St BOSWELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting was held via 'Teams' on 27th Jan 2022 7.15p.m.

Date of next meeting 24th Feb 2022 via Teams
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 27th Jan 2022

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

2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**
   2.1. Previous Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   3.1. Accounts have been audited by K. Ovens. Most of the money is committed and via grant funding which is awaiting Workmen/Contractors to complete work.
   3.2. **Balance Brought Forward from 31st Dec 2021** **£8,463.68**

   3.3. **Income since Dec 2021**

SBC Pathways grant	£450

   3.4. **Monies Already Committed/Ring-fenced – to be carried forward to 2022/23**

Covid Support Grant Balance remaining	£996.46
Fallago Environment Fund (Bridle Path/woodland)	£2,022.13
SBC Criminal Justice Team (outstanding Invoice)	£500
Polwarth Fountain Grant – remaining balance	£51
Green St Boswells – remaining balance	£883.05
Total Committed	**£4,452.64**

3.5. **Anticipated Spend/ Commitments 2021/22**

Village Hall Website – payments to end March	£30
Expenses	£25
Residue of Pathways Grant	£282
Christmas Lights	£100
Village Centre Enhancements	£2,143
Village Spring Clean	£250
Jubilee Commemorative Tree and Plaque	£500
Total Committed	**£3,330**

3.6. **Remaining Uncommitted Balance** **£1,131.04**

3.7. **Proposed Ring-fencing to Carry Forward**

CC contribution to Village Defbrillator Battery Replacement Fund	£100
Christmas Lights Enhancement Fund	£500
Total	**£600**

3.8. **TOTAL REMAINING UNCOMMITTED** **£531.04**

3.9. SBC Community Council Support Grant application is ready to go but all CC Members are required to formally agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.

All Members to email WB

POST MEETING NOTE : WB confirmed that all Members have agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct and Maintenance Grant has been received.

3.10. Proposal to ring-fence some funds towards defibrillator maintenance and create a fund for the enhancement Village Christmas lights was agreed.

3.11. Resumption of Car Boot Sales was discussed. It was agreed that a decision would be delayed until June to give time to assess Covid situation once latest restrictions had been lifted. GT to discuss the organisation, management arrangements including Risk Assesments of future Car Boot Sales on The Green with AD. ***GT***

4. **HEALTH & SAFETY : livestock attacks on walkers**

4.1. No further communication has been received from SBC.

4.2. It was confirmed that the report received by the Community Council on this matter from Member of the Public who had been affected, had been sent to SBC Countryside Rangers, although they had no recollection of having

received it.

4.3. It was noted that farmers are bound by RIDDOR regulations and HSE Guidance. They should be carrying out Risk Assesments and should be reporting any 'Near Misses' when they are made aware.

4.4. There is a requirement for farmers to actively manage any signage on public access routes. It was noted that this was not happening.

4.5. It was was noted that HSE had earlier advised that they had spoken with Landowner and would be taking no further action at this point.

4.6. Question was raised over whether SBC shared liability due to their promotion of the long-distance walking route. It is thought that they do not have any liability, although this was questioned.

4.7. It was noted that the issues may be linked to an increase in walkers during Covid lockdown.

4.8. It was noted that there are reports that a section of the Southern Upland Way by Thirlestane Castle is currently going through Planning Approval to fence of a section of the walk to avoid walkers feeling threatened by cattle.

4.9. It was agreed that CS and MB would approach the Landowner to offer any help that the CC might be able with regards to fencing off a section of the field to create a safe route.

4.10. ***Members of the Public are encouraged to continue to report any incidents (with dates) to Scottish Borders Council Countryside Rangers***

5. **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

5.1. Areas of concern were discussed. The back road from Polwarth Avenue to Jenny Moore's Road behind the new houses. This is a designated two way road but is heavily used by walkers. The width of available tarmac is very narrow but there are no refuge areas for pedestrians who are faced with oncoming traffic. The verges are now only cut once a year by SBC, narrowing the road further. Sightlines for those emerging from the side road onto Jenny Moore's Road as it leaves the village, are also poor due to the hedges. There are ongoing concerns about the speed of traffic at this point in the road as it leaves and enters the village. The desire to have this road redesignated as pathway has been raised with SBC previously who cited lack of funds and the need for vehicular access to farmland as the reasons for not addressing these issues. It was noted that the section west between JM Road and the Sports Field was successfully redesignated as footpath and is gated at one end only to allow farm vehicle access. There are constant issues with dog mess on these sections of road and footpath.

