



**ABBAY ST BATHAN'S, BONKYL AND PRESTON
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Preston Village Hall
23rd March 2017 at 7pm**

Ref	Present: V Dobie (chair), P. Chandler, C Dobie, A Hart, D. Morrison, Iva Usalj, Hamish Goldie-Scot, Observers:, Cllr D Moffat	Action
1.	Apologies: V. Kerr, J Dobie, J. Greenwell	
2.	Approval of Minutes: Proposed PC, seconded DM. Final version to be circulated.	AH
3.	<p>Matters Arising: Repairs to Cumledge Mill Bridge - Cllr DM reported that the contractor had not yet been appointed, so no date has been set for the repairs to be completed. CD reported that SBC had cleared the obstruction in the Abbey St Bathans Cundy but unfortunately it has since become blocked again. Cllr DM will report back to SBC. SBC have agreed to site priority signs when repairs to the Preston bridge are complete. Invoice from David Stebbings received. Two more invoices pending. DM passed folder containing details of previous grant recipients to AH. Attendance at Berwickshire Area Forum - DM reported that the siting of the Berwickshire flag at the A1 border crossing was discussed. A decision to seek the placing of the Berwickshire or Border flag was agreed. Health and Social Care integration was also subject of discussion with the siting of contact hubs. The siting of further wind farms in the Berwickshire area is now less likely but larger turbines are planned for future developments. DM will attend future meetings of the area forum. Cllr DM agreed to pursue the provision of recycling bags for remote households. Cllr DM also agreed to discuss hedge cutting at the Abbey St Bathans junction. Cllr DM will sort out hedging. CD asked that the information sent to AH re activities in Cumbria should be circulated.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr DM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr DM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AH</p>
4.	Reports from grants recipients: There were no reports	

5.	<p>Sub Groups: Windfarms - DM reported that an apology had been received on behalf of Crsytal Rig 4 regarding the leaked early announcement of the new scheme, they hope to attend May CC meeting. This will be for an additional eleven. To be included as an agenda item.</p> <p>PACT - Minutes previously circulated from PACT meeting. DM reported that PACT hopes to have recruited a new member. There is difficulty with siting of play park. Members agreed that sight of these minutes is helpful.</p>	AH
6.	<p>Chair's Report: Discussed communication difficulties with RES. A number of documents have been forwarded to them as requested. No acknowledgement that the email has been received. Aikengall II has requested a meeting with Chair. Quixwood - CD advised that Martin Sweeney chaired CFC meeting and will continue until a different Chair is appointed. The question about individuals wanting to apply was discussed. Chair suggested that only a body with constitution should be able to apply for funding. CFC to advise that they are content for applicants to be body with constitution. Charge could be less than 5% as there is no admin costs for Durham. Draft minutes later suggested the charge would be 5%. Community events matters are progressing. PC pursuing wildlife crime prevention with the Police. CD has contacted Simon Lockwood who will be pleased to attend one of the events to talk about wildlife/forestry activities. Peter Stewart will check his diary but he is very busy. Chair suggests that we delay community events because PACT has planned an event on 21 May with a meal provided. Agreed delay event until Friday 8 and 22 September 6.30pm – 9pm. Focus of the events will be wildlife and countryside theme. Photographer Stephen Whitehorn to be invited. AH to check availability of halls. Peter Stewart to be invited. Events to be agenda item for next meeting.</p>	CD PC AH DM AH
7.	<p>Treasurer's Report: Invoices received from the two village halls. Remind Veronica Kerr that we need a completed bank account form. PC/AH to ensure that the necessary forms were sent to VK. Changing bank account signatories can't go ahead until forms are completed by all CC members. Annual grant has arrived from SBC £750, hall rents around £150 and small charge for printing to be paid. Account now stands £1,183.65 Other account stands at £70,388.20 but a number of payments still to go out.</p>	PC/AH
8.	<p>Secretary's report: A number of circulations and other information were discussed that were included in the full report. Circulation of approved minutes should also be forwarded to John Lamont MSP.</p>	AH

<p>9.</p>	<p>Funding Applications: Tweed Forum application to contribute £2,500 to the control of giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed. PC in favour. General view is agreement. VD proposed second seconded by I.U. CD asks that local landowners are contacted who may know where there is new outbreaks. Approval proposed by PC seconded CD. VD to advise that the application is successful but they must wait 28 days to ensure no objection from London. Disney dance funding. The e-mail application came in before the end of February, but post meeting and as time was tight £500 contribution was agreed by email by all members. Dance group to be invited to dance at September event. Duns show, application for funding for tenting. CD asked wondered why they don't buy a marquee. Discussions about other areas where the marquees are owned and the organization earn income from hiring. Initial discussion suggested that the CC asks to see a copy of the show accounts, whether funding is being sought from elsewhere and whether the CC could support the purchase of tents and equipment. Application to be further considered at next meeting. DM pointed out that a problem like foot and mouth would cause financial difficulties for shows like Duns.</p>	<p>VD</p> <p>PC</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Any other business: Broadband – DM attended a meeting at Westruther when the B4RN option was discussed a fibre option direct to everyone's house. This option requires the landowners consent. Gas pipes run in the area and some have dark fibre cables which could be penetrated to support broadband. Technical assessment to be requested for this area. B4RN is spreading in other parts of the country but needs capital investment for digging trenches. DM to continue taking this forward. Likely to be a matter for PACT in the future. HG-S advises broadband speeds are getting worse. DM continues to have problems. DM suggests that engineers have said we should be upgraded to 16 meg. IU on behalf of CC to contact Open Reach DM to provide contact details. Lines were damaged by shotgun!! Resilient Communities – HG-S and CD are taking this forward to Abbey St Bathans, mindful of the need to avoid cutting across or undermining existing mechanisms whereby help is provided by friends and neighbours. The current generic SBC approach does not however attempt to identify potential risks at the household level. A simple check list has therefore been devised, for use in one-to-one interviews, that retains relevant questions (about willingness to help others) from the SBC list, while also including a basic self-assessment of risk. Work ongoing. The question of insurance has been raised. PC advises that volunteers are covered by CC insurance if wearing high vis vests. The use of vehicles and machinery should be covered by the users insurance. It is advisable that individuals notify their insurers that they are a resilient community's volunteer. VD suggests because there is more than one scheme in the CC area it would be ideal if the CC coordinated any requests for resources, VD said that she would write to SBC Emergency Planning department to advise CC's view. CD said that at the windfarm meeting Martin Sweeney had asked whether there is planning permission for the village hall at Abbey St Bathans; VD suggests that these questions can be answered by wind farm sub group. VD will arrange a meeting. DM crash barrier going down towards the Saw Mill in Abbey St Bathans needs repairing. The cattle grid at Bank End heading up the moneynut road needs repair. DM to photograph and send to Cllr DM who will progress at</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>IU</p> <p>H-GS</p> <p>VD</p> <p>VD</p> <p>DM Cllr DM</p>

	<p>SBC. DM asks that the CC pay from number 1 account for an ABPCC sign to be placed on land at Preston requesting people to behave responsibly. CC members agree. David Morrison taking this forward. Cllr DM mentioned that the next CC meeting is after the Local Council elections. He has only missed one ABPCC meeting in ten years and hopes to return after the elections.</p>	DM
11.	<p>Planning Applications: There is a meeting on 27th March at 10am at SBC to discuss 8 further wind turbines at Grantshouse. CC has already given views about proliferation of turbines in this area.</p>	
12.	<p>Dates and Venues of future meetings: All dates are Thursday's 25 May 7.30pm Abbey 22 June 7.30pm Preston 24 August 7.30pm Abbey 28 September 7pm Preston 26 October 7pm Abbey 23 November 7pm Preston Date of AGM to be agreed</p>	