make it easier for applicants to access funding especially funding that had not been utilised in the past. • Following the appointment of a new Board of Trustees in April 2023 it was agreed that the Trustees should disburse grant funding, develop Community wide projects, liaise with funders to maximise funding for the Trust and the Community. The Trustees should monitor the Trust's activities to ensure all accounting and records are publicly available and the Trust is compliant with funders requirements and OSCR. • The Trust has funded the re-construction of the Abbey St Bathans Village Hall which was completed in 2022. At the time these works were accounted for as improvements and was reflected as an asset on the Trusts' balance sheet. These hall improvements were gifted to the Trustees of Abbey St Bathans Village Hall (TAVBH) during the year ending 31 March 2024 which seemed appropriate as TAVBH own the ABVH. The Trustees engaged Melrose & Porteous Solicitors to carry out due diligence to confirm the landownership of ABVH and engaged Edwin Thompson to provide a valuation of ABVH. The ABVH valuation was noted at £500,000. Melrose & Porteous confirmed the clear title by the TABVH. TABVH is a registered charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Following the due diligence and the valuation, the Trustees voted to approve the gifting of the improvement's made by the Trust to TABVH. • The Chair reviewed funding used from the Quixwood Open Access and Small Grants Funds where the following funding was distributed: Duns Players £433.00, Duns Amateur Swimming Club 	

	<p>£2,500.00, Duns Community Nursery (core costs) £5,000.00, Sea the Change £2,500.00, Duns Community Nursery (utility costs) £5,950.00, AllSorts Holiday Club £4,588.00, Swimming Membership Subsidy £12,000.00. Funding was approved for Preston Village Hall but the funding had not been paid out at this time of the AGM. PACT assisted with the funding of £10,000.00 for Parents and Friends of Ayton Primary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair reviewed charitable grant funding where the following funding was distributed: Blackerstone Resilience Equipment £4,089.00, Duns Players £860.00, Duns Tennis Club £5,000.00, Duns Swimming Pool Membership subsidy £4,693.00, ABVH Equipment £1,896.00, PVH Architect & Planning £2,516.00, ABVH Maintenance Grant £5,000.00, Re-Tweed courses £5,000.00, Parent Space Courses £1,123.00, Duns Play Fest £5,000.00 and Website & IT £4,252.00 and ABVH Resilience £37,725.00. • The Chair outlined the successful Abbey Village Hall Resilience Project which involved creating a solar microgrid system and EV charging which allows the Abbey St Bathans Village Hall to produce its own electricity, provide electricity during power cuts and provide local car charging facilities. The funding for this project of £37,725.36 was approved by CDCF (Quixwood Wind Farm) and the Abbey St Bathans Village Hall Committee raised a further sum of £37,840 from CARES. • The Chair explained that good progress has been made with regards to the Preston Village Hall refurbishment project. The plans for the hall have been shaped by feedback received at a community consultation and includes remodelling of toilets and kitchen together with landscaping of the grounds to create a seating area. Planning approval has been successful, and the project will commence on 25th November 2024. The bulk of the funding for the refurbishment project will come from the Quixwood Open Access fund which is the accrued underspend from previous years. • A Local Place Plan is being developed for the community and a Team Leader has been recruited to take this forward with the work scheduled to be completed in April 2025. • Informal community consultation events were held both at Preston and Abbey St Bathans village halls to communicate with local residents with regards to the community benefits available for residents and to encourage applications for grant funding. Additionally, the Community Consultation Events gave the opportunity for residents to give ideas of what they would like to happen within the community. Over 200 ideas were provided over the two consultation events which was an excellent step towards further community awareness. A programme of events to support the community and the village halls was a priority, along with better use of the Preston Phone Box and development of medium- and longer-term projects such as improving the local paths. An ongoing priority is to reach out to residents not currently involved in the community. 	
5.	<p>Presentation of Formal Accounts to 31 March 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Treasurer was not in attendance the formal accounts were presented by the Chair and opened to questions. 	

	<p><i>Approval of the Charitable Accounts up to 31 March 2024 –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members in attendance approved the accounts. 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Chair’s report and financial report from 1 April 2024 to date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair outlined progress to date stating that much of the focus of the Board has been on the Preston Village Hall refurbishment project due to be completed in the Spring of 2025. The Financial Summary was made available to members which outlined approved grant funding to date as follows: Duns Players (£860.00), Duns Swimming Pool (£8000.00), Preston Village Hall (£5,357.96), ParentSpace (£1123.00), SWI (£680.10), Preston Phonebox (£685.00), Berwickshire County Show (£1000.00), Ellemford Show (£4043.00), Art Classes for Children (£1240.00), BHS - Parent Council (£1900.00), Duns RFS (£1000.00), Tweedside Debt Advice (£1535.00), Duns Archery Club (£1800.00). 	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Resolution to amend the PACT Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretary outlined that the Trustees had agreed to expand the charitable purposes of our Trust, to enable PACT to approve a wider range of grants and projects whilst remaining within the agreements made with wind farms for the management of community benefit funds. At present, the constitution states that the sole charitable aim of PACT is ‘the advancement of community development’ The Secretary asked the members to consider the Trustees proposal to include the following charitable aims in the PACT Constitution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the prevention or relief of poverty, (b) the advancement of education, (d) the advancement of health, (f) the advancement of citizenship or community development, (i) the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended, (m) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement, (n) the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage. Further minor changes to the constitution were also proposed, to bring the governing rules in line with current operations, and include the changes required for online participation and administration. A copy of the present constitution, and a copy of the proposed new constitution were made available on the Community of Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston website prior to the AGM. The Secretary confirmed that written approval to make these changes had been received from OSCR, Penmanshiel Wind Farm (RES), Quixwood Community Fund (NTR), and Aikengall Windfarm. There was a brief question and answer session with questions over funding restrictions and funding criteria in relation to the proposed 	

	<p>changes. The Board outlined the role of the Grants Subcommittee in working with both PACT and the Abbey St Bathans Community Council to determine funding eligibility and how this joined up approach is benefiting the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PACT Board sought approval for these changes from the Members at the 2024 AGM. The proposed changes to the constitution were unanimously agreed by all in attendance. 	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no other business raised. • The Chair thanked everyone who attended. 	



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MEMBERS ATTENDANCE LIST 17th October 2024

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	IN ATTENDANCE
Keith	Dickson	X
Charlotte	Dobie	X
Douglas	Dobie	X
James	Robson	X
Victoria	Dobie	X
Liz	Macfie	X
Karen	Macleane	X
Lynn	Logan	X
Sharon	Baker	X
Mariam	Patel	X