5.2. It is clear from the worn grass paths that there are a large number of pedestrians crossing the Kelso/Maxton Road from the bottom of the Playing Fields/Springfield Community Garden towards the woodland and back. Sightlines at this crossing point are poor and signage is inadequate. SBC to be approached to be asked to look at improvements and possible extension to 20 mph speed limit to cover this area.

5.3. Concerns were raised about Kirk Road and Jenny Moore's Road where they leave and enter the village and have been used more frequently especially during lockdown as part of the walking routes around the village. They do not currently have any footpaths, verges or pedestrian refuges.
POST MEETING NOTE : Could these issues fall under 'Spaces For People, Scheme

5.4. Cllr Hamilton agreed to raise these issues with Roads.

5.5. CC to contact Dog Warden re ongoing dog-fouling around the village especially on well used walking routes. ***AP***

6. ***COMMUNITY RESILIENCE***

6.1. There is currently no actively managed Community Resilience Group in the village.

6.2. Local Resilience Groups act as a point of contact between the Council and the wider community at times of emergency such as the recent power cuts during Storm Arwen which were unusually protracted.

6.3. SBC provides full training if required but maintaining an up-to-date list of interested village contacts would be the primary duty.

6.4. The previous CC Chair carried out some volunteer work around Covid needs for some residents but has now stood down from CC.

6.5. The Community Hub had previously expressed an interest in being involved in preparing for emergency situations. ***GT to approach to gauge interest.***

6.6. ***Any Member of the community wishing to discuss this further please get in touch with any member of this Community Council.***

7. **GREEN ST BOSWELLS**

7.1. The planters for the Bus Stop area have been ordered but there has been a price rise. This additional cost will be covered from the existing GSB allocation.

7.2. Discussion was had about the removal of the damaged conifers in the Community Woodland . A request to look at removal of more conifers that overshadow the Tennis Courts was made and it was suggested that areas

could be replanted with trees which would provide more diverse habitat. It was suggested the Build Back Better Borders Grant Fund may be worth exploring to meet this aspiration.

7.3. Contact has been made with the Community Woodland Association to seek assistance with setting up a Community Woodland Group and developing a Management Plan. There is an annual fee of £30. It was agreed that this would be met for one year (2022) from the existing GSB allocation.

7.4. ***Any member of the community wishing to get involved in helping out with looking after the Community Woodland please get in touch with any member of this Community Council or Greenstboswells@gmail.com***

8. **QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

8.1. Plans for the Commemorative tree and plaque are progressing slowly as it is proving difficult to find a suitable supplier/installer.

8.2. The Village Week Committee are planning an event alongside the Village Week activities. It is hoped that a number of village groups and clubs will be involved. So far the School/ PFP, Church, SWI, Community Hub, Cricket Club are thought to have committed.

POST MEETING NOTE : The Village Hall are hoping to install a commemorative feature.

9. **COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

9.1. The Cheviot Area Partnership took place on 26th Jan 2022.

9.2. PLACE Planning Officers were introduced. Jedburgh and Kelso will be in the first tranche of communities. Expected St Boswells will be in subsequent tranche.

9.3. Several Consultations are underway :

(9.3.1) Jim Clarke Rally - the Scott's View stage is planned for 28th May 2022.

(9.3.2) SBC Budget Planning Consultations - more cuts to the grant settlement are expected.

(9.3.3) Jedburgh Common Good Fund - anyone with any information on which assets in the town should be considered as part of the Common Good Fund is welcome to get in touch with SBC Legal Department.

(9.3.4) Health &Social Integration – outlines proposals for how H&SC serviced in the Borders will be planned in the future.

10. **PLANNING**

10.1. Slaters' Yard Development - The Local Review Board have approved the

Application subject to requirements for screening planting.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1. None received

12. **POLICE REPORTS**

12.1. No reports of activity in our area.

12.2. It was noted that the lost tracker watch had been found.

13. **AOCB**

13.1. It was agreed that CC meetings will not return to the Village Hall Lesser Hall yet.

14. ***Date of Next Meeting – 24h Feb 2022***

Due to ongoing concerns around Covid 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 make your views known