

# St BOSWELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting was held in the Church Hall 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Date of next meeting 31<sup>st</sup> November 2023 in the Lesser Village Hall

Members of the Public wishing to join this meeting should contact the Secretary at [stbosppccsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stbosppccsecretary@gmail.com) or 07736 969 226

## **DRAFT Notes of Community Council meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

1. Chair welcomed all attendees.
2. **ATTENDEES:** C. Richard (Chair), W. Burns, Y. Clement, A. Farnish, C. Strang, A. Patterson, C. Emond, G. Tweddle (arrived partway through) + 5 Members of the Public  
*Note: several members of the public were here to highlight issues with the Number 51 Bus route, so this item was moved to the start of the meeting.*

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr P. Brown, Cllr S. Scott, M. Barrie, Cllr Hamilton

### **AOCB taken at this point**

10.1 Several members of the public attended to explain issues with the 51 Bus, which changed route on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, now starting in Galashiels, going to Newtown and then North on the A68 to Edinburgh, no longer coming into St Boswells village.

10.2 This change caught many by surprise as there does not appear to have been any consultation or communication around this or visible changes to online timetables via Traveline or bus signs at Edinburgh Bus station.

10.3 The Borders Bus App does give up to date information and advises that customers should travel via the 68 to Newtown and wait there for the connecting 51.

10.4 Members of the public and Community Council expressed these particular concerns:

- Lack of consultation and/or communication – people have been stranded at bus stops, not everyone has a smartphone or access to the Borders Bus App
- We would like to know the rationale behind this
- Lack of reliability to connect with services to Kelso and Jedburgh
- Lack of safe seated shelters in Newtown, of particular concern to those who are elderly or infirm and unable to stand for long periods
- Cost implication of using the Borders Railway instead of buses, particularly for those with free bus passes

10.5 A letter was sent ahead of this meeting from the Secretary to Borders Buses expressing concerns, and members of the public have tweeted and contacted via other social media. No

response apart from anecdotal evidence from bus drivers that it was "Borders Council". Council members not present at this meeting to respond to this comment.

10.6 Action: CR to send email to Cllr SH with these concerns **CR**

3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**: minutes proposed by WB and seconded by YC

4. **MATTERS ARISING from previous Minutes Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

4.1. Christmas Lights (ref Sep 4.1) – AP reported to the CC that the subgroup met, Scottish Power invoice paid, and this job is now in the queue. Update that the Living Tree scheme is not going ahead, the subgroup will look into Church or other to provide a tree. CE will request an unmetered supply from Scottish Power. Subgroup to decide on wording of communication with residents re spending of the grant and plans for the tree and lights. **CE & subgroup**

4.2. Land Ownership (ref Sep 4.3) – advice from Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) agrees with Community Land Scotland regarding ownership. We have a choice of a SCIO or Company Limited by Guarantee or a Community Interest Company. CR spoke informally with a local lawyer who pointed out that if we set up a SCIO then any monies raised by the Green would go with this SCIO (e.g. Border Berries, travellers) and we would have to produce an annual report to OSCR. There was a discussion about whether the members could be postholders and whether to commission a lawyer for official advice. This discussion will continue at the next subgroup meeting. **Subgroup**

4.3. Telephone Box (ref Sep 4.4) – discussion about the pros and cons of this being taken over by a member of the community for a Book Box. It was pointed out that Tony's shop has this facility already, although many were unaware of this. Questions were asked about the listed status and emergency use of the telephone box, CS to contact BT to ask before any more conversations are had.

**CS**

4.4. Defibrillator training (ref Sep 11.1) – CR confirmed that St John's are able to provide this, CR to request dates in January or February 2024. **CR**

4.5. Tennis club lights (ref Sep 11.6) – CS reported that these are going to be adjusted

4.6. 20mph additional measures – CS circulated the Secretary's response to this, CC members are asked to contact CS with any comments

4.7. License for Trap Race (ref Sep 3.1.3) – CS asked for clarification of response from SBC re sight of the insurance and compliance. AF confirmed a Freedom of Information Request is needed to view this. CS to complete FOI. **CS**

## 5. **TREASURERS REPORT (WB)**

- 5.1. Issue with closing RBS account due to lack of clarity, WB proposed that we vote on the closure of this account. **The Community Council unanimously agreed to close the RBS account, and for the money to be withdrawn to go into the new Virgin Money account.**
- 5.2. Thanks to WB for providing this month's report.

