St BOSWELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting was held via 'Teams' on 25th Nov 2021 7.15p.m.

Date of next meeting 27th Jan 2022
Members of the Public wishing to join this meeting should contact the Secretary at stbospccsecretary@gmail.com or 07736 969 226

DRAFT Notes of Community Council meeting held on Thursday 25th Nov 2021

1. **ATTENDEES** : Cllr Hamilton, W. Burns, Y.Clement, A, Farnish, C. Richard, C, Strang, G. Tweddle, A. Patterson, 1 Member of the Public

APOLOGIES : M. Barrie, C. Emond, Cllr Scott, Cllr Brown

2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

2.1. Previous Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. **MEMBERSHIP**

3.1. AP proposed co-opting Elaine Reid (Electoral Roll No. 9A/304) to help with CC communications particularly use of Social Media platforms and the associated links with other community groups.

This co-option would be a non-voting role. YC seconded the proposal. ***Proposal was approved***

4. **TREASURERS REPORT**

4.1. Balance Brought Forward from 1st Nov 2021 **£6,205.88**

4.2. **Income**

Grants and Contributions

9/9/21 Fallago Pathways grant	£2,022.13
28/9/21 Fair monies	£300
28/9/21 Fair Monies (Euros exchange)	£27.22
4/11/21 Border Berries payment for sign on Green	£410

4.3. **Expenditure**

1/9/21 Hall website – September payment	£10
1/10/21 Hall website – October payment	£10
5/10/21 Poppy wreath – Allan Drummond	£44.60

1/11/21 Hall website – November payment £10
16/11/21 Green St Boswells – Annette Patterson £116.95

4.4. **Balance in Bank** **£6,498.93**

4.5. **Monies Already Committed**

Covid Support Grant Balance remaining	£996.46
SBC Criminal Justice Team (outstanding invoice awaited)	£500
Fallago Grant Fund (Bridle path and woodland)	£2,022.13
Polwarth Fountain Grant (remaining balance)	£51.00
Green St Boswells remaining balance	£883.05

Total committed **£4,452.64**

4.6. **Uncommitted Balance** **£2,046.29**

4.7. **Possible Pending Expenditure**

Christmas Lights -maintenance (Ruthven Alarms) and payment to Tony Grieve for hosting Christmas Lights Timer (last year was £25).

Armistice Day – payment for Piper? (£25 was given to Galashiels Pipe Band 19/20).

GT to check

Pathways Maintenance grant to be applied for. This grant is claimed in arrears based on proof of expenditure, up to a maximum of £450. Since last year's application, work in the amount of £168 has been carried out.

Village Hall - A request for grant towards their Covid expenditure relating to cleaning equipment has been received in the amount of £294.99. It was suggested that VHall Committee could be encouraged to approach the Village Hall Federation and/or Cheviot Community Fund in the first instance. If these approaches failed then they could come back to CC. ***CS***

There have been no payments for let of Lesser Hall this year as all meetings have been virtual and it was acknowledged that this would inevitably be impacting the VHall income.

Green St Boswells – match-funding for Cheviot Community Fund Grant applications for Bus Stop planters in the amount of £215 if successful.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Tree – cost of tree, plaque and fixing tbc AP

Possible Springfield Community Garden consultation survey tbc AP

4.8. SBC Community Council Support Grant has not yet been applied for. WB to get form from Fiona Henderson, Committee Services. ***WB***

4.9. Virgin Money are closing Galashiels branch in January. Community Council account is a business account and charges are now being imposed . It is

proposed to transfer to a Treasurer's Account at Bank of Scotland where there are no charges on this type of account. ***Proposal was agreed***

5. **HEALTH & SAFETY : Report of meeting re livestock attacks on walkers**

5.1. Three CC Members met with two Countryside Rangers, SBC. There was much discussion about the issue but the main points of note were :

5.2. SBC said they were not aware of many, or perhaps any, incidents of this kind across the whole of the Promoted Paths Network prior to the two major incidents near St Boswells that both required medical attention. CC queried this as several people had noted in their submission that they had advised SBC of their concerns.

5.3. SBC Promoted Paths are put in place via a negotiated agreement between SBC and the relevant landowner.

5.4. SBC do not consider that the HSE Guidance on this type of matter to be enforceable by SBC.

5.5. SBC advise they have no power to force any landowner to take any particular course of action but they agreed to meet with the landowner to try and effect a change in management of the field in question. ***SBC***

5.6. Signs have been put up advising walkers not to get between cows and calves but CC considered this to be an inadequate measure as the whole field is not visible from the entry points so walkers cannot make an informed decision about whether to proceed into the field. Guidance recommends that any signs are “managed” rather than permanently in place to avoid the possibility of excluding walkers from paths on a permanent basis.

5.7. The CC preferred solution was that cows with calves at foot and young bullocks were not placed in that particular field. If this was not possible then the alternative proposal was for a double fence to be installed along the western edge of the field between the access points. This is likely to be an expensive option.

5.8. CC had received a report outlining possible proposals from a Member of the Public. It is understood this was submitted to SBC last year. CS to clarify where the report was sent and if this can be forwarded to SBC. ***CS***

5.9. It was agreed that SBC Countryside Rangers be given some time to contact the landowner and to come back with a response.

5.10. CC Secretary to write to HSE, Scotways, NatureScot, Ramblers Association to raise awareness of the lack of data on these issues and to seek advice.

