Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Boswells Parish Community Council

held on 4 December 2024 at 7.15pm in the Church Hall

1 Welcome by Chair (Craig Edmond)

2 Attendees and Apologies

Present: Councillor Sandy Scott, Wilma Burns, Anne Stormont, James Knox, Craig Emond, Mike Barrie, Chris Cameron, Sylvia Grundy, Annette Paterson (from Green St Boswells) and Roy Lawrie (former community councillor)

Apologies: Charles Strang, John Bathgate, Scott Hamilton

3 Minutes of the previous meeting *held on Thursday 7 November 2024 in the lesser Village Hall.* These were approved by Craig Emond.

4 Matters Arising from the Above Minutes

a Armistice Day:

All went well. Wreath was placed. A good-sized crowd turned out. Chris cable-tied the wreaths afterwards to ensure they didn't blow away. It was mentioned that the Buccleuch arms had offered coffee to those attending after the ceremony. Annette reported receiving offers of help with the placing of the sculpture next year and it was agreed to explore this further next year. Roy raised the possibility of requesting some sort of hard paving being provided on the memorial side of the A68 so people attending the ceremony wouldn't have to walk on the road. Annette said this had previously been raised with BEAR who'd said it could be tricky to provide this. Craig suggested that even if it was possible, it might prove too expensive. It was agreed to have further discussion on this matter.

b Christmas Lights:

It was agreed by all that the switch on had been a great success and that the tree and lights looked good. Thanks were expressed to Craig for all his hard work in getting them all set up.

Wilma reported on the fundraising which had been very successful. The total raised being £4988.27. There was also initial funding from the Community Council of £839.61. After expenditure of £2997.75, there remains a balance of £2830.13. Wilma also stated that one donation tin still has to be collected from the cricket club. Wilma mentioned that it had been the Morrisons staff who'd raised the funds for the

hospitality on the night and she proposed that the left-over hot chocolate be given to the Wobbly Mile. This was agreed.

It was proposed by Craig, and agreed by the rest of the committee, that the balance be ring-fenced for future Christmas funding. Craig proposed making a more solid base for the tree next year to better protect it from the weather. He also proposed a slabbed area with picnic bench to cover the tree hole during the rest of the year. It was agreed to discuss this further after the tree is down and the area and extent of the hole have been assessed by Craig.

c Insurances:

The process of working out what separate public liability insurance might be needed by the Community Council over and above that provided by SBC continues. Charles has quotes for what might be needed but the SBC provision needs to be scrutinised to ensure that there are indeed actual gaps that need to be covered. James agreed to proofread the SBC document and discuss his findings with Charles. After that's done Wilma and Charles will consider whether to proceed with pursuing further cover. It was also pointed out that if we do pursue separate cover we would need to make it clear we are a Community Council and not a business.

d Path clearance and hedge cutting:

Mike reported that he'd been contacted by Susan Gray and they will be arranging to meet in a couple of weeks. It is hoped that the meeting will help clarify exactly what the Community Council is responsible for and open up possible route to more funding for this. Craig stated that the current £600 pathways grant is not nearly sufficient. Annette said that volunteers are currently the only way of filling the gap. Sandy reported that some other areas have paid arrangements for maintenance and health & safety in place. It was agreed that it's a priority that we get clarification on the best way to proceed. It was hoped the meeting with Susan Gray will provide that. It was also suggested that we should get the shortfall costed so we can present the actual cost to SBC when appealing for more funding.

5 Treasurer's Report (Wilma Burns):

Wilma presented and talked us through the rest of the accounts (having already gone through the Christmas lights part). She suggested we could use the balance of the maintenance grant to fund the further insurance we're currently investigating.

6 Scottish Borders Council:

a Councillors' Report (Sandy Scott):

Jedburgh swimming pool has closed. There was a meeting last Friday between local MPS, MSPs and Councillor to see if it can be saved.

SBC has won various 2024 LGC awards including Wee Village, large Village and Town awards.

South of Scotland Enterprise and Scottish Wildlife Trust partnership have been announced as part of Natural Capital Innovation Zone

b Current Consultations (Sandy and Wilma):

Levelling Up Funding from the UK government to SBC agreed in 2024 to be available from next year.

A cycling fund that could help South of Scotland become a leading cycling destination by e.g improving routes and paths, providing shelters has been in contact with Wilma and are going to get back to her in the new year to discuss/clarify what's on offer for our area.

c Bus Shelter Graffiti (Sandy)

Graffiti has been reported. Sandy will chase up SBC on its removal.

7 Reports of Sub-groups:

a Place Planning (Annette Paterson):

Annette explained that a pilot of this way of community working has now taken place. She explained that Place Planning is essentially a way of coming up with a 'roadmap' for short, medium and long term community planning that actively includes all sections of a community through a process of consultation with those sections. If a community were to decide to proceed to work in this way a core group would need to be set up to get the consultation and decision-making process underway. There is a Borders Community Action person who can be contacted for more information and support. After some discussion, it was decided that before the Community Council can begin to consider Place Planning further, we would need to see the explanatory documentation. Sandy is going to request a copy.

b Green St Boswells (Annette Paterson):

Annette outlined the work currently done by Green St Boswells including weeding and caring for the planters all around the village. She mentioned that the group had won a Nature Scot Pollinator Award and that the prize money had gone towards some self-watering planters and plants amongst other things.

Annette also said that following a recent meeting of the volunteers an annual review summary document is now being worked on which will list proposals and plans. She asked if the Community Council wants to continue the present format of having Green St Boswells as a co-opted sub-group to which the answer was yes. Annette also suggested that Green St Boswells could do a presentation on their plans and proposals to the Community Council in January.

8 Police Reports (Sandy Scott):

Sandy referred the Community Council members present to the report he'd already shared with us via email. Sylvia asked about the about the disorder that's been occurring outside Jedburgh Court and Sandy said the police were dealing with it and that it appeared the cause of it wasn't directly linked to the court or its proceedings.

9 Any Other Competent Business:

a Woodland Work Day

Annette informed those present of the upcoming Woodland Work Day in the Community Woodland on the 8th December where all volunteers would be welcome.

b Hedge-layering between woodland and farm

Annette spoke of the difficulties in managing the boundary hedge between the Community Woodland and its neighbouring farm and that the farm can't gets its machines down to cut the hedge back. A possible solution has been tried. This involved a local hedge layer expert doing a demonstration of hedge weaving/layering along 25m of the hedge. This proved effective and Annette is going to look into funding for further hedge-layering to be done there, hopefully in early 2025.

c Community Council Facebook Page

Wilma said she is now an admin of the group page and is working out how to include Anne as an admin too.

d Amount Raised by Christmas Tree Lights Raffle

Sylvia asked what was the total amount raised by the raffle. Wilma said that still had to be finalised.

e Simple and Efficient Community Planning Document

Criag raised the need for a succinct and clear Community Council planning document which lists the subgroups such as Green St Boswells, Christmas Lights Group, etc along with, for example, wish lists, aims, methods of working and costs. It was also suggested that his could all be contained in a Google Drive document which members could all access. **It was agreed to pursue this at the next meeting**, perhaps by tabling a brief preparatory document for the subgroups.

10 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7.15 in the Lesser Village Hall

It was also suggested that all dates for 2025 meetings be set at our next meeting.