

**ABBEY ST BATHAN'S, BONKYL AND PRESTON
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Preston Village Hall
25/08/16 at 7.30 pm**

Ref	Present: D. Morrison (chair), T. Kerr, P. Chandler, V Dobie, E Lipscombe, G. Walker, Cllr J Greenwell, Guests: Jock Wilson-Smith, Barbara Morris, Heather Waldron, Alastair Hart, Betty Snow, Fiona McDougal, Sharon Baker.	Action
1.	Apologies: W. Reid, J. Dobie	
2.	Guest Speakers. <u>Fiona McDougal</u> gave an update on LEADER. This section of funding will be shared between Community Projects, Farming Diversification, Cooperation Fund and an Enterprise Fund. There are set criteria for these grants, including some match funding, training, safeguarding jobs, developing innovative ideas and improving rural deprivation. Public consultation is identifying areas of need: 1) Developing the economy, 2) Reducing inequality and 3) The impact of low carbon economy. Applicants should initially register an interest via the form, on the Scottish Rural website. FM and colleagues would then be available to advise on the complex process of application. The board meet quarterly in November, January, May and August to discuss projects. At this stage there is no known risk from Brexit. The website has further information including ideas for farmers seeking ways to diversify.	
3.	Bunkle & Preston History Group: <u>Betty Snow, Barbara Morris and Heather Waldron</u> outlined plans to further their current research into Bunkle and Preston by looking for the lost village of Bunkle. Chris Bowles has not only expressed an interest in the project but also offered his support. Initial findings from metal detecting, archival research and LIDAR pictures suggest further investigation of the area, hopefully over the next 9 months. The group are seeking a grant to cover the cost of a geophysical survey and to offer educational opportunities for adults and children. CC members suggested putting the survey out to tender but BM said the company was well respected and the quote was deemed acceptable by two local archaeologists. Other suggestions included having links to similar history groups and investigating other historical sites in the area. The former has already been done and the latter will be considered at a later stage. If the bid fails, a second smaller bid of approximately £300 will be submitted to pay for the preliminary survey work already carried out.	
3.a	<u>Sharon Baker</u> , treasurer of Lammermuir Pastoral Society, talked about the costs (£1060) involved in running the Lammermuir show and also hiring a bus for guests following the traditional end of show dance (approx £200). PC suggested splitting the bid so the smaller amount for the bus hire could be approved at a local level. Other funding sources have also been approached.	
4.	Approval of Minutes: Stewart Faed's name was incorrect on some copies of the minutes. The date and venue of the August meeting should read 25 th not 23 rd . Minutes approved. Proposed by VD and seconded by PC	
5.	Matters Arising: Defibs; There were no objection to VD 's application for VAT so purchase was approved and the machines have arrived. Crystal Rig will now be approached to fund cabinets and training. Using the phone box to house the defib. is being considered, once ownership has been clarified and the electricity supply approved. Joy Dobie has expressed her willingness to take responsibility for the box.	

	VD said Quixwood have offered a guided tour.	
6.	Police Liaison: PC has emailed all current information. JWS said the police should be congratulated on sending the information out to CCs. DM noted that the tarmac sellers have again been in the area but offering tarmac for sale is not deemed to be a crime.	
7.	Sub groups: 1. Resilient Communities: To be kept on the agenda 2. Wind Farms: The agreement with RES has been signed and each CC has an individual mention. There is a form to be completed before the first payment is released and some issues around the setting up of the trust and bank accounts have still to be resolved. Quixwood is progressing well and all local road closures have ended. The next deliveries are due between 5 and 6 am in early September. VD reported that the other CCs have objected to the Begreen shop benefitting from a change in Aitkengall 2's offer of £50000 instead of £25000. VD has asked the MSP to arrange a meeting to improve communication as APBCC had no reply from Community Windpower. DM said that everyone in East Berwickshire will be able to apply to Begreen from Christmas Eve 2016 or as soon as the site is commissioned. 3. Community Consultation: No one present. Still waiting for OSCAR to respond with charity number.	
8.	Chairman's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair has spoken to Scottish Power about the recent cuts. The chair was told that a major refit was due in this area in 2018 but Scottish Power were trying to bring this forward. • John Lamond has advised that Vodafone have offered an opportunity for a sure signal box to be fitted at a community hub ie. Doctors or Dentist surgery. A windfarm company new to ABPCC, called LE20, has submitted an application for 8 turbines at Grantshouse. CC members should follow the link online where they can respond individually but also submit comments to DM to inform a Community Council response. DM pointed out that responses must be on planning matters only. 	
9.	Treasurer's report: 'Coming up for Air' have secured match funding of £7100, & therefore the balance from Crystal Rig has been paid to them. 10 facilitators have been fully trained and 2 more are pending. There is to be a Teenage Years course in Abbey this autumn. The path to the De La Bastie monument has not been strimmed this year. PC suggested we set up an annual payment for this to be done and reclaim the grant in retrospect. PC suggested paying the Website fee of £30 +VAT as an annual payment as the system was working well. DM will check what this payment covers. DM expressed his willingness to be co-opted onto the council to run the website when his term of office is finished. £7000 has recently come in from Crystal Rig. No 1 a/c is £688.35 and No 2 a/c is £81,231.68. WR has seen and approved the accounts. They do not give an exact match to the bank statements due to accountants rounding up and rounding down. The accounts were proposed by G W. & seconded by EL.	
10.	Secretary's report: There is no secretary. Circulating information by email continues to be successful.	
11.	Funding Applications; in order received VD asked if Applications could be dealt with separately from CC meetings as presentations are necessarily time consuming. PC said this month was busy due to the length of time since the last meeting. DM relayed an email from	

	<p>Steve Jack explaining how Involving Everyone was working. SJ asked that liaison now goes through the Headteacher as she is managing the scheme. VD suggested releasing £1000 per year over three years as Lammermuir CC do. The money is only to be used for children from our area. WR has said that parents should be made aware that this is wind farm money.</p> <p><u>Preston Stitchers</u>; Transfer of grant to Preston Stitchers form Quilting Group. No objections (via emails). Original grant, less monies paid out can now be transferred from the Quilting group to Preston Stitchers. (£1100.00 minus £294.00 =£806.00)</p> <p><u>Bunkle & Preston History Group</u>; Approved</p> <p><u>Berwickshire County Show</u>; Approved. Other CCs are also being asked to contribute</p> <p><u>Ellemford show</u>; Approved (DM abstained) Note; £200.00 of for the bus travel grant subject to the bus hire going ahead.</p> <p><u>PACT</u> Postponed as James Dobie not present.</p> <p><u>CAUS water project</u>: The new estimates show major increases and will need to be discussed more fully at the next meeting.</p>	
12.	<p>Potholes at Blackerstone are worsening, Cllr JG will look into this at SBC</p> <p>Cllr JG gave an update on the early success of settling two refugee families into Galashiels. Each local authority is accepting a small number of refugee families, who are vetted 3 times before being allowed entry. JG stated that refugees should not be confused with migrants.</p>	
13.	<p>Planning and Licensing Applications: None</p>	
	<p>Date and Venue of Next meeting: 22nd September Abbey St Bathans Village Hall. 7.30pm. 27th October Preston Village Hall 7.30pm</p>	