

St BOSWELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting was held in the Lesser Hall 28th Sept 2023

Date of next meeting 25th October 2023 in the Church 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 28th September 2023

1. C. Richard, acting Chair, welcomed all attendees.
2. **ATTENDEES** : M. Barrie, W. Burns, Y. Clement, C. Emond, C. Strang, A. Patterson, Cllr Scott
Emma Husband, Community Engagement Officer, SBC in attendance
+ 1 Member of the Public
APOLOGIES : Cllr P. Brown, Cllr S. Scott, A. Farnish, G. Tweddle
3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES** :
 - 3.1. **June Minutes**
 - (3.1.1) These had been amended to better reflect discussions about The Fair but CS felt that they still did not reflect his comments adequately and would like the following amendments to be adopted.
 - (3.1.2) CS felt the Fair dates were presented as a fait accompli but felt there was no choice but to accept but that no commitment would be given to the 2024 dates until there had been further discussion at the CC in light of the proposed changes to the Fair dates for the future.
Post Meeting Note : AP confirmed that the Fair dates 2023 were clearly discussed as part of the Feb 2023 meeting – Ref Feb Minutes Item 9.1 - and were in accordance with the joint CC/Traveller agreement established around 10 years ago.
 - (3.1.3) CS would like it reflected that the CC had requested a copy of the license agreement for the Trap race.
Post Meeting Note : This was reflected in June Minutes Item 7.5
 - (3.1.4) CS would like it reflected that CC requested whether Insurance was provided as part of the license process. Ref June Minutes Item 7.7
 - (3.1.5) CS would like it reflected that he had asked if the grass should be allowed to grow longer in anticipation of greater numbers of horses.
 - 3.2. **August Minutes**
 - (3.2.1) AOCB Item 10.2 Overgrown hedges - amend spelling to

McCorquedale

- (3.2.2) Matters Arising Item 4.4 Land Ownership – amend final sentence to reflect that AP thought the online meeting may result in a suggestion that a legal letter was sent to any known landowners.
Post Meeting Note : this turned out not to be the case.
- (3.2.3) SBC Councillors Report Item 8.5 CS response to Community Planning Priorities Consultation was done as a private individual rather than in behalf of CC.
- (3.2.4) SBC Councillor's Report Item 8.6 – amend to reflect that AP and CS proposed ideas for Shared Access Network Consultation not SH.
- (3.2.5) AOCB Item 10.2 – amend to reflect that funding is awarded but we are awaiting SBHA feedback on revised proposal.

4. **MATTERS ARISING not on Agenda**

- 4.1. **Christmas Lights** – we have made a successful application to Cheviot Neighbourhood Support Grant for £5,000 to install the electrical infrastructure to enable a Christmas tree and further lighting in the future.
 - (4.1.1) Estimates will need to be revisited due to time elapsed and then work will need to be programmed so this may affect the timeline. Payment to Scottish Power and Rexel needs to be upfront.
 - (4.1.2) WB to submit signed CC agreement to SBC grant T&C's. EH confirmed this can take up to 28 days to process but CC can accept tenders using their own cash and reimburse the money when grant is received.
 - (4.1.3) LS to confirm if Church could provide Christmas tree this year to be located on The Green. CE
 - (4.1.4)** Communication needed with residents to explain that the whole grant of £5k will be spent on installing infrastructure. Fundraising may be required for lights, permanent tree and holding a lighting up event first weekend of Advent - 1st/2nd/3rd Dec 2023 tbc. CE/AF
- 4.2. **Garden Competition** – the 2023 winners are :
 - Best Front Garden – 12, St Cuthbert's Drive**
 - Best Hanging Basket – The Croft, The Croft**
 - (4.2.1) Milestone Garden Centre selected the winners from a shortlist and will present the awards. Articles will be in Jedeye and Southern Reporter.
 - (4.2.2) Discussion around putting info/pictures in a poster on Noticeboard and Tony's Newsagent. MB
- 4.3. **Land Ownership** – AP attended online meeting with Community Land

Scotland and Solicitor from Harper McLeod 14/09/2023 regarding the Undivided Green between Springfield Terrace and Greenside Place.

(4.3.1) Non-use is not indicative of legally 'Ownerless' land as descendants have a right to claim the Title. King's Lord Treasurer Dept have a mechanism to address land where ownership is unknown but have advised they will not invoke the process in this situation as the land value is too low to recoup their costs.

(4.3.2) The Prescriptive Claimant process cannot be invoked in our situation as we cannot exclude users from the land to demonstrate 'Possession'.

(4.3.3) SCIO sub-group set up to regularise the legal issue with the CC's ownership of the larger part of The Green will need to progress without including the Undivided Green. AP

4.4. **Telephone Box** – CC were approached by someone who had seen that BT were transferring ownership of red phone boxes to private owners and they would like to convert St Boswells to a lending library/art gallery similar to other local communities. Discussion took place re the merits of retaining a functioning phone box. It was agreed that CC would approach BT to seek clarity on the position and contact the MoP to advise that there was no immediate appetite to see the phonebox decommissioned. CS

5. **TREASURERS REPORT**

5.1. Virgin Money require our account to have a card to make deposits rather than using Pay-in slips.

5.2. The installation of the Generator has cost less than anticipated at this point (£339.61 unspent to date). CE to look at further small purchases and remedial works required.

