



Preston and Abbey Community Trust (PACT)

Registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) Charity No. SCO46383

DRAFT MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For accounts to financial year end March 2025

Held at 18:30 on Thursday 4th November 2024

Preston Village Hall

Ref	Present: James Robson (Chair), Victoria Dobie (Secretary) PACT Members: see attached Schedule 1 Minute taker: Elaine Burns	
1.	Welcome and Introductions – James Robson (Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The current PACT chair James Robson opened the AGM by extending heartfelt condolences to Ian Repsch and Dianne's family on her sudden and untimely death and that she will be a greatly missed active member of our community. He also welcomed the Trustees and Members.● The Secretary advised the members and Trustees that the AGM was being recorded for minute taking purposes.● 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 2025, and election of the new Board of Trustees.● The Chair extended thanks to the current board members who served during this period. The Chair also recorded the thanks of all on the Board to Keith Dickson for his considerable contributions to PACT and the community.● The Chair thanked Kat Chisholm for her ongoing administrative support and Elaine Burns for stepping in to take the minutes of this meeting.	

2.	<p>Election of Board Trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was confirmed that 7 Trustees were elected at the 2024 AGM, with Keith Dickson resigning during the year since. Two trustees stood down prior to the AGM as per the constitution: James Dobie and Pip Chandler. • The Secretary confirmed that 3 nominations were received: Pip Chandler, James Dobie and Scott Holmes • It was confirmed that no election was required, and members approved all three nominations unanimously. The Board now has 6 members: James Robson, Victoria Dobie, Pip Chandler, Scott Holmes, Ian Repsch, James Dobie. 	
3.	<p>Approval: Minutes of last Annual General Meeting: 17th October 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th October 2024: Minutes approved by all members. 	
4.	<p>Chair's Report for Year to 31st March 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair presented an overview of achievements up to the financial year to 31st March 2025 <p>Abbey Village Hall Resilience Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A solar microgrid system and EV charging is now installed at Abbey St Bathans Village Hall. The Hall has the capacity to produce its own electricity, provide electricity during power cuts and provide local car charging facilities. Funding for this project of £37,725.36 was provided by Point North (Quixwood Wind Farm) and the Abbey St Bathans Village Hall Committee raised a further sum of £37,840 from CARES. The CARES funding has been fully utilised. Of the Quixwood funding £23,513 has been spent, leaving a sum of £14,212. At present plans are being developed to install a generator which will complete the resilience project. <p>Preston Village Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work started on the refurbishment of Preston Village Hall in November 2024 following full planning approval. The principal funding for this project has been provided by Point North on behalf of Quixwood Moor Wind Farm. In addition a fund backed by the Scottish Borders Council fund known as Community Led Local Development Fund contributed £20,000 towards the heat pump installation, and further contributions towards the refurbishment work have been provided by Aikengall and Penmanshiel Wind Farm funds. • The plans were shaped by feedback received at a community consultation and include full insulation of the older part of the building, remodelling of toilets and kitchen together with landscaping of the grounds to create a seating area. 	

- The heat pump element of the refurbishment was completed by 29 February as planned. Options for installation of solar panels and battery storage are being considered in a second phase of work. It is expected this first phase will be completed by June 2025.

Community Consultations

- The Trust has funded a community worker to develop our own area 'Local Place Plan'. In order to achieve this, three community events have been held to allow residents to express their views, along with consultation of more focussed groups such as business owners and young people. The information gathered has been put together with demographic data and other local considerations to build the plan. PACT successfully applied to SBC for a grant to support the creation of the Local Place Plan which allowed the commission of the company Community Enterprise who wrote and published the plan. The resulting document is lodged with Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and will be an important part of future development plans, as well as guiding our Community Council and Community Trust in making decisions.

Community Events

- Trustees have contributed to a programme of community events, principally led by our Treasurer Dianne Repsch. The Trust has provided funding to support these events, although individual contributions or charitable donations are encouraged depending on the type of event. Community meals have been staged in the Village Halls throughout the year, examples being a Summer Barbecue in the Abbey Hall, A Hog Roast in the Preston Hall and a Burns Supper in the Abbey Hall. Workshops and outings have been organised for groups with special interests. A children's Christmas party has been held in the swimming pool for the last two years. These events provide an opportunity for residents to get to know their neighbours, and come out to socialise. In our scattered rural community it is important for all to have these events.

Community Information and Communications

- A website for the community (www.coabp.org) was launched in March 2024. This is a joint website for the Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston Community Council (ABPCC) and the Preston and Abbey Community Trust. All information regarding the community is held on the new website, including information on the Abbey St Bathans and Preston Village Halls. Community benefits and events are advertised along with information regarding wind farm funding that is available. There is a grant application form which can be completed online to apply for funding for local projects.
- The website has been administered by two members of the Trust, and community mailings are managed by the Trust administrator. Regular mailings are sent to community website subscribers with information on local events, road closures and other matters of local interest.

	<p>The community newsletter continues to be published three to four times per year. This is distributed by Royal Mail to all residences in the area. The newsletter includes invitations to community events as well as updates on the activities of the Trust and the Community Council with information on local events, road closures and other matters of local interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community newsletter continues to be published three to four times per year. This is distributed by Royal Mail to all residences in the area. The newsletter includes invitations to community events as well as updates on the activities of the Trust and the Community Council. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Presentation of Formal Accounts to 31st March 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formal accounts were presented by the Chair and opened to questions. <p><i>Approval of the Charitable Accounts up to 31st March 2025 –</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 1st April 2024 to date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair outlined progress to date. • The Financial Summary was made available to members which outlined approved grant funding to date as follows: Tuesday Art group hall hire (£51.20), Lanark Lodge facilities (£3,000.00), Life Support training (£325.00), Preston Community Cafe hall rental (£300.00), Abbey SWI hall hire (£40.00), Botanical printing workshop (£360.00), Berwickshire County Show (£1,000.00), Ellemford Show (£4,205.00), Ellemford Show industrial section (£500), Tartan International - two workshops (£2,800.00), Spelling to Communicate (£975) <p>PACT activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preston Village Hall completed and grand opening 19th July. Further funding has been sourced for the solar panels which will be added to the roof of the hall , as well as funding for battery storage • Abbey St. Bathans sizzling summer BBQ 19th August, with bouncy castle and children's entertainment. Sell out! • Garden tours at Borders Ecoflowers October 2025 • Our Local Place Plan has been submitted to SBC, a "next steps" event was held 17th September to form a proritised action plan. Thank you to Wendy Reid for her work on this. • Swimming subsidies were provided by Quixwood windfarm this year. Free lessons and subsidised membership was advertised in August 2025 with good uptake. Thank you to Jeni Calder for organising this. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Along with the community council, PACT has taken steps to ensure that the community benefit funds due from Aikengall windfarm are being provided to our community. <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tim Chandler raised the point that there have been a lot of big capital projects, so should we be looking at income-generating activities to plug the gap once windfarm monies have stopped. ● The Chair replied that if a for-profit subsidiary were created by the Trust, this would give greater flexibility of how monies are spent . ● Scott Holmes asked if funds can be accumulated, which they can for a short period. The windfarms are reasonably happy with pace of grants being spent. ● However, it was felt that timescales have to be realistic as it is not always possible to spend monies in one year. ● It was agreed that VD would progress work on recruiting a Community Project Officer, involving DTAS for employment support and seeking local advice. 	
7.	<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

Schedule 1

4th November 2025

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	IN ATTENDANCE
Tim	Chandler	X
Pip	Chandler	X
Joy	Dobie	X
Douglas	Dobie	X
Victoria	Dobie	X
James	Dobie	X
Scott	Holmes	X
William	Laidlaw	X
Wendy	Reid	X
Ian	Repsch	X
James	Robson	X
Richard	Swan	X