

St BOSWELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting was held in the Church Hall 31st August 2023

Date of next meeting 28th September 2023 in the Lesser Village Hall
Members of the Public wishing to join this meeting should contact the Secretary at
stbosppccsecretary@gmail.com or 07736 969 226

DRAFT Notes of Community Council meeting held on Thursday 31st August 2023

1. Chair welcomed all attendees.
2. **ATTENDEES** : G. Tweddle (Chair), W. Burns, Y. Clement, A. Farnish, C. Richard, C. Strang, A. Patterson, C. Emond, M. Barrie, Cllr Hamilton, + 2 Members of the Public
Note: several other members of the public arrived at the start of the meeting with the intention of discussing arrangements for St Boswells Fair 2024. It was explained to them by GT and AF that there would be a public meeting at the end of 2023/start of 2024 chaired by SBC that would be the forum for this discussion and that public discussion of this matter was not on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

APOLOGIES : Cllr P. Brown, Cllr S. Scott

3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES** : amendments requested by CS and feedback not yet received from GA and AG

AOCB taken at this point

10.1 A member of the public expressed concerns over arrangements for the Fair and who gives permission for the Fair, it was explained that this is by Royal Charter and to contact Greg Aitken SBC or attend the forthcoming public meeting for more information or to ask further questions

10.2 A member of the public raised concerns about the overgrown hedges on Kirk Road towards Benrigg obscuring the passing places and the potential danger of the footpath crossing this road into Macauderdale fields. It was explained by SH and other members of the CC that the speed limit on this road is 60mph and that there have been previous attempts to request a safer junction for pedestrians but due to legislation this is not possible. Contact names at SBC were provided. MB volunteered to ask the farmer to cut back the hedges. *Post Meeting Note : farmer has agreed to do this and keep the passing places more visible.*

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1. Christmas Lights – AP reported to the CC that the grant application for £5000 has been submitted. The current subtotal for all works is £6900. If the grant is awarded, there will be a period of time for discussion of raising the remaining balance. It is hoped this will coincide with the September CC meeting.
- 4.2. Resilience Generator – CE reported to the CC that the connection is now completed at the Church Hall. CE to communicate with LS, provide written instructions and get back in touch with the members of public who had offered emergency generator use – note that GDPR will need to be followed re storage of this information.
- 4.3. Gardens Competition – MB reported that 12 gardens in St Boswells were shortlisted for this competition, final judging by Milestone Garden Centre was this afternoon and winners to be announced, who will receive cash prizes and their photos in the Jed Eye.
- 4.4. Land Ownership Matters – AP reported that the SCIO application needs to be completed regarding ownership of the greater part of the Green, with support from The Bridge. AP proposed a subgroup to complete this and CS, GT, CE and CR offered their support in this. Regarding the legal position of ownership of the small triangle of land, there will be an online meeting with solicitors and other community groups to which CC members are invited to also attend. The aim of this meeting is to produce and send a legal letter to all interested parties before there is a claim put to the Land Registry for ownership. Emma Husband is hoping to attend next month's meeting which could provide useful information.
- 4.5. 20mph additional measures – CS reported that the return has been sent and a response awaited.

5. **TREASURERS REPORT**

- 5.1. The hedges on Beastie Lane have now been cut and money paid
- 5.2. Village hall cheques not banked, WB to chase
- 5.3. RBS account now to be closed, WB to arrange with signators

6. **ST BOSWELLS FAIR**

- 6.1. Report from AF previously circulated to CC

Summary of report for St Boswells Fair 2023

- Communication between all parties was much improved this year.
- To avoid miscommunication, dates for 2024 were discussed and agreed during the weekend and information disseminated to the travellers by Roy : Wednesday 17th – Monday 22nd July 2024
- The 18th July was the last day of the Fair in 2023 but there were only 3 caravans there on that day, which were all gone by afternoon. After speaking some of the elders of the travelling community, they still respect this date and it is very important to them but accept that the “younger” generation who have lives and businesses need to return for these on a Monday. We all agreed next year would be more in keeping with tradition as the 18th is in the middle of the dates agreed.

