

PRESTONPANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Est. 1975

✉ prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

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Agenda for Tues 23rd August 2022 at 7pm in Town Hall

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Adoption of June meeting minutes
4. Matters arising from minutes
5. Social issues
6. Treasurer's Report - Inc funding requests
7. Secretary's Report
8. Ward Councillors' updates
9. Area Partnership update
10. Preston Tower & Civic Square updates
11. Any Other Competent Business

Date and Time of Next Meeting Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

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Meeting held on 28th of June 2022 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall, Prestonpans

Present

Community councillors: Elaine Anderson, Ferhan Ashiq, Roger Bromley, Tam Gibbons, DJ Johnston Smith (Chair), Tony Leach (Treasurer), Sophie Marshall, Michelle Ritchie, Joe Simpson (Minute Secretary), Alan Sneddon, Andrew Stevenson, Alex Park, Jane Park.

EL councillors and officers: Cllr Colin Yorkston, Cllr Neil Gilbert, Cllr Brooke Ritchie, Aniqah Chaudhry.

Apologies - Janis Wilson, Emma Brown, Graeme Hutchison, Iain Whyte, Cllr Lachlan Bruce.

Chairperson welcomed the new members then everyone to the meeting.

Previous Minutes

April minutes: Proposed by Andrew Stevenson and seconded by Tony Leach

May minutes: Proposed by Andrew Stevenson and seconded by Joe Simpson

Matters Arising

Sea Green application is open for work on the Preston Links site and is available to view on line. We will need to decide if we want to take a position as a body and feedback.

Treasurer's Report – Little movement since last meeting. £500 grant to Tower primary paid. £1473 bill from ELCC for Christmas tree works paid. We should let the community know how much it costs for the simple tasks of having the trees connected.

Current balance is £31,700.02 with some £11,700 reserved and £20,000 in deposit account.

No funding requests received this month.

Secretary's report – Not present and nothing to report.

Councillors' Report – The Councillors informed us that they had had a lengthy council meeting today. Lots of issues are being progressed. Local work has seen a number of ELCC storage containers, which were unsightly, being moved. Others have been identified and Cllr Yorkston has been pushing on this along with the old PL club house site. Pennypit Rugby pitch has been assessed by ELCC staff and some drainage improvement works are planned.

New education/skills projects are underway. These are linked to Edinburgh College and local building firms. Under the ASPIRE heading these will create opportunities for local kids to connect with the building trade. Similar larger scale project planned for Wallyford. More details to follow.

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Advance warning of a consultation in September on town centre car parking charges. Lots of discussion about the detrimental impact on local business.

Network rail report no plans to reduce the number of local stations.

The Councillors said their committees are; Neil Gilbert has Planning, Education, Licencing and PPRC, Colin Yorkstonbn has Planning, Education and PPRC, Brooke Ritchie has Education and audit and Governance.

Harlaw House has seen little concrete progress although the owners are in the process of deciding the next steps.

Bus shelters remain a concern. Many are damaged and concern ELCC are not responding quickly enough to damage and replacements. Some issues with the supply of new shelters, especially the transport hub type of shelter.

Town CCTV – funds have been allocated and work is awaited.

Discussion about difficulties in identifying who in ELCC is responsible for what actions. Request to councillors to have a single directory of responsibilities and contact details available on the website. Elected Councillors offered to take forward issues on our behalf.

Area Partnership report - Lots of events planned to cover the school holidays. Posters to go out to let the community know what will be available.

Social issues - 227 calls to the police in the last month and this led to 37 recorded crimes. 15 of these were for assault, which is a worrying increase. Discussed the ways ELCC has been aiming to positively engage with young people who are engaged in ASB. Is ELCC using its powers in respect of council tenants who have children that are causing problems?

Utility works in the town - Discussion on the unsatisfactory notifications of road closures in the town. Information is available on various sites but this is not always comminated with Council; who are not sufficiently chasing up information in order that the community can be kept informed. Suggestion that we have a standing item of road closures on our agenda?

Preston Tower and Civic Square updates - The Tower has seen much positive progress but the site is being blighted by ASB. A solution to this needs to be found and a suggestion that the young people who are thought to be causing problems could be invited on a tour around the building to get some ownership of the facility. It would also help if the site was being used by the public. Still looking for community groups to get involved.

Civic square updates suggest the works will be complete by September, but we are not confident about this. The Legion has offered to support an opening event by having a presence at the square and an offer of food for 100 or so people. Inclusive opening event yet to be planned and we agreed it is important to get information and stories about those named on the memorial out to the community.

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Future of Preston Links - 360 project and a potential port outlined for the site. Port seems unlikely as this would need the Forth part authority to undertake this work and they seem to be focussed on Leith.

Today's council meeting saw plans for a bid for works to the Preston Links site under the levelling up programme. This will involve filling in the hole and repairs to the John Muir way and coastal defence works.

Prestonpans Cemetery - Concern over a deterioration in the upkeep of the cemetery. This was said to be due to staff shortages, which now look to be improving.

AOBC

Junction of Appin Drive and Longdykes Road is seen as being dangerous and could be improved if the priority was changed. We will draft a letter to ELCC making proposals on this.

6th and 7th August will be the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Town Hall. A 2 day event is planned to commemorate this. Part of this will be an interactive recreation of the opening ceremony (6th August @ 11am using the original text) and a history of the events that have transpired in the building over the years.

The meeting finished at 20:55 - next meeting is Tuesday 23rd of August at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall