



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

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Abbey St Bathans Village
Hall**

25th May 2017 at 7.30pm

Ref	Present: V Dobie (Chair), P Chandler, C Dobie, A Hart, H Goldie-Scot, D Morrison Observers: Cllr D Moffat. M Rowley	Action
1.	Apologies: V. Kerr, J.Dobie, Iva Usalj,	
2.	Approval of Minutes:	
3.	<p>Matters Arising: Repairs to Abbey St Bathans still not progressed. Cllr DM will follow up. DM will continue to attend the Berwickshire Area Forum and report back. Cllr DM will continue to pursue the issue recycling bags for remote households and the hedging that needs cutting from a safety perspective. Crystal Rig have not contacted to arrange attendance, if they do then advise 20 minutes for their presentation. James Dobie needs to complete bank forms. PC to email. HG-S progress on interviews and completion of questionnaires relating to resilient communities. IU has provisionally agreed to be the top of the pyramid, still a few loose ends to be tied up. Some equipment has been delivered to Blackerstone resilient community. Enquiries to be made to establish what equipment is still required. Cllr DM has not received photographs of the damaged cattle grid and crash barriers. HG-S will arrange to forward photographs to Cllr DM. DM to progress the sign at Preston. Tweed Forum to be advised that their request for funds has been approved. Duns show organisor has not responded to email questions.</p>	<p>Cllr DM DM Cllr DM</p> <p>PC</p> <p>HG-S</p> <p>AH</p> <p>HG-S DM VD</p>
4.	<p>Reports from grants recipients: No reports received.</p>	
5.	<p>Sub Groups: Windfarms – PACT – No minutes from meetings have been received.</p>	

6.	<p>Chair's Report: Funding requests have been submitted to support the PACT AGM (£500) and Community Lunch (£500) to be held on the Sunday 25th June 12 noon to 2pm. CC members are encouraged to attend or if not available to become members. Martin Sweeney has given a verbal agreement that the funds from Quixwood wind farm will go to PACT but there is nothing yet in writing. £50k should have been transferred as soon as the farm started generating. Penmanshiel has agreed that PACT can run the scheme but they must have a small grants facility. £20k Aikengall II the company will work up an agreement which will allow £50k per year to go directly to PACT. The owner of the company wishes to meet with ABPCC Chair.</p>	All
7.	<p>Treasurer's Report: Can't complete bank accounts until bank form received from JD. Collated bank statements were circulated for members around the table to check that they were in order. It was noted that two cheques were missing; PC reported that one was cancelled and the other was the cheque to Preston village hall. Preston village hall cheque had not been banked. GWA will audit as soon as reconciliation is complete and once village hall have banked the cheque. Number 1 account £1,078.61. Number 2 account £62,188.20. DM joined the meeting during Treasurer's report.</p>	
8.	<p>Secretary's report: A number of circulations were included in the report. The resignation of Veronica Kerr was noted. Veronica had been a member for several years. VD to write a letter of thanks. The items in the report were discussed including the members bill suggesting that 20mph speed limits would be a means of improving road safety. Members did not feel that such limits in the CC area were an appropriate way of improving safety. CC will not respond. A notice of intent has been attached to an ex GPO building in Cumledge Mill where it is intended to bring the fibre optic cable. It has not been possible to establish the owner of the property.</p>	VD
9.	<p>Broadband Access DM attended a four and half hour meeting at Gavinton. There are two options (1) develop a Berwickshire stand-alone proposal (2) join Borders Community Broadband. DM recommends that we join Borders Community Broadband (BCB) who has an established infrastructure, doing so would ensure that we do not lose the £300k that the Government has ring fenced for broadband in this area. However BCB require a commitment from CC's. Westruther wish to be involved, Gavinton may not because they have some local solution, Lammermuir are not sure they are looking for the ultimate goal of fibre to individual premises. DM can't see that happening because of the cost involved. £20 per meter. DM repeats his recommendation otherwise we only have six weeks to set up a project. There is a further meeting on 9th June. BCB are going to procurement in August this year, if we wait for another scheme there will be a considerable delay. BT will bid to deliver fibre to all premises. VD asked whether committing to one scheme might disadvantage some household in the CC area and whether there is a scheme that will benefit all households? VD also asks if the different proposals could be outlined in writing to make decision making easier because we need to have supporting material to support the decisions that the CC make. DM advises that adopting the BCB scheme will provide broadband to at least 60% of households, the remainder would have to wait for the R100 solution and there is no timescale for that provision.</p>	