- Location of caravans / horses: the main travellers' group on the Green was well organised and respectful of previous conversations around litter, horse mess and damage to trees by tethering. Smashed glass bottles on the green into grass was the only significant litter issue which was passed on to SBC.
- The Trap Race participants arrived through Friday without any organised plan which was fed back to SBC, and although Roy is not the organiser of this, he proposed for next year he could direct horses onto the Croft along the tree line and he will undertake to ensure all caravans and vehicles are kept off apart from limited drop offs at the A68 end of the Croft.
- There is ongoing discussion about the potential location of the trap race for 2024 to minimise disruption and ensure there is space for traditional activities.
- Leaflets for 2024 will be redrafted with consultation and clearer accurate information.
- The travelling family of Nat Lowe who passed away at the site of the defibrillator outside Tony's shop 30 years ago held a short ceremony with singing and remembrance with a memorial plaque. The money donated in 2022 by the travellers part-funded this defibrillator.
- There was a £450 donation to the CC from the Fair 2023, discussion ongoing about possible benches for the Green.
- Although acknowledged as distressing, the overall the level of anti-social behaviour was minimal when compared to recent history of the Fair, partly due to increased police presence.
- SBC will produce FAQs for 2024 in terms of private land and regulations, location of encampment, costs and the historic nature of the Fair.
- SBC will host a public meeting or surgery in Dec 2023/Jan 2024 to give all residents and businesses the chance to speak and ask questions as well as receive information about plans for the Fair 2024.

6.2. It was suggested that the timing of any meeting / surgery held by SBC should take account of availability/working day to be accessible to all.

6.3. It was agreed that the CC would like more input into any leaflet going out for next year's Fair.

7. **POLICE REPORTS**

7.1. It was highlighted by CS that the link provided shows interesting statistics and background of crime trends

8. **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

8.1. Councilor's report circulated prior to meeting

(8.1.1) Community conversations are taking place in Jedburgh Town Hall on the 14th September. Councillors and officers will be on hand to answer questions, take forward concerns and listen to feedback.

(8.1.2) The Borders partly hosted the UCI with fantastic results and great TV coverage of the region.

(8.1.3) We brought together the first meeting of the Borders railway extension group. Community engagement will be a future aspect of its work as we

move to achieve the feasibility study.

- (8.1.4) Your neighbours at Ancrum CC have had an election and just managed to get the minimum numbers to reconstitute.
 - (8.1.5) I am currently chairing the review of festival and events funding. St Boswells receives an annual grant to support its festival and I am keen to explore other measures we can implement to make these events become more sustainable stronger.
- 8.2. SH elaborated on the nature of Community Conversations as a surgery type meeting with the opportunity for questions and useful information as well as highlighting current initiatives
 - 8.3. Financial Review of Community Councils – completed and shared with CC after query from some members of the CC. It was suggested that the title of the form was not reflective of the information required, SH explained the reasoning behind these consultations.
 - 8.4. Rugby to Football pitch – CS / GT reported that this had been agreed over the summer break via email communication with some concerns over parking for large attendances
 - 8.5. Community Planning Priorities Consultation – response by CS on behalf of the CC previously circulated. Query raised to SH about the forthcoming Placemaking Consultation and that it would be useful to have the questions in advance to give time and opportunity to gain a collective response.
 - 8.6. Shared Access Network: SH explained this forum for proposing ideas and that there have been proposals of a cycle/footway along the A68 from St Boswells to Newtown as well as a link to any potential new railway station in St Boswells.

9. **Green St Boswells**

- 9.1. Community Woodland – AF reported that community events and networking with experts are going well but that we are looking for more volunteers for the work parties to keep up maintenance of the woodland. Community payback scheme and Borders College have both been contacted without success.
- 9.2. Path Maintenance – AP reported it has been difficult to get contractors to complete this work despite having the funds to do it, and highlighted this to SH to take back to SBC as a matter that could affect many other CCs. SH to bring this up at the Cheviot Area Partnership meeting.
- 9.3. Grass Cutting Regime – this item was prompted by a letter from a member of the public and discussions in the community. It was acknowledged that there are different opinions within the community about the best way to manage grass cutting regarding biodiversity, aesthetics and use, although the general feeling is that leaving grass intentionally longer is a positive move. Previous small

changes to the SBC cutting plan have not been enacted and there are potential issues with the machinery needed to cut longer grass as well as the Biodiversity Action Plan not being implementable on a local level. SH suggested that there should be a community-backed plan for anything going forward to be sent on to SH for further negotiations.

10. **Any other competent business**

- 10.1. Telephone Box: Community Ownership – CE reported that although the telephone box in St Boswells is not on the current list to be decommissioned, we have the opportunity to request from BT a certificate of non-viability to then use the box for community purposes. It was decided to ask if there are any individuals or groups within the community with ideas for use of the telephone box we could then contact BT.
- 10.2. Orchard Park community funding – AP reported that following negotiations with SBHA they are awaiting funding for planters in this area
- 10.3. Greener Gateway meeting 26th September – AP gave details of this meeting and invited any other members of the CC to attend.
- 10.4. Communication Policy – AF prompted for a discussion about how to communicate more effectively as a CC. It was suggested that we first need a Comms Policy for existing methods of communication, which AF will draft for next meeting, before we look at any other communication channel.
- 10.5. Media information re 6.1 above – AF clarified information to go to the Southern Reporter regarding the funding and installation of the defibrillator with part funding from the Fair 2023.

Date of Next Meeting – 28th Sep 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 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.**