Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston

Community Council

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held at Abbey St Bathans Village Hall on 28 May 2026

Ref		Action
	Present: K. Dickson (Chair & Secretary), P Chandler (Treasurer), C Dobie, H Goldie-Scot, C Dickson, Cllr D Moffat. **Guest:** K Blacklock.	
1.	**Introduction & Apologies** KD welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from V Dobie and J Dobie	
2.	**Trail Bikes at Monynut** • HGS highlighted that the FOI data received from Police Scotland regarding the incidents logged for off road bikes was incomplete. This, coupled with the recent theft of gates from the area has led residents to lose confidence in Police Scotland. Cllr Moffat advised that several motorbikes were confiscated by Police Scotland on 18 March 2026 but he did not have any update on what action had been taken against the individuals. He also highlighted that Police Scotland were considering installing cameras at some of the locations where off-road bikes are being ridden • CC agreed that a meeting between residents and Police Scotland would be a good way forward and would hopefully be a starting point to restore confidence. HGS agreed to contact residents most impacted to see if they would be agreeable to this and if they are KD agreed to set up the meeting with Police Scotland.	HGS KD

	Dog Fouling at Preston • KD advised that correspondence had been received from a Preston resident highlighting that dog fouling is still an issue at various locations within the village. The resident asked if it would be possible to have notices placed throughout the village. CC agreed in principle to fund signage if SBC were unable to do so. KD agreed to write to SBC and to update the resident.	KD
3.	**Matters Arising** **Approval of Minutes:** • Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2026 were approved previously by correspondence.	
4.	**Action Point Updates** • **No 161 Glass recycling Facilities** – KD advised that a note has been drafted for issue to residents explaining why kerbside glass recycling is not possible and setting out where the nearest facilities are. CC agreed to close this action point but asked to raise another action point in relation to the recycling centre in Duns being closed on bank holidays. KD agreed to take this up with SBC. • **No 247 Preston Headstone Repair** – KD advised that PACT has now agreed to request funding from Point North (Quixwood Wind Farm) for the repair work to seven headstones in Preston Cemetery. • **No 250 Preston Footpath/Track Repair** – KD advised that SBC has repaired approximately 2/3 of the track as part of the recent repair work to the A6112. Discussions are ongoing to see if the remainder of the track can be repaired when further work on the A6112 is carried out in June 2026. • **No 253 Traffic Calming in Law View/The Anvil** – KD advised that the 20 mph repeater signs were installed by SBC on 17 April 2026. CC agreed to close this action. • **No 268 KD to issue the Unified Statement to CC members** – CC member agreed to sign up to the statement which is embedded here.  Letter to Rural CCs.docx	KD

	• **No 270 Jim Clark Rally** – Residents from Abbey St Bathans reported a number of vehicles driving at high speed during the "recce" phase of the rally. KD agreed to pick this up with the organisers.	KD
5.	**Agenda Items** **Duns Summer Festival:** • KD advised that the Rosettes had now been ordered for presentation during the Ride Out on 11 July 2026. It was agreed that P Chandler and K Dickson would attend to make the presentations.	
6.	**Local Place Plan** • KD tabled an updated version of the Community Action Plan (CAP) which is a lower level plan derived from the Local Place Plan. The document has been prepared by VD following a discussion with Wendy Reid and KD. • CC were happy for this to be taken to the next stage which will be Community Enterprise preparing a draft of the CAP for further review and sign off before it is issued to all residents.	
7.	**Wind Farm Updates** **Monashee** • KD advised that the SBC Planning Committee will be considering the Monashee Wind Farm application on 1 June 2026. The recommendation from the SBC planners is to reject the application. **Quixwood Proposed Extension** • CC discussed correspondence received regarding an extension to the operating lifespan of Quixwood Wind Farm from 2042 to 2052. Members agreed that this made sense as it does not require any new infrastructure but that any further developments to change the scope of the wind farm i.e. to change the number or size if turbines need to be carefully monitored. **Windshiel Proposed Planning Application**	

	• The Proposal of Application Notice for a wind farm at Windshiel was discussed. Although not a requirement at this stage a public event had been held and was attended by CC members. The positioning of the four turbines wasn't included in the event material but is now available on the website at www.windshielwindfarm.co.uk • KD advised that correspondence has already been received from two residents concerned about the development. It is anticipated that this will become a standing agenda item once the formal planning application is lodged. **Blackburn Mill Proposed Wind Farm** • KD advised that the Blackburn Mill Wind Farm was granted planning approval in 2024 although no formal notification had been received from either SBC or the developer. As CC had raised questions at the planning stage KD agreed to write to both SBC and the developer for updates. **Blackhill Wind Farm Community Fund** • CC discussed the latest agenda from the Blackhill Wind Farm Community Fund meeting. They commented positively on the breadth of applications with some significant awards being made.	KD
8.	**Chair's/Secretary's Report** • All items covered elsewhere on the agenda.	
9.	**Treasurer's Report** • The Triodos bank balance as of 27 May 2026 is £35,642.16. • PC advised that actions to submit the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 for scrutiny are developing well. • Documentation to process the annual SBC Maintenance Grant has now been received and will be processed. Once the accounts are approved.	
10.	**PACT Summary**	

	• Ian Repsch has agreed to do the next COABP Newsletter, if anyone has any content they should pass it to Ian. Details of the Summer BBQ to be held on 15 August 2026 at Abbey St Bathans will be included in the Newsletter.	
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** **Duns Summer Festival** • CC had previously approved a Patronage of £300.00 to Duns Summer Festival by correspondence. **Kyrgyzstan Youth Expedition** • CC had previously approved an individual grant of £1000.00 for a resident to take part in the youth expedition. This has now also been approved by the wind farm owner Fred Olsen Renewables and an offer letter issued to the applicant. It was noted that the correct terminology should be the Kurdish Republic rather than Kyrgyzstan. **Community Beekeeping Abbey St Bathans** • CC discussed an application for support to purchase beekeeping equipment and agreed to offer 60% of the cost of items listed in the application on the basis that the purchase if second hand equipment should be encouraged. The offer would also have the following conditions: • That the applicant organises a community event such as a workshop, led by an experienced beekeeper. This could be supported with additional funding if required and approved; • Beekeeping as a community activity would not be supported by ABPCC unless supervised by an experienced beekeeper; • ABPCC expect the hive(s) to be managed in accordance with recognised good beekeeping practice, including appropriate mentoring, disease monitoring, biosecurity, and	

	an integrated pest-management approach in which any treatments or controls are proportionate and used responsibly.	
13.	**Reports from Grant Recipients** • No reports had been received from grant recipients, however CC reviewed the 2025 Report of Grants Made by both ABPCC and PACT which is now available on the COABP website.	
14.	**Resilient Communities Update** • PC updated CC on the work currently being undertaken to upgrade the electricity supply at Preston and Cumledge Mill. Good progress is being made and it is hoped this will improve resilience for residents.	
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** • 23 July 2026 – Preston Village Hall • 24 September 2026 – Abbey St Bathans Village Hall • 26 November 2026 – Preston Village Hall (to include AGM)	