5.11. CC Secretary to write to affected Farmer with the intention of offering any support we are able to give to effect an acceptable solution. ***CS***

5.12. ***Members of the Public are encouraged to continue to report any***

incidents (with dates) to Scottish Borders Council Countryside Rangers or The Secretary at stbospccsecretary@gmail.com or Green St Boswells at Greenstboswells@gmail.com or Any Community Council Member

6. **GREEN ST BOSWELLS**

6.1. **Bus Stop Planters** - The grant application to Cheviot Community Fund in the amount of £1,928 has been successful. This is dependent on CC match-funding of £215. It is anticipated that there will be a long delivery time on the planters so work is expected to start in the Spring.

6.2. **Springfield Community Garden** – Covid lockdown has caused some issues with the planned consultation with the wider Springfield Residents about what they might like to see happen with the old play park area. Unfortunately the residents that had intended to carry out this work are now unable to commit due to a change in personal circumstances so they have approached GSB to assist with this aspect. The first piece of work is to determine if anyone who has previously expressed an interest in the space would like to become more actively involved. It is proposed to approach SBC for support/guidance with a community consultation exercise. ***AP***

6.3. **Primary School/PFP** – the primary school have expressed an interest in being involved in a couple of projects – a Pictorial Meadow on the Lower Green plus Pollinator Pots project, and a commemorative event for Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

6.4. **Queen's Green Canopy/Commemorative Tree** – a number of local groups have been contacted for their interest – Village Hall, Church, Primary School, Village Week Committee (and SWI). All have expressed an interest in getting involved in some way. AP to approach Vets to enquire about Golden Jubilee Commemorative Trees. ***AP***

6.5. **Community Woodland** – the Contractor has not yet been able to carry out the planned bridge or path work which is to be carried out with Fallago Grant funds. The deadline for utilising this grant is end of November 2021 so AP to approach grant admin to find out what options are available. Some additional strimming is required round the pond (this would fall under the Paths Grant).Some trimming back of the boundary hedge to the east

(McCorquadales) is required. ***AP***

POST MEETING NOTE : Storm Arwen caused considerable damage in the Lower Woodland with several trees down and several leaning in dangerous positions. Buccleuch Estates and SBC have been made aware and will attend when resources are available. CC was given permission to erect signs and tape to advise users that the paths are closed until Buccleuch Estates as landowner can visit to clear the unsafe trees.
It was noted on 10th Dec that someone (unknown) had cut back some of the fallen trees to allow access to the main path. It is not known who carried out this work and it was not authorised by Buccleuch Estates. Unfortunately there are still several dangerously leaning and weakened trees which still have the potential to fall across the path in any future high winds.

6.6. **Community Council Paths** (see separate Schedule and Map) – previous CC agreed to take responsibility for maintaining access to 7 (seven) paths in and around the village. The original intention was that volunteers would assist in carrying out work where possible and safe to do so following Risk Assessments. A small grant up to a maximum of £450 is available in arrears on the submission of receipts. It would be helpful if people who walk the paths regularly could help support this piece of work. AF offered to take on the regular visual inspections. ***AF***

6.7. **New Fingerpost** – thanks to D. Oliver and SBC Path Wardens a new fingerpost to highlight the path across The Green to the Community Woodland has been erected. There was discussion about whether the location is visible to walkers who may not already know the location of the woodland. AP and AF to meet to discuss raising awareness of Community Woodland. ***AP/AF***

7. **COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

7.1. The missing Play Park fence at Jenny Moore's Road will be reinstated using Small Schemes funds.

7.2. The future of play parks across the region is being discussed and investment has been requested for St Boswells.

7.3. A new grant fund to support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations (2-5thJuly 2022) is being launched in Jan -April.

7.4. SBC's new Leader is confirmed as Mark Rowley.

7.5. SBC 2022/23 Budget is in preparation. It is anticipated that further savings will need to be found.

7.6. 20MPH Speed Limit Report is being considered at Council's December

meeting. It is expected that the A68 section will be returned to 30mph but the other parts through St Boswells will remain in place.

8. **PLANNING**

8.1. Slaters Yard Development - The Local Review Board hearing was continued to enable a site visit. Applicants and relevant Economic Development agencies are to meet to discuss whether there is a suitable alternative site that is able to be developed as an alternative to the Charlesfield Road end. The LRB Hearing will then reconvene. The response to the FOI request relating to how the Council dealt with the initial Change of Use consent is not considered to have been adequate. ***CS to pursue***

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

9.1. None received

10. **POLICE REPORTS**

10.1. To be circulated

11. **AOCB**

11.1. It was noted that the Bus Stop has been re-graffittied.

11.2. It was noted that Armistice Day event went well although the wreaths were blown away. Thanks to John Pollock for refixing.

Thanks to Alan Franks for laying the wreath on behalf of the Parish Community Council.

11.3. There has been a noise complaint relating to certain events at the Village Hall. It was thought that this relates to the doors needing to be open as part of Covid measures to aid ventilation although it was noted that perhaps the music was being played too loudly. CS to contact VHall Committee to discuss further. ***CS***

11.4. Christmas Lights – GT to contact Ruthvens to carry out testing and installation. ***GT***

POST MEETING NOTE : JP will co-ordinate Time Clock etc.

12. ***Date of Next Meeting – 27th Jan 2022***

Due to ongoing Covid restrictions this meeting will be held via 'Teams'

Any members of the public wishing to join the meeting or raise an issue of local concern please contact The Secretary at stbospccsecretary@gmail.com or

telephone The Secretary on **07736 969 226**

or approach any Community Councillor

Thank you for taking the time to read these notes.

Your Community Councillors are volunteers.

Our main role is to represent our local area, consult with residents and pass their views on to organisations such as the Council and NHS who have responsibility to consult about how local services are delivered.

One of your Scottish Borders Local Councillors usually attends our meetings.

Please consider joining us to become a Member or simply to make your views known.