5.3.	Balance at 28/07/23	Held in two accounts	£8,308.05
	Virgin Money	£8260.98	
	Royal Bank of Scotland	£47.07	

5.4.	Balance at 28/7/23 in Virgin Money account	£8,260.98
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5.5. **Income** n/a

5.6. **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

5.7. **Balance at 26/09/23 in Virgin Money account £7,270.72**

5.8. **Expenditure since statement – cheques not cashed**

25/9/23 Village Centre Enhancements £154.02

25/9/23 Bulbs- SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund £471.24

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)

5.9. **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 *Spent* £37.99+£60+ £13.29+£52.50 = £163.78 (£630) **£466.22**

Pathways Grant *Spent* £240 (£450) **£210**

Scottish Borders Council Generator Point *Spent* £522.37 (£861.98) **£339.61**

Green St Boswells *Spent* £25.45 (£750) **£724.55**

Village Centre Enhancements Grant *Spent* £28 + £116.19 +£154.02 = £298.21 (£325) **£26.79**

Polwarth Fountain **£100**

Community Woodland *Spent* £30.99+£21.98 = £52.97 (£300) **£247.03**

War Memorial **£47.07**

Christmas Lights Project **£330**

SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund Grant – Community Growing

Spent £471.24 (£3000.88) **£2,529.64**

Fair monies **£450**

Total RingFenced £5,470.91

5.10. **Monies Uncommitted as at September £1,084.55**

6. **POLICE REPORT**

6.1. St Boswells appears in both Jedburgh and Selkirk Reports with different issues.

6.2. Several untaxed cars have been clamped in the village.

7. **COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

7.1. Live Borders Review is ongoing. This deals with libraries, swimming pools, Town Halls etc.

7.2. 150 Affordable Homes have been delivered last year across the Borders plus improved energy measures by Social Landlords.

7.3. School Estate, excepting Galashiels Academy and Peebles High School, has been checked for WRAAC and is clear.

7.4. Winter preparations are already ongoing – salt and gritter stocks checked.

7.5. Robberies have risen sharply.

7.6. St Boswells Village Hall has received £5,000 funding to install solar panels on the roof as 1st phase of a 3 phase energy efficiency project but is subject to Planning Approval.

- 7.7. St Boswells Christmas Lights project has received £5,000 grant funding towards installing electrical infrastructure.

8. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

- 8.1. Emma Husband supports communities with grant funding applications and was recently involved in Jenny Moore's Play Park consultation.
- 8.2. Placemaking – communities can join this initiative at anytime. 58 out of 69 CC's have expressed an interest in taking forward some kind of Placemaking Consultation. This is likely to help with future funding applications. Any community group can lead on developing a Town Priorities Plan. It is likely that a SCIO would help with taking this forward in St Boswells. The priority is to establish a group of interested residents, carry out some community engagement to develop priorities. Funds and a Consultants' Framework Agreements are available to support these activities. Cheviot Placemaking Working Group is currently Jedburgh and Smailholm.

9. **PLANNING**

- 9.1. There is currently one Planning Application – **23/01323/FUL** Greencroft The Green – Installation of external insulation and render, windows and doors, boundary fence
- 9.2. **Post Meeting Note : 23/01407/FUL** 17 St Aidan's Park – Alterations and extension to dwelling house has been submitted

10. **GREEN ST BOSWELLS**

- 10.1. Mini-meadows - a number of perennial tulips and wildflower plug plants have been purchased for the Bus Stop, planters, The Green, Springfield Community Garden and the Church.
- 10.2. Pollinator Patch - Yellow Rattle has been sown at the Bus Stop.
- 10.3. Orchard Park Community Growing Garden - has not been able to progress as we are awaiting comment from SBHA on a revised proposal.
- 10.4. Community Woodland – a Fungal Foray is planned for Saturday October 7th. All are welcome. A final workday of the year is planned for November to include tree planting, drainage works, path works and general tidy. All welcome.
- 10.5. The woodland sign needs to be improved. Costs are being investigated.
- 10.6. The Travellers have suggested that their monetary donation to the village be spent on a seat at the Maxton Road end of The Green. It was suggested that seats /benches could be made from the remaining fallen timber in the woodland and placed by the woodland sign. Further discussion is required

once costs are known.

11. **AOCB**

- 11.1. The defibrillator is checked monthly by CR. Training to be arranged. CR
- 11.2. A resident has raised concerns about the risks of the Benrig Road/Bridle Path crossing point. Visibility is restricted by the hedges. MB to approach landowner to discuss. It was thought this could be raised during Placemaking.
- 11.3. Braeheads Path needs some cutting back of nettles. It was agreed to approach Bill Hogarth to request a cut back.
- 11.4. A Dog Poo bin was reported missing on The Green.
- 11.5. Bollards at the Maxton Road end on The Green have been damaged.
Two foregoing items to be reported to SBC via Report It tab on website. CS
- 11.6. Question about whether Tennis Club lights have been properly adjusted as they are causing some glare to drivers on the A68. To be pursued. CS
- 11.7. Request for Area Carbon Footprint information at a Parish level. EH to investigate.
- 11.8. Question re Borders Railway Extension Feasibility timeline. How do we engage with this process. SS to investigate.

12. **Date of Next Meeting – 26th October 2023 at 7:15p.m. venue Church 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.

Please consider joining us to make your views known.