

PRESTONPANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Est. 1975

✉ prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

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Meeting Agenda

Tues 25th June 2024 at 7pm in Town Hall

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Tom Ewing from the Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Trust
4. Matters arising and adoption of May meeting minutes
5. Treasurer's Report - Including Funding Requests and Xmas Lights
6. Ward Councillors' updates
7. Area Partnership update
8. VCEL update
9. CC sub-groups updates
10. "Pride of Prestonpans" Awards
11. Medical Centre support letter
12. Bund petition
13. Harlawhill House
14. Social issues
15. Planning matters
16. Any Other Competent Business

NO MEETING IN JULY. Date and Time of next meeting Tuesday 27th August 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

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Prestonpans Community Council Meeting Minutes Town Hall, Prestonpans - Tues 28 May 2024 at 7pm

Present - Community Councillors: Elaine Anderson, Ferhan Ashiq, Roger Bromley, Tam Gibbons, Graeme Hutchison, DJ Johnston-Smith (Chairperson), Jane Park, Michelle Ritchie, Joe Simpson, Allan Sneddon, Andrew Stevenson (Vice Chairperson), Janis Wilson (Secretary), Jess Wilson.

Guests – Carla Allan (Volunteer Centre East Lothian), Craig Bathgate (EL Courier), Dr Anna Beedle (Prestonpans Medical Centre), Emma Brown (EL Council), Tom Ewing (Prestonpans Battlefield Heritage Trust), Dr Zain Kapasi (Prestonpans Medical Centre), Dr Iain McLeod (Prestonpans Medical Centre), Yvonne McQueen (Prestonpans Medical Centre), Angela Stirling (Prestonpans Medical Centre)

Attendees - David Caldwell, Angie Davie, Colin Gilroy, Georgia Hainsworth, Kirstie Hainsworth, Beverley Henderson, James McLeish, Lisa Duncan, Lyn Marshall, Jasmin Notarangelo, May Notarangelo, John Reynolds, Rhona Robertson, Graeme Robertson, Tom Ross, Claire Styles, Freddie Wood, Karen Young.

Apologies – Prasun Barman, Tony Leach (Treasurer)

Welcome - Chairperson welcomed everyone to meeting and introduced visiting guest speakers.

Prestonpans Medical Centre - The meeting opened with GPs from the surgery addressing the community council and attendees regarding cessation of temporary funding to the practice and increasing service costs and the implications of those changes. They explained that East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership funding of £90k per year was ending. This funding was allocated for three years, and it stops on 1/10/24. They also noted that NHS Lothian have increased their service charges by 400% and their belief that a financial agreement made with the Scottish Government in 2018 had failed, although they acknowledged that some aspects had succeeded. Overall they predicted a 10% cut to their budget over the next couple of years which will adversely affect their ability to deliver adequate front-line services. Community Councilors and attendees discussed the situation at length and the Community Council agreed to support the surgery in their appeal to ELHSCP – Surgery team to provide more figures to Chair, Michelle Ritchie to try to find out who sits on the ELHSCP board and letter of support to be drafted.

Battlefield Heritage Trust - Tom Ewing moved his slot to June meeting to allow longer discussion of the previous matter.

Minutes Proposed by Joe Simpson, seconded by Jess Wilson. Matters Arising - A question has arisen over the possibility of Community Councils having to fund public liability insurance for Police Speedwatch initiative. Members are opposed to CC funding being spent on this. Further investigation needed.

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Treasurer's report – Treasurer pre-circulated figures and report. £35,628 in account with £20,000 on deposit. Unrestricted £22,603, Restricted £10,325 which is money for the war memorial, bloomers, lights. No outstanding invoices.

Xmas tree lights – There has been significant further vandalism to tree lights at Hawthorn – meaning significant costs to repair. We will need to decide if we wish to take the lights down and relocate. To discuss next month. Do we want a Xmas tree from ELC? Members discussed and agreed.

Funding applications – Pennypit Development Trust asked for £750 for holiday lunch club support – awarded £500. Gala Committee asked for £1000 towards a sensory support vehicle for use of children during Gala Week, awarded £750 – CC would like feedback from all projects after spend before further applications.

Councillors' reports – Cllr Yorkston provided a brief update. At the CAPP meeting it was noted that there had been a significant reduction in shoplifting in recent weeks. Also a general reduction in ASB, with just three youths identified as causing seven offences in several weeks, and rates are at the lowest in two years. Graffiti at Civic Square has been cleared – Members would like ELC to look at ways to prevent it from happening in future. Members discussed dangerous motorbike driving as an emerging issue in the town.

Area Partnership update – Emma Brown provided an update. AP had its Annual Public Meeting on 15th May, which was also the 10th anniversary of the AP. Organisation has given grants of £883k over 10 years. Voting for the current round of applications is open until Friday. Has given £5k to area for food projects. Community drop-in next Friday re Blindwells (4/6/24) and AP preparing for summer support schemes.

Volunteer East Lothian - Carla Allan provided an update. Working to support the garden at the health centre – trying to find contact. Next week is national volunteers week, so VCEL will be celebrating local volunteers and the "Inspire Volunteers" awards are next Friday.

Sub-group updates:

Friends of Preston Tower - Work edging closer to completion. Group has created its draft constitution and will hold a public meeting to adopt this on 12 June at 7pm in Town Hall. Once constituted and in possession of its own bank account group will cease to be a sub-group of CC.

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Prestonpans Bloomers – Janis Wilson provided update. Has applied for funding for containers and plants for High Street, graveyard tidying and weeding sessions have restarted on Sunday afternoons, weather permitting.

Pride of Prestonpans Award - Joe Simpson provided update. Write-up sent to chairperson, needs to be launched on social media. Andrew Crummy hopes to have sketches for next meeting and may have a useful contact for 3D printing of smaller trophies to be given to the awardees. To check with Arran Johnston on possible dates for the ceremony.

Pavement Parking - CC has received correspondence from ELC asking members to consider possible streets to be excluded from pavement parking legislation. High Street Lidl – High Street outside no 98 – Ivanhoe Cottage – Redburn Road. Details to be sent to members via WhatsApp.

Crow Scarers - Jess Wilson raised the excessive noise this year heard around town from agricultural bird-scarers in nearby fields, especially audible in Preston Crescent. Secretary or Jess Wilson to email Cllr Yorkston to investigate if this is a noise abatement/enforcement issue.

Social Issues - Many of the usual social issues were covered during earlier discussion of CAPP meeting. Some ELACC members are considering asking for a restricted access on buses for young people. Members were opposed to this.

Planning issues – None of consequence this month. Cllr Bruce was dealing with Harlawhill House, as security of building was concerning. Members agreed that building deserves better treatment because of its historical significance. To discuss next month.

Traffic crossing at Meadowmill - Members and attendees aggrieved by what seems like a waste of £45k from the Education budget for temporary lights which are no longer switched on. Hargreaves to install new lights once work on path from Blindwells begins. Ask Morag Haddow to attend a future meeting to update us on the lights.

Coat of Arms - Late member Alex Park's widow Margaret handed to Chairperson at the beginning of meeting Community Council's official coat of arms, as matriculated with Lyon Court in 1999. Chairperson to look at housing this and town bell, previously gifted by Mrs Park, at the Library or similar appropriate venue, with note of appreciation of Alex.

AOCB – None

Meeting ends 9pm. Next meeting – 25 June 2024 at the Town Hall