




	<p>judgment in their submissions to SBC, KD agreed to check the position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VD advised that there had been communications between the wind farm developer regarding community benefits including shared ownership. It had been made clear to the developer that because of local opposition to the wind farm there was no interest in entering into a shared ownership arrangement and that further discussion on community benefits should be paused until the outcome of the planning application is known.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Jedburgh Convention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CC discussed correspondence that had been received from the Chair of Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham Community Council. The note had been sent out to all SBC Community Councils asking for their support in signing up to a Unified Statement, originally created by Highlands Council.</li> <li>• The Unified Statement seeks to create more focus and coordination around the impact of introducing renewable energy projects within rural areas. Those present at the meeting were in agreement to signing up to the statement, however it was felt that it should also be circulated to all members following the meeting to confirm that there is consensus. KD agreed to arrange for the correspondence to be circulated.</li> </ul>	<p>KD</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Matter Arising</b></p> <p><b>Approval of Minutes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of the meeting of 22 January 2026 were approved previously by correspondence.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Action Point Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please see Action Point Log.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda Items</b></p> <p><b>Annette McGraith – Chief Officer BAVS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annette joined the meeting and provided an overview of the work that BAVS is currently involved in. Although recent communication activity has included mailshots to ABPCC residents there had been little take up from our residents and Annette was keen to understand how this could be improved.</li> <li>• It was agreed that it would be good to have a community event which involved BAVS and they could share the work they are doing with residents and how people can get involved. VD agreed to be the contact point for Annette to discuss how to take this initiative forward.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Preston Footpath/Track Repair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KD advised that he hadn't been able to make progress with this as the contact that he needs to speak to in SBC has been busy with end of year financial activities. It is planned to pick this up again during April. VD asked how many people use the footpath/track, KD agreed to get an estimate of usage from residents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Preston Cemetery – Headstone Repair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On behalf of the CC KD has written to PACT requesting funding for up to £4200.00 to repair seven headstones in Preston Cemetery. A further request for funding to repair three headstones in Bonkyl cemetery may follow in the future.</li> </ul> <p><b>Speeding in Law View/The Anvil Preston</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KD advised that SBC are to carry out a survey of Law View and The Anvil with the aim of installing 20mph repeater signs. No date has yet been given for the work.</li> </ul> <p><b>Insurance Liability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CC discussed correspondence that had been received from a neighbouring CC raising concerns that the insurance cover provided by SBC does not include personal liability for CC members. It was agreed that this is something that should be in place, PC advised that she had raised concerns with SBC and will follow this up.</li> </ul> <p><b>CR1 Repower</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VD has been in contact with Fred Olsen Renewables regarding the impact that the repower of CR1 will have on community benefits. They have confirmed that the June Crystal Rig payment we receive is from Crystal Rig 1, and this is the payment that is likely to stop in 2027, it may be repowered by 2029. The October payment is from Crystal Rig II, and this is expected to continue until 2035.</li> </ul> <p><b>Winter Fuel Payment Review 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CC discussed the Winter Fuel Review Report (embedded here). The exercise had been a great success with 210 payments being made up from 179 in the previous year.</li> <li>• Of the £37,740.00 received for the exercise from Quixwood Wind Farm/Point North a total of £32450.33 has been spent. VD will write to Point North asking how they would like to handle the balance of £2289.67 which currently sits within the ABPCC bank account.</li> </ul>	<p>KD</p>
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	 WF Exercise 2026 Review.docx	
6.	<b>Local Place Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VD advised that the Community Action Plan which CC reviewed at their last meeting had been taken to PACT. There had been a good level of engagement and some changes to the plan were made. VD will meet with KD and Wendy Reid to discuss how best to represent the changes before the document is circulated again to CC/PACT members.</li> </ul>	
7.	<b>Chair's/Secretary's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All items covered elsewhere on the agenda</li> </ul>	
8.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Triodos bank balance at 26 March 2026 is £37022.13. This includes approximately £550.00 ringfenced for Preston Community Café and the £2289.67 balance from the Winter Fuel Payment Exercise.</li> <li>• PC advised that she is also looking of ways to showcase the projects and initiatives that CC has delivered using wind farm funding.</li> </ul>	
9.	<b>PACT Summary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VD and PC gave an update from the last PACT meeting where a strategy discussion had taken place. For the foreseeable future PACT does not envisage taking on any large scale projects or employing a Project Officer. It is felt that the commitment for Trustees, who are all volunteers, would be too great and that the work involved may put off future residents from applying to be Trustees.</li> <li>• Installation of the solar panels and batteries at Preston Village Hall is now complete.</li> </ul>	
10.	<b>Grants Subcommittee Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Grants Subcommittee Report was discussed. VD advised that there was one grant application that had only just been considered by the subcommittee which they felt should be referred to CC.</li> <li>• The application is from a resident who is planning on taking part in a youth expedition to Kyrgyzstan. They are seeking funding of £1000.00 towards an overall cost of £2500.00. The expedition is with an experienced charity and the applicant has various plans in place to raise the</li> </ul>	KD

	balance of funds. CC agreed to the funding and KD agreed to the funding and KD agreed to circulate the paperwork to CC members following the meeting.	
<b>11. Funding Applications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duns Pipe Band – A CC application for £400.00 to support Duns Pipe Band was previously agreed by correspondence.</li> <li>• An extension of the funding available to the 2025/26 Driving Lesson Scheme of £200.00 was previously agreed by correspondence.</li> <li>• An application for up to £2340.00 to create a Driving Lesson Scheme for 2026/27 was discussed by CC. The scheme will operate as in the previous year but will include an option for applicants to apply for the cost of their provisional license if they haven't already purchased this. CC agreed to the application.</li> </ul>	
<b>12. Reports from Grant Recipients</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter of thanks received from Duns Pipe Band for the contribution towards their costs was circulated amongst CC members.</li> </ul>	
<b>13. Resilient Communities Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC advised that she is looking at the possibility of organising a litter pick, this may require some funding which will be the subject of a future funding request.</li> </ul>	
<b>14. Planning and Licensing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two planning applications have been received for comment, one for Primrose Hill Farmhouse and one for the Ex-Telephone Exchange at Cumledge Mill.</li> <li>• No comments were made with regard the Primrose Hill application, however collated CC comments for the Telephone Exchange application were sent to SBC on 01/03/2026. To date no response has been received.</li> </ul>	
<b>15. AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KD advised that the Jim Clark Rally will have a stage that goes through Abbey St Bathans. It was agreed that KD should contact the organiser to obtain a contact number for residents to use if there are any issues or concerns before during or after the rally. KD will also request that a no entry sign is placed at the Blackerstone road end to deter spectators from parking there.</li> </ul>	KD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC noted that we will need to have a funding application for the Duns Summer Festival before the next meeting. KD agreed to prepare this for circulation.</li> <li>• CD asked if CC would support a request for improved broadband access at Abbey Timber. It was agreed that CD would draft a letter that could be sent to KD for issue on behalf of the CC</li> </ul>	<p>KD</p> <p>CD KD</p>
<p><b>16.</b></p>	<p><b>Dates &amp; Venues of Future Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 May 2026 – Abbey St Bathans Village Hall</li> <li>• 23 July 2026 – Preston Village Hall</li> <li>• 24 September 2026 – Abbey St Bathans Village Hall</li> <li>• 26 November 2026 – Preston Village Hall (to include AGM)</li> </ul>	