**5.3 Balance at 28/07/23** **£8,308.05**

Held in 2 accounts

Virgin Money £8260.98

Royal Bank of Scotland £47.07

**Balance at 28/7/23 in Virgin Money account** **£8,260.98**

### 5.4 Income

n/a

### 5.5 Expenditure

4/9/23	Green St Boswells	£25.45
4/9/23	Village Centre Enhancement	£116.19
5/9/23	Village Hall website fees	£60.00
5/9/23	Beastie Lane Cut	£240.00
6/9/23	Generator changeover switch, Church Hall	£522.37
12/9/23	Church Hall meeting let	£26.25
27/9/23	Bulbs- SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund	£471.24
29/9/23	Village Centre Enhancements	£154.02

**5.6 Balance at 29/09/23 in Virgin Money account** **£6,645.46**

### 5.7 Expenditure since statement

3/10/23 Rodex (Christmas Lights) £1458.46

### 5.8 Income since statement

5/10/23	Border Berries	£410.00
18/10/23	Christmas lights project grant	£5000.00
18/10/23	Maintenance Grant	£630.00
18/10/23	Hall lets reimbursement	£261.75

**5.9 Balance at 24/10/23 in Virgin Money account** **£11,488.75**

### 5.10 Expenditure since statement – cheques not cashed

16/10/23 SP Distribution PLC (Xmas Lights connection) £787.08

NB ( I need to follow up cheque not cashed from Feb - £90 for village hall lets plus no invoice received for meetings held April and June 23)

### 5.11 Monies in account - from March 23 -ringfenced

Maintenance grant used for village hall website postings, Office sundries, poppy wreath, piper payment, electricity payment for Christmas lights <i>Spent £37.99+£60+ £13.29+£52.50 = £163.78</i>	(£630)
<b>£466.22</b>	
Pathways Grant	(£450)
<b>£210</b>	
<i>Spent £240</i>	
Scottish Borders Council Generator Hook Up	(£861.98)
<b>£339.61</b>	
<i>Spent £522.37</i>	
Green St Boswells	(£750)
<b>£724.55</b>	
<i>Spent £25.45</i>	
Village Centre Enhancements Grant	(£325)
<b>£26.79</b>	
<i>Spent £28 + £116.19 +£154.02 = £298.21</i>	
Polwarth Fountain	
<b>£100</b>	
Community Woodland	(£300)
<b>£247.03</b>	
<i>Spent £30.99+£21.98 = £52.97</i>	
War Memorial	
<b>£47.07</b>	
Christmas Lights Project	
<b>£330</b>	
SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund	(£3000.88)
<b>£2,529.64</b>	
<i>Spent £471.24</i>	
Fair monies	
<b>£450</b>	
Christmas Lights project	(£5000)
<b>£2,754.46</b> (SBCNeighbourhoodSupportFund2)	
(Spent£1458.46+£787.08)	
<b>£8,225.37</b>	
Monies committed in accounts	£8,225.37
Monies uncommitted	£11,488.75 minus 2 unrepresented cheques (£787.08 + £90)
	£11,488.75 - £877.08 = £10,611.67
	£10,611.67 - £8,225.37 = £2,386.30

6. **REMEMBRANCE DAY ARRANGEMENTS (GT)**

- 6.1. Parade license applied for
- 6.2. WB to order wreath from previous contact **WB**
- 6.3. Discussion about the lack of musicians available to perform. AF contacted relevant organisations across the Borders last year with no success.

7. **POLICE REPORTS**

- 7.1. These were circulated with the Agenda, no comments.

