

PRESTONPANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Est. 1975

✉ prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

🌐 www.community-council.org.uk/prestonpans/

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Agenda for Tues 26th April 2022 at 7pm in Town Hall

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Adoption of previous minutes
4. Matters arising
5. Treasurer's Report - Inc funding requests & tree-lighting
6. Secretary's Report
7. Ward Councillors' updates
8. Area Partnership update
9. Social issues (ASB, parking, bins, etc)
10. Planning issues
11. Introduction to the Destiny Project
12. Preston Tower update
13. Civic Square update
14. Any Other Competent Business

Date and Time of Next Meeting Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 7pm
in the Town Hall.

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Tuesday, March 23rd, 7pm, Prestonans Town Hall

Present - DJ Johnson-Smith (Chairperson), Graeme Hutchison, Elaine Anderson, Andrew Stevenson (Vice Chairperson), Cllr Neil Gilbert, Ferhan Ashiq, Michelle Ritchie, Tony Leach (Treasurer), Roger Bromley, Janis Wilson (Secretary), Tam Gibbons, Cllr Colin Yorkston.

Apologies – Joe Simpson, Cllr Fiona O'Donnell, Jane Park, Iain Whyte, Cllr Lachlan Bruce.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Town Hall.

Minutes proposed by Elaine, and seconded by Graeme, matters arising – Roger asked about the possibility of a summit with other community councils in the ward.

Treasurer's Report - £66 from East Lothian lottery, nothing changed from last month apart from the predicted income from the lottery has changed and is now less than it previously was. Balance £23,070.41, of which £12,521.00 is restricted. We're still waiting for the bill from ELC re Christmas lights. Insurance £86 for the year – recommend we continue with that.

Walking football update – (see email which was circulated at the meeting), because they have no organisational bank account or email, they can't be guaranteed to supply us with the receipts.

Howff – Informed by a previous Secretary that CC could be liable for business rates for this. The rates are covered by the small business relief, but if we are liable for rates, we should ask ELC to fix the roof. Ferhan pointed out that business lets, the onus was on the company renting the business. Tony to enquire re who deals with this, and what arrangement is in place for this.

Secretary – nothing to report

Councillors' Report – Neil – planning committee, Red Rock, got another 5 years of planning consent. Behind Lidl is being tidied up. Conference of headteachers re ASB, main causes are covid isolation and ASB is county wide. Councillors' business is being wrapped down ahead of the local elections. Colin – problem solving partnership – ASB case reduced but are creeping back up. Prestonpans youth causing problems in other towns. Youth club turned away 20 kids, too many want entry but no capacity. New police commander for East Lothian, Community Council or ELC could write to them to coordinate re how to accommodate young folk. Ferhan told the meeting that his shop was looted by a 10-year-old. Andrew said the kids

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need to be listened to, more youth workers could help. Tam suggested more police officers were needed on the streets.

Michelle - what do we know about the community coin for the Queen's Jubilee? Funded by a private individual. Neil informed us that there is pressure on police due to cuts in services.

AP update – n/a

Election of new members – DJ proposed Tam and Ferhan, seconded by Andrew.

Preston tower update – see Facebook for photos, path tarmacked down to the Doocot, flexi stone to be laid by April – interpretation board at Doocot, path led to contemplation circle where people can sit together and talk. Hopefully by next year people can regularly enter the Tower for the first time in 50 years. Gardens to be closed until June/July 2022.

Civic Square – No further significant work has been done since the last meeting. End date now August. Maybe waiting for new town centre regeneration manager. Finalised list of people to be added to the plaque at the back of the square. Common good fund was mentioned, CC compiled a list in a previous meeting of common good assets. The list was submitted as a part of a consultation yet, but no reply likely as none required in a consultation.

AOCB – Tony asked the meeting if we want to do anything for the Jubilee, Roger asked if the Pennypit could be asked to do something, DJ asked meeting if it's our place to ask Pennypit to put on an event. Roger suggested maybe they could do it as part of the Jubilee week. Conclusion – no one on the CC wants to organise a Jubilee event so we should not ask any other organisations.

Andy – EL shinty club at Meadowmill available for kids at school age (Tuesday 5:45). Andy to speak next month about his project.

DJ – Asked if this is now the time to replace noticeboards in town – judging by ASB in town meeting suggested this is probably not the time. DJ spoke about the prospect of metal noticeboards all over town, including up at the station.

Town sign on top road – Informed it was being moved, CC suggested its new location include new houses, beyond empty land – ELCI said no – will move it to end of Moodie Wynd then move it again in two years. Elected reps asked to move sign to end of Prestonpans with planter and not to the end of the houses.

Tony – update on Christmas lights – haven't yet had a meeting with lighting company. Get a third tree done as have been identified – outside Preston House. Can ask people to choose a tree out of the ones we identify.

Meeting closed – 20:58. Next meeting 26/04/2022, 7pm in Town Hall.