

**ABBEY ST BATHAN'S, BONKYL AND PRESTON  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Preston Village Hall  
27/10/16 at 7.30 pm**

Ref	Present: D. Morrison (chair), P. Chandler, V Dobie, G. Walker, Cllr J Greenwell, Cllr D Moffat Observers: Alastair Hart	Action
1.	<b>Apologies:</b> W. Reid, J. Dobie, , E Lipscombe, T Kerr, V Kerr	
2.	<b>Approval of Minutes:</b> The name Matthewson was corrected. Minutes approved. Proposed by <b>VD</b> and seconded by <b>DM</b>	
3.	<b>Matters Arising:</b> <b>Cllr JG</b> has been in touch with SBC about the number of potholes still remaining. He has been assured that the road is on the list awaiting repair. <b>VD</b> said white lines may be drawn at the edge of the new road once the drains are levelled and the road adopted by SBC. The repaired road is part of a designated walking route and being now much faster, may need hazard warning signs. The SBC will not consider siting a mirror at the junction because of the danger of the suns reflection dazzling drivers. <b>DM</b> said SBC will not be repairing potholes at Monynut. Drivers avoiding them are now causing damage to verges. <b>GW</b> suggested everyone copy Cllr <b>DMs</b> idea of photographing particularly bad areas of road. <b>Cllr JG</b> has successfully used the website 'Fix my Street' and suggested a link be put on the CC website. <b>VD</b> is aware of complaints about mud on the road. <b>PC</b> showed the leaflet giving guidelines for cleaning roads at the end of each working day.	
4.	<b>Police Liaison:</b> Nothing to report, report forwarded.	
5.	<b>Sub groups:</b> <b>1. Resilient Communities:</b> Continue as last minute. <b>VD</b> and <b>PC</b> discussed training dates for the use of the defib machine and establishing the electricity supply to the box. <b>2.Wind Farms:</b> Martin Sweeney from Quixwood has offered to come to the next meeting and update CC members on progress. <b>VD</b> suggested <b>MS</b> only needs to meet with the windfarm group rather than take up CC time. <b>MS</b> is to be commended on his cooperation and willingness to communicate. The CC is still awaiting a date from Aitkengall 2 regarding Heads of Terms following their agreement on share allocation with the CC. Aitkengall 2a has been approved so a further 19 turbines will be erected. An objection from our CC has been lodged against LE20 but Reston and Coldingham have yet to respond. Questions were raised about the large number of turbines in the area and the likelihood of soon reaching a saturation point. <b>Cllr JG</b> pointed out that the present government is in favour of more turbines and needed to visit the area to see their impact. <b>Cllr DM</b> said quite a number of planning applications are refused by SBC but are later approved by the government. Both councillors said application numbers may decrease as subsidies change or get withdrawn. <b>3.Community Consultation:</b> James Dobie, on behalf of PACT is not putting in an application for initial tender work on the hall. Work is currently being done to open bank accounts as PACT is set up but progress is slow.	
6.	<b>Chairman's Report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DM</b> attended a recent meeting of the digital forum with Callum</li> </ul>	

	<p>Kerr. He reported on a comparable project down south which was going well but was easier to implement geophysically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband implementation may be delayed due to post codes being dropped from information.</li> <li>• <b>PC</b> has explained our reasons to keep the local phone box and these have been noted by Douglas Scott at SBC. <b>PC</b> and <b>WR</b> may meanwhile remove the ivy from the box.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Treasurer's report:</b> <b>PC</b> clarified some recent CC account activity which was dealt with in cash, then a cheque issued in refund to herself for the cash. CC members understood and approved the steps taken.</p> <p><b>PC</b> suggested buying flowers to thank Barbara Ego for her sterling work on the Preston flower tubs– this was approved.</p> <p>A/c No 1 £748.35. A/c No 2 £69443.68.</p> <p>The accounts will be prepared for inspection at the next AGM.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Secretary's report: There is no secretary.</b></p> <p>There has been a request for hosts to help with the next walking festival, applications should be in by mid December. <b>Cllr JG</b> noted that there was a lot of work involved but the festival brought in a lot of money.</p> <p>Any comments on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Plan for 2018 should be made immediately.</p> <p>The Marden/De La Bastie bridge has always been considered a public right of way but the ranger has said this is not the case. The signpost has been removed by an unknown person and the path has not been strimmed. The bridge has recently been assessed and deemed in need of repair. This may not be financially viable. <b>PC</b> asked that the CC be kept informed about any decisions as the CC has a responsibility for the path. <b>DM</b> said he would present the bill for last year's strim for information. <b>DM</b> said he would present emails and maps from the previous outdoor ranger showing all paths in our CC area.</p> <p>There has been some interest on the website regarding the AGM. Several suggestions were brought forward about possible new councillors and it was noted that anyone applying must have an electoral roll number. This can be obtained from SBC.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Funding Applications; in order received</b></p> <p><b>VD's</b> application for money for training in the use the defib machine was approved. The trainers will be given a small token of appreciation.</p> <p>The cheque for the generator can be paid. Craig Potter from Natural Power said that if replies hadn't been received within 20 days the CC can assume approval.</p> <p>Hannah is no longer in charge of Crystal Rig. There has been no reply to a request for contact details of who is now in charge. This lack of response is a regular occurrence.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>There have been comments about the increase in litter on our roads. <b>Cllr DM</b> will take this back to SBC. He said that there have been only 2 convictions since the rules on littering were implemented. <b>Cllr DM</b> also advised that members of the public should report overflowing litter bins to the council.</p> <p><b>PC</b> offered thanks and congratulations to SBC for the successful repair of the pavement between Preston and Cumledge.</p> <p>CC members were asked to submit possible dates for the Christmas meal.</p> <p>Discussion about the AGM took place. Those willing to stand for nomination again were noted. <b>WR</b> will not stand again as she is now committed to setting up PACT. <b>VD</b> offered to be chair if tasks were shared by other members. <b>DM</b> has offered to continue to manage the website if requested. Having 12</p>	

	councillors would help ensure all meetings are quorate but 7 is the minimum number for viability. If there has to be an election it will be held in December.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Planning and Licensing Applications:</b> None	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Date and Venue of Next meeting:</b> xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Abbey St Bathans Village Hall. 7.30.	