

# PRESTONPANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Est. 1975

✉ [prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

🌐 [www.community-council.org.uk/prestonpans/](http://www.community-council.org.uk/prestonpans/)

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## **Agenda for Tues 25th Jan 2022 at 7pm on Zoom**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Adoption of previous minutes
4. Matters arising
5. Treasurer's Report - Including Funding Requests
6. Secretary's Report
7. Ward Councillors' Updates
8. Area Partnership Update
9. Lyn Marshall - Queen's Platinum Jubilee
10. Shona Brash - 360 Project
11. Police Report, CAPP & Anti Social Behaviour Discussion
12. Community Engagement
13. Festive Lighting
14. Preston Tower Update
15. Civic Square Update
16. Any Other Competent Business

**Date and Time of Next Meeting 22 Feb 2022 at 7pm on Zoom**

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## **Minutes of Community Council meeting Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 7pm Prestoungrange Gothenburg**

**Present:** DJ Johnston-Smith (chair), Graeme Hutchison, Elaine Anderson, Tam Gibbons, Andrew Stevenson (vice chair), Cllr Neil Gilbert, Emma Brown (ELC), Ferhan Ashiq, Michelle Ritchie, Tony Leach (treasurer), Iain Whyte, Cllr Fiona O'Donnell, Roger Bromley.

**Apologies:** Joe Simpson, Allan Sneddon.

Adoption of minutes postponed to next meeting as they haven't yet been printed out.

Treasurer's report: still no access to bank account – possibly another 7-10 days. The old signatories had removed themselves before new ones were added, so difficulties encountered in accessing account.

- Girl guides were awarded £100
- Income from East Lothian lottery £60/70
- £25,577 in bank account of which £15,000 unrestricted / £10,000 restricted.

**Christmas lights:** we have two trees with lights which we still can't get connected. Had a look at lights in "Howff" but they're in poor condition. Looking at the possibility of getting a Christmas tree for Coronation Gardens as Civic Square is being upgraded. For next year the aim is to get as many trees fitted with lights, this costs c.£2,000 per tree + connection cost.

Graeme suggested a social media post explaining the situation re lights. Was agreed that we would wait until 29/11, as that was the date agreed by the Council to light up the two dressed trees.

DJ suggested we need to decide which trees to dress early next year to ensure job completed in plenty of time.

**Meeting venue:** from January 2022 we can move back to the town hall – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, no meetings in July or December.

**Police Report:** read out by Janis. Ferhan shared that theft is on the increase. How can we address this? Cllr O'Donnell – ELC working to see if we can get to the root cause, identified a number of young people who, as a priority, will get the help they need. Emma – met with a new group who will visit schools – working towards multi

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agency meetings. Ferhan – Shopwatch was good but stopped due to covid. Cllr Gilbert – important to report crimes to ensure accurate local statistics.

**Area Partnership:** Roger to attend Salt of the Earth, Allan – CAPP, Tony – rail, Area Partnership- Roger, Andrew, Janis.

The meeting on 24/11/2021 will be looking at funding.

**Library Consultation:** Emma – second stage of consultation about increasing children and young persons' days at Prestonpans Library which will affect general public access. What elements do we retain? What days will it be open to the public? Can we have representatives at the meetings next week?

DJ raises concerns that the core library service is being removed. Emma- children and young people are the main users. ELC are using stats to see how they can best utilise the space – some days no-one uses it. DJ – Public libraries are often loss-making spaces, intended as a place of refuge and resort for all, not necessarily for any single specific demographic. Janis – people need use of computers – there are vital services at the library. Graeme – libraries shouldn't be for paying rent and council tax. Emma – it's not an economic issue it's how we best use the space.

**Preston Links site – Power Station:** we will invite someone from Port Seton along to talk about their vision for the site. Janis to email them.

## **Preston Tower update:**

- Work ongoing
- £1 million spent on the upgrade and repairs
- Hope to be left with two accessible buildings
- Public drop ins – to chat about the project
- Community must be equal partners with NTS and ELC in new guardianship agreement
- We need volunteers
- Could potentially be a charity or some sort of stand alone group

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## **Civic Square:**

- Going well – hope to be complete by April 2022 for the 100 year anniversary of War Memorial's unveiling – this is stage 2
- We're getting a new civic square with a new war memorial plaque to commemorate all those missing from the original monument
- Meeting with Legion to discuss this – all welcome
- Stage 3 – upgrade the seafront beyond the Civic Square.

**Councillors' reports:** we heard reports from Cllr O'Donnell and Cllr Gilbert.

**AOB:** Arran Johnston from the Battlefield Trust has a list of potential street names for Blindwells – no women's names on the list – we need to suggest our own if we want different names – meeting in January we can discuss having a closer working relationship with the Battlefield Trust. Think about other street names and quotes to go on the ground at the Civic Square.

**AOB:** Co-opted members - have to wait for 21 days after the AGM and advertise publicly for 21 days – bring this to a future meeting.

**Meeting ends** – next meeting 25/01/2022 venue tbc.