

PRESTONPANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Est. 1975

✉ prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

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

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Agenda for Tues 28th June 2022 at 7pm in Town Hall

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Adoption of April & May meeting minutes
4. Matters arising
5. Treasurer's Report - Inc funding requests
6. Secretary's Report
7. Ward Councillors' updates
8. Area Partnership update
9. Social issues
10. Utility works in the Town
11. Preston Tower & Civic Square updates
12. Future of Preston Links
13. Prestonpans Cemetery
14. Any Other Competent Business

Date and Time of Next Meeting Tuesday 23 August 2022 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

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Meeting held on 24th of May 2022 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall, Prestonpans

Present

Community Councillors: Elaine Anderson, Ferhan Ashiq, Tam Gibbons, Graeme Hutchison, DJ Johnston Smith (Chair), Tony Leach (Treasurer), Michelle Ritchie, Joe Simpson, Andrew Stevenson, Iain Whyte.

EL Councillors & Officers: Emma Brown (ELC), Cllr Lachlan Bruce, Cllr Neil Gilbert, Cllr Colin Yorkston,

Visitors: Alexander Park, Jane Park, Amanda Marshall, Sophie Marshall, David Caldwell

Apologies: Janis Wilson, Alan Sneddon, Roger Bromley (Joe Simpson agreed to stand-in as minute Secretary)

Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting opened with a notification that the planned input by Seagreen had to be postponed as they had sent their apologies.

Minutes of previous meeting – not discussed

Treasurer's Report – the funds have been received for this year. Current balance is £33,109.41 with some £10,500 reserved for the war memorial. Noted that the recent decline in East Lothian lottery fund seems to have stabilised. Amount received last month was £66. We have had a bill of some £1500 from ELCC for costs relating the last year's Xmas lights. This is being queried.

Recent £500 grant to the walking football project made, receipts to follow. A new funding request from Preston Tower Primary school has been approved. This was agreed at £600 to part fund the end of year yearbook. It was noted that the Community Council want to help with efforts to address the covid recovery efforts for school children. A proportionate amount would be agreed if a similar request came from St Gabriel's.

Secretary's report – Nothing to report.

Councillors' Report – The Councillors present informed us that the first meeting of the new Council was held on 24th May. Key responsibilities were allocated to the Councillors. Case work issues related to ASB issues, Housing issues, bus stops, removal of unsightly storage containers.

Social issues – Police report a further decline in calls received and crimes recorded. Plans to improve CCTV coverage are well underway and we should see progress in

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3 months. A concern came from the floor about a perception that some young people had taken to carrying knives. This will be followed up quickly by Councillors and others. Noted that the problem-solving groups had been in operation for some time and it was seeing some progress on tackling ASB in the town. Need to think about the ways these efforts are communicated more widely in the community to help reassure townsfolk, e.g. fire service input in respect of recent fires.

Area Partnership report - Emma Brown reported recent meeting went well and funding bids agreed. Details to be announced soon. Update of the progress made by last year's projects also underway. The next meeting will be on 8th June and will centre on housing issues. Pilot app discussed, details to follow.

Built Heritage issues - Main concern was the fire at Harlawhill House. The fact this building has not had much attention for a long time was of considerable concern. Request that Councillors that this back so a positive route forward can be found and decisions fed back to the community.

Preston Tower – works well underway. Civic Square - the windows are being cut into the walls and the names to go on the plaques have been agreed. Still aiming for September completion.

We need to know what is the long-term plan for supporting built heritage facilities on the town.

Noted that some young people are currently involved in mining heritage and local oral history projects at Prestongrange Museum.

AOBC

Graeme – Gala programme has been printed and will be made available soon – donations to help with the cost are most welcome.

Seagreen have agreed to provide some funding (amount TBC) towards Christmas lighting in living trees.

Members approved the addition of new members to the Community Council: Jane Park was nominated by DJ Johnston-Smith and seconded by Joe Simpson, Alex Park was nominated by DJ Johnston-Smith and seconded by Andrew Stevenson and Sophie Marshall was nominated by DJ Johnston-Smith and seconded Andrew Stevenson. All candidates were approved by acclaim, as Sophie is under 16 her mother gave permission and she was approved as a co-opted member..

**The meeting finished at 20:55 - next meeting Tuesday 28th of June 7:00 PM
Town Hall**