	<p>Lammermuir at present do not wish to join which could mean that the Scottish Government grant is not available to all.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley joins the meeting and is introduced to the members.</p> <p>Cllr MR said that there had been many meetings over the years but things change from one meeting to the next, nothing stays the same. In the last six months Scottish Government has completed a cottage by cottage assessment of broadband and that report should be released shortly. The most likely solution will only be on the table for the next couple of months. There is no guarantee that whatever is in the report will increase the amount of revenue available. DM added that we might get coverage for more than the 60% and we could then use windfarm money to support the remaining percentage. The funds are split geographically depending on the number of households but to take control the CC would need to establish a community interest company and put a bid out to tender which would of course be not as attractive to providers because of the limited size. VD said that she was more comfortable in supporting David's recommendation, AH agreed with that view. Cllr MR said that the CC will still have the option to pull out once the suppliers respond to the tender document. DM said that the fall back will be R100 which might be available in 2021. CC members all agreed but HG-S asked that a short report is provided with the risks.</p> <p>DM to provide report before 9 June so we can support DM decision.</p> <p>IU to continue information gathering with BT.</p> <p>10. Windfarm Fund Administrator</p> <p>Penmenshiels want to provide some money for an administrator however they have now decided to give the money straight to PACT. VD still feels that a windfarm administrator would still be helpful in dealing with the administrative tasks linked to the windfarm funds. VD suggests that the CC would seek a self-employed person to provide the support that is needed. Cllr MR advised that Lammermuir CC have taken this option and it has been successful. Agreed should be self-employed person to be paid an hourly rate to a limited amount. CC members asked to advise VD of likely candidates.</p>	<p>DM IU</p> <p>All</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Funding Applications:</p> <p>PACT AGM approved AH, seconded by HG-S. DM abstains.</p> <p>Community Lunch approved VD seconded by PC.</p> <p>To note date change on both applications to Sunday 25th June.</p> <p>Bells application for equipment. Members recommend that the club should make an application to Drone Hill and Penmenshiel for equipment. VD proposes that Stuart Bell is asked to submit an application for £500 towards the cost with the conditions. AH agrees PC suggests that it does benefit the whole community and they should talk about the club at a future event. Approval for a donation of £400 proposed by VD and supported by PC. HG-S and DM abstain. Further discussion around a donation of £400 with conditions that the application is amended to £500, the club is advertised on the ABPCC web site and the equipment should be left to club if and when they leave AH agrees. The kit does not belong to them. DM prefers that the application comes from the club; PC argues that this is similar to the swimming application which is for individuals. HG-S abstains. DM would be happier if club made the application. Agreed the Bells assist the club to make an application for £500 toward the cost of equipment.</p> <p>Swimming Lessons – Morag has already started advertising already a significant uptake 29 notes of interest for swimming lessons. Suggest 100% for swimming lessons, so far £6094. VD suggests we ring fence £10k and</p>	<p>AH</p>

	<p>then if needed a further application should be submitted. HG-S great idea. PC suggests that 100% for swimming lessons. Suggestion that individuals pay a deposit which they get back if they use lessons e.g. £30. VD proposed a limit of £10k 100% for swimming lessons with a £30 deposit. H.G-S seconding.</p>	
12.	<p>Any other business: Adoption of the constitution, there is an amendment needed at 12.1 to say not later than 6 months after the financial year end. Except when the CC elections are held later in the year. Approved by all members. Community events in September to be discussed at future events. Agreed 8th September at 6pm at Abbey St Bathans, 22nd September at 6pm at Preston. Guest speakers to be invited by CD and PC. Reivers week - invitation for rosettes to be given on Saturday 8th July to the Reiver, Reivers Lass and Whinsome Maid as a token of our esteem from the people of ABPCC. Members suggested that Joy Dobie should be approached.</p>	<p>CD/PC</p> <p>VD</p>
13.	<p>Planning Applications: No applications</p>	
14.	<p>Dates and Venues of future meetings: All dates are Thursday's 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>	