Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston

Community Council

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held at Preston Village Hall on 27 July 2026

Ref	Present	Action
	K. Dickson (Chair & Secretary), P Chandler (Treasurer), V Dobie (Vice-Chair), H Goldie-Scot, C Dickson.	
1.	**Introduction & Apologies** KD welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from C Dobie, J Dobie and Cllr D Moffat.	
2.	**Trail Bikes at Monynut** • HGS confirmed that residents would welcome a meeting with Police Scotland to discuss the ongoing issues with off road bikes and damage to property. KD agreed to write to the Police Scotland contact and seek dates for a meeting either in early August or late September 2026. **Timetable for ABPCC Election** • KD advised that an election for ABPCC is required before the end of 2026. CC agreed that this should be held as part of the AGM scheduled for 26 November 2026 and that Cllr Moffat should be asked to fulfil the role of Returning Officer. KD will contact Cllr Moffat and will also work up a timeline for the election process in conjunction with SBC. • CC discussed the opportunity to recruit new members as part of the election process and agreed a communication note should be drafted for issue via Mailchimp and Facebook seeking expressions of interest. Anyone interested will be invited along to the September 2026 CC meeting so they have a better idea of how the CC operates. KD agreed to draft the note.	KD KD KD

3.	**Matters Arising** **Approval of Minutes:** • Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2026 were approved previously by correspondence.	
4.	**Action Point Updates** • **No 247 Preston Headstone Repair** – VD advised that Point North (Quixwood Wind Farm) has agreed to fund the repair work to seven headstones in Preston Cemetery. KD will draft a note for issue via Mailchimp/Facebook to notify residents and give anyone with concerns the opportunity to discuss this with the CC before work starts. • **No 250 Preston Footpath/Track Repair** – No further repair to the track was carried out by SBC as part of the recent resurfacing of the A6112. KD to seek written notification from SBC that they do not have responsibility to maintain the track. KD to obtain further information from residents on the number of people using the track before seeking estimates for the repair work. • **No 270 Jim Clark Rally** – KD has written to one of the rally organisers on two occasions regarding vehicles speeding on the road through Abbey St Bathans during the recce stages. As no response has been received it was agreed that KD should ring the organiser. • **Blackburn Mill Wind Farm** - KD wrote to SBC who confirmed that planning permission was granted and this was subject to the concerns raised by ABPCC being addressed before the work commenced. KD also wrote to the developer who advised that due to difficulties in obtaining grid connectivity it is unlikely that any further work (including addressing the issues raised by ABPCC) will be taken forward until late 2026. Action Closed.	KD KD KD

5.	**Agenda Items** **Duns Summer Festival:** • KD advised that the Rosettes were presented to the Ride Out on 11 July 2026 and had been gratefully received. PC who was in attendance had taken photographs which will be added to the COABP website. **ABPCC Safeguarding Policy**: • CC discussed the ABPCC Safeguarding Policy document which had recently been circulated and signed off by all members. HGS advised that was potential to improve on the document and agreed to provide a further draft for consideration when the document is due for its next review. **Footpath Maintenance Grant 2026/27:** • CC discussed the Footpath Maintenance grant of £600.00 which is offered by SBC. It was agreed that an application in principle should be made and that it could be used towards the track repair in Preston or the wider footpath projects that PACT is considering. It was noted that all invoices need to be returned to SBC by 18 December 2026. • KD agreed to advise SBC that CC will be making an application.	HGS KD
6.	**Local Place Plan** • KD advised that Community Enterprise were ready to move forward with the Community Action Plan (CAP) based on the content that had previously been discussed and agreed by CC. They have requested that a forward to the document is produced and KD has issued a suggested format to Wendy Reid and VD for consideration. • It was agreed that KD and VD should meet to discuss the forward in more detail before circulating this to CC and PACT. CC members thought that it would be good to have the CAP ready ahead of the PACT and CC AGM's. (PACT 10/26, CC 11/26)	