8. **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

- 8.1. Councilor's report – not received by CC
- 8.2. Current Consultations – these were highlighted by CS
- (8.2.1)** Daytime Opportunities for older adults and those with Complex Needs
- (8.2.2)** Have your Say – Placemaking and Community Engagement Sign Up
- (8.2.3)** Footway Parking 2023
- (8.2.4)** With reference to previous Financial Survey Consultation re the role of the CC Network, in a subsequent meeting of the Network and SBC it was noted that our follow up comments were not included in the report. There is a future meeting agreed to look at these points
- (8.2.5)** Rural Residents Survey (James Hutton Institute) was highlighted by AP
- 8.3. Planning Applications – previously circulated by CS, no comments. CS in the process of querying with SBC the types of planning applications available to view by CCs. **CS**

9. **GREEN ST BOSWELLS**

- 9.1. Fiona Cameron from Parks and Recreation will be helping to create a map of the Green / Croft to help with creating a proposed cutting regime.
- 9.2. Orchard Park – AP raised concerns from SBHA about cutting grass around the seat
- 9.3. AP proposed purchasing of branded Hi-Vis for volunteers, AP will look into best price before purchase **AP**
- 9.4. Fungus Hunt postponed in Community Woodland start of October due to rain
- 9.5. The last of the trees from Storm Arwen have now been milled into bench parts which are being assembled into 4 benches to be placed around the woodland. It was agreed the traveller's money to be used for this as it relates to their request.
- 9.6. Borders Forest Trust have visited the Woodland and brought along a work party to cut the hedge and will be returning for other tasks.
- 9.7. November 5<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm all are invited for the last woodland session of the year.

10. **Any other competent business**

- 10.1. CS has received a request for a mentor to attend the next meeting, CC asked for more information. **CS**
- 10.2. CC asked AF to get a firm date for the St Boswells Fair Community Surgery / Meeting. This was proposed for January 2024 after the FAQs are on the website. AF will be also visiting Kirk Yetholm with GA from SBC to explore the Charter. AF to action and confirm date of meeting. **AF**
- 10.3. Placemaking – AP explained more about this initiative after meeting with the Cheviot Liaison Officer and other community groups and highlighted the potential importance of this scheme to use a vehicle to tackle village issues. AP proposed creating a subgroup to discuss further (CS WB, AF, AP and member of public agreed) **AP & Subgroup**
- 10.4. AP to contact Clare Malster SBC to clarify details of Trustees Fidelity Insurance **AP**
- 10.5. Christmas Lights on the Village Hall – CE agreed to test these ahead of the switch on **CE**
- 10.6. AP queried the state of the road to the tennis club, AF pointed out potential damage to vehicles due to potholes. CS responded with some thoughts and will take this back to the Tennis Club. **CS**
- 10.7. Bottle Bank at the Bus Stance not being emptied again after chasing up to get emptied last month – this will be passed on to SBC representative to refer on to SBC Waste Management. **SH**
- 10.8. CS reported progress on the Borders extension railway feasibility study and highlighted a meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October held by the Campaign for Borders Railway group.
- 10.9. CS highlighted the new Community Plan to be released very soon and the potential importance of this document for community empowerment.
- 10.10. GT noted the ongoing temporary closure of the back alley and that a blacksmith has been contracted to install a new gate
- 10.11. GT informed the CC that extra bins and a seat will be going into the new playpark
- 10.12. GT informed the CC that the Jed Ultra Marathon is happening this Saturday
- 10.13. AF informed the CC of communications via social media to the community regarding the timetable of the wind farm blade movements to plan ahead for traffic disruption
- 10.14. AF updated the CC that Food Bank collections are still successful, with the generous Harvest Collection from the school and church being taken to Jedburgh Food Bank this week.

**Date of Next Meeting: Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7:15p.m.at Lesser Village Hall**

Any members of the public wishing to join the meeting or raise an issue of local concern please contact The Secretary at [stbospcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:stbospcsecretary@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.**

**We currently have a vacancy on the Community Council,  
Please consider joining us to make your views known.**