

PRESTONPANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Est. 1975

✉ prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

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

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Agenda for Tues 22nd March 2022 at 7pm in Town Hall

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. CAPP & Anti Social Behaviour Update
10. Election of new members.
11. Preston Tower Update
12. Civic Square Update
13. Any Other Competent Business

Date and Time of Next Meeting Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 7pm
in the Town Hall.

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Tuesday 22/2/2022 at 7pm, via Zoom.

Present - DJ Johnston-Smith (chair), Graeme Hutchison, Elaine Anderson, Andrew Stevenson (vice chair), Cllr Neil Gilbert, Ferhan Ashiq, Michelle Ritchie, Tony Leach (treasurer), Iain Whyte, Cllr Fiona O'Donnell, Roger Bromley, Joe Simpson, Janis Wilson (secretary), Jane Park, Emma Brown, Tam Gibbons, Allan Sneddon, Simon Vaughan.

Apologies – Cllr Colin Yorkston.

Minutes were proposed by Janis and seconded by Joe. There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's report – shared on screen - £23,004.41 in total, of which £10,548 is restricted, predominantly for the war memorial. Bloomers (Meeting on Thursday) £925.33, £376 was transferred to community council management committee, £549 remaining. **Changes to be made to make funding requests clearer** Joe suggested we could make an end of year announcement of who we've funded.

Application for walking football tournament – asking for £800 out of a total of £1500. Graeme asked if the CC gets more money in April – DJ informed him that we get more and existing funds carry over. There followed a discussion about this request. Although a couple of members supported the application fully, others raised concerns about the amount of money requested. There was a consensus among members that there was an issue around funding the food and drinks after the event as the amount seemed large for what was on offer. A couple of members had, prior to the meeting, researched costs and whereas one member thought the amount was reasonable, another suggested they could buy the items listed more cheaply. A member inquired about priority and was informed that funding is done on a first come, first served basis. A few members queried the other £700 – what was it for? Another query was about the expenses for the volunteers – vague. DJ proposed that we ask for more clarity, seconded by Tony L.

The conclusion was that the council would get back to the organisation and ask for more clarity.

Secretary's report – see internal Facebook group as there is a survey there for your attention.

Councillors' report – Fiona – budget negotiations agreed with SNP group to be published on Thursday. Neil – Council rent freeze, 3% rise in council Tax. LARS housing trust are working on two developments in Prestonpans just now, Mid Road and Jim Bush Drive – building mid rent properties. Conditions of rent is that the people must live locally. Graeme raised the issue of complaints at Jim Bush drive,

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Neil mentioned time constraints, but he'll investigate the matter. Roger asked if mid rent could be low rent but was informed that isn't what LARS do.

No police report this month.

Antisocial behaviour – Allan attended CAPP. CCTV a concern, can't afford to fix as beyond repair but will replace. Blank spots at coronation gardens and at the war memorial. Emma – had a series of strategic meetings- can make them available to be open to questioning. A new post was created for three nights a week.

Festive lighting – decision to be made to concentrate on lighting trees. If we light two trees a year and ask people to vote it might encourage sponsors. The question of an actual Christmas tree was asked, and money will be held back for this. Exact costs not yet known but we can reuse the lights. Agreement made to solely light trees, no lamppost lights.

Coastal erosion – serious erosion happening now from Prestonpans to Morrison's Haven, intense damage in places – tied in with the asbestos pipe that runs through PPans. DJ been asking since the last major storm revealed the pipeline. Some discussion about who was responsible for this – possibility of asking an MSP. Tony asked if we could as a community council -can we get confirmation if rumours of asbestos are true. Graeme suggested forcing the issue of the pipeline. Neil stated that there is a duty to maintain the John Muir Way (JMW) and that perhaps the erosion in PPans would be subject to that maintenance, however, the meeting was informed that parts of the beachfront aren't considered to be part of the JMW so may not be eligible for maintenance.

Area Partnership – next meeting re how to allocate funding. Scottish Government has allocated funding for every local authority to erect a covid memorial. Area partnership meetings were attended by Janis, Roger, and Andrew – Janis will attend if it helps the CC.

Preston Tower / Civic Square updates – Tower grounds closed to public due to ongoing work. Square had problems, but work to begin on Friday.

AOCB – parking on pavements and footpaths – bottom garage bad for this, what can be done? Fiona to chase up garage. Re new CC members - we need to advertise to get new members. Graeme asked if Tam and Ferhan get automatically accepted as new members and was informed that to keep it constitutional, we must advertise to the whole community. The meeting was asked if anyone could offer their time to do more volunteering. Ferhan told the meeting that his shop closes for good on Sunday.

Meeting ended 20:55.