7.	**Wind Farm Updates** **Quixwood Meeting Feedback:** • VD provided feedback from a recent meeting that she had attended with Point North. The agreement that is in place between PACT/Grantshouse and Quixwood Moor Wind Farm is coming up to the 5 year review point. No major changes are envisaged to the way in which the money is allocated, however it is planned to include a provision to allow ABPCC to go independently to Point North for funding. • It was agreed that this makes sense given the different parameters that exist between CC and PACT for using funds, however it was also agreed that CC should consult the chair of PACT before any request for funding is made. • VD will circulate the draft agreement once it is received from Point North. **Crystal Rig Meeting Feedback:** • VD, PC and KD provided feedback from a recent meeting that had been held with Kris Thacker the Fred Olsen Renewables (FoRs) Communications Manager. CRIV is now on stream and has been producing power since May 2026. VD advised that an agreement would be issued for signature shortly and the ABPCC income from CRIV will be £28,800 per annum. • The plan is still to decommission CR1 in 2027 and to replace this with larger turbines in 2029, however this is still subject to planning approval. **Monashee/Windshiel Wind Farms:** • KD advised that correspondence has been received from one of the Monashee residents expressing disappointment that the CC had not written directly to SBC to object to the development. KD explained to the resident that the CC chooses to take a neutral position as there are some people in the community who are very supportive of wind farm development. • The approach taken had been one of facilitation and communication, ensuring that as much information as possible was made available to all residents and connecting the residents most impacted with Councillors and our MP and MSP.	

	• CC agreed that they were content with the approach that had been taken and to follow the same approach with the Windshiel development once the formal application was received. It was noted that with hindsight it may have been helpful to make the CC position more visible and that we should aim to do this through the Chairs Report at this year's AGM. This should also highlight that any residents who feel the CC should take a more direct approach to renewable planning applications are welcome to join the CC.	
8.	**Chair's/Secretary's Report** • The COABP Mailchimp/Facebook administrator has recently been approached by a resident who was looking to advertise their business through those channels. PACT has discussed this request and felt that it wasn't something that they would be comfortable with but that there may be an option to include local businesses on the COABP website. • CC agreed that this would make sense and noted that there are already some businesses in the wider area listed on the Things to Do/Key Contacts pages. KD agreed to speak to Ian Repsch the COABP website administrator to look at options for including community businesses.	KD
9.	**Treasurer's Report** • The Triodos bank balance as of 27 July 2026 is £32,730.77. • PC confirmed that the ABPCC financial summary for the year to 31 March 2026 is now ready for independent validation.	
10.	**PACT Summary** • Aikengall 2a Wind Farm funding of £180,000 has now been received into the PACT bank account. This covers the period from 2021 to date. Further discussions are taking place with the wind farm owner to establish how the amount has been calculated. • PACT has recently transitioned to the Xero accounting system which will create greater resilience and make the end of year accounts easier to produce.	

	• The next big project for PACT will be the car park at Preston Cemetery. An informal agreement has been reached with a landowner to rent a piece of land next to the cemetery and it is hoped to tie this in with work on footpaths around Preston village.	
11.	**Grants Subcommittee Report** • The Grants Subcommittee report was discussed by CC members who noted the recent applications that had been referred to PACT for consideration.	
12.	**Funding Applications** **Community Beekeeping Abbey St Bathans** • The application for support to purchase beekeeping equipment previously agreed by the CC has now also received FoRs approval. It was noted that some of the receipts for the equipment pre-date the approval, but CC were happy that this was because the applicant had needed to progress with the project to meet their own deadlines. **Preston Community Café** • A request for £300.00 to cover the hall hire costs for Preston Community Café was previously agreed by correspondence. **Pedi Pad Replacement – Cockburn Farm** • CC agreed to the funding application for £147.60 to cover the cost of replacement Pedi Pads for the Cockburn Farm AED. **Berwickshire Churches Together** • CC discussed a funding application for a contribution of £50.00 towards the costs of an event at Berwickshire Show. It was noted that one of the potential other funding streams may not be able to make a decision in time for the event and CC agreed to increase the offer to up to £150.00 if required.	
13.	**Reports from Grant Recipients** • No reports had been received from grant recipients.	

14.	**Resilient Communities Update** HGS provide the following updates from the Abbey St Bathans Resilience Group: • A visitor to Abbey St Bathans was recently stung by a wasp and had a severe allergic reaction. They were treated quickly by the Scottish Ambulance Service and fully recovered. This prompted the resilience group to look at whether epi pens could be purchased for the community, but this is not possible. • There is currently a high risk of fire within the community, a risk assessment is to be carried out in Abbey and warning notices have been placed around the village. • There have been further issues with the water supply at Abbey St Bathans, a back up plan is now in place to ensure there is no break in supply to properties.	
15.	**Planning and Licencing** • There were no planning or licencing applications for discussion	
16.	**AOB** • There were no items raised under AOB.	
17.	**Future Meeting Dates and Locations** • 24 September 2026 – Abbey St Bathans Village Hall • 26 November 2026 – Preston Village Hall (to include AGM)	