Minutes of the Meeting of
St Boswells Parish Community Council
held on Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 7.15pm in the Lesser Village Hall

1 Welcome by Chair *(Craig Emond in the chair)*

2 Attendees and Apologies

Present: Mike Barrie, John Bathgate, Wilma Burns, Chris Cameron, Craig Emond, Sylvia Grundy, James Knox, Anne Stormont, and three members of the public.

Apologies received from: Scott Hamilton, Sandy Scott

3 Minutes of the previous Meeting *held on Wednesday 4 December 2024 in the Church Hall:* These were successfully proposed and seconded for accuracy by Wilma Burns and James Knox respectively, with thanks to Anne Stormont for their preparation.

4 Matters Arising from those Minutes not subsequently on the Agenda

a Christmas Lights *(Craig Emond and Wilma Burns)*

Wilma had previously circulated a financial statement. It was agreed that the community council should pursue the question of undergrounding the electricity cable to the north side of the road, as well as the possibility of extending the Christmas lighting scheme eastwards towards the village hall on both sides of the road. Slabs were to be laid over the tree base. An additional grant application was to be made to the Cheviot Area Partnership in the next financial year.

Annette Patterson passed plans of the Green over to James Knox who is to set up a shared file system for all to access. She understood that an Acer Platanoides (Norway Maple) was to be planted at the crossroads after completion of the wind farm component transport: it would have an appropriate plaque provided by Energiekontor.

b Insurances *(James Knox)*

James had been trying to ensure that there would be minimal overlap in the CC's insurance through the SBC Scheme and the insurance being sought to address public liability as owners of part of the Green. After discussion it was agreed to take out the additional policy at the lower premium.

c Path clearance and hedge-cutting *(Mike Barrie)*

Mike had had a very successful meeting with Susan Gray of SBC. They had spent over two hours walking the paths and he would follow up where work had been agreed. It was important that all parties worked to a common map, sufficiently detailed, which identified the responsibilities of different parties, including SBC and the CC. Chris agreed to produce a base map for this purpose.

d FaceBook page admin update

Wilma was still trying to get Anne installed as joint administrator

e Simple and straightforward planning support document – ideas and progress

James agreed to follow this up to ensure that all could share information. (And see 7a below).

5 Treasurer's Report *(Wilma Burns)*

Wilma spoke to her report. There was some £7944 in the account, which was allocated to various projects and pots. With the change in membership, new signatories were required, and Craig Emond and the Secretary agreed to take on this task.

Following the Christmas lighting it was agreed to contribute £50 to Tony at the Old Post Office towards his electricity costs.

6 Scottish Borders Council

a Councillors' Report

John Bathgate reported as follows: it was the day before the meeting of full council.

There were to be no parking charges at Tweedbank station.

The feasibility study for the Borders Railway extension was awaiting a funding decision from the UK government.

Budget discussions were ongoing, and a 10% rates increase seemed likely.

There was to be a review of Live Borders in particular, and the council estate in general, by the end of March.

A massive battery storage facility at Leitholm had been proposed.

The Jedburgh pool and the Jedburgh Town hall and Tourist Information Centre are the subjects of interest by different trusts

b Current Consultations

SBC Budget *See above*

Scottish Borders Council Delivery Programme 2024 *Noted*

Community Council Scheme *This has been circulated for comments at the next meeting.*

c Bus Shelter Graffiti removal progress

It was not deemed possible to remove the graffiti from the harling. However the graffiti was to be painted out. There was general dissatisfaction about maintenance of the area behind the bus shelter and around the bottle bags. It was suggested that they might usefully be relocated at the rugby club, and Councillor Bathgate agreed to follow up this possibility and report back.

d Springfield Terrace, school drop-off and potential one-way system

Craig had been approached by a parent concerned about the levels of traffic around a pedestrian entrance to the school from Springfield. The official policy was still to drop off children using the parking at the former rugby club, from which they would walk to the school. It was agreed that the matter should be taken up with the community policeman Bruce Anderson who should be encouraged to attend in Springfield to discourage parents from parking on the zigzag lines. The possibility of a 10 mph speed limit on vehicle approaches to the school was raised. While the matter of a potential one-way system I've been mentioned by Philippa the traffic management guru within SBC, it was widely felt that this would not help and should be resisted

e battery storage farms *(Wilma Burns)*

Wilma's concerns about the growing numbers of battery farms being proposed on agricultural land in the Borders was widely shared. It was unclear what the official policy might be for their location and number. It was plain that renewables were wanted but nobody felt warmly towards Battery farms. John Bathgate agreed to establish what policy framework if any SBC had in mind.

f Review of CC Constitution suggested by Fiona Henderson SBC

While it was thought to be a fair and sensible task for the Community Council to undertake after its election, in the circumstances of the new draft Community Council scheme being out to consultation, it was felt that our consideration should await the conclusions of the SBC scheme.

7 Reports of Sub-groups

a Place Planning

It was agreed to circulate copies of other Place Plans as they became available. Chris agreed to contact the Hawlck Place Plan team.

b Green St Boswells *(papers previously circulated,* ***taken earlier in meeting****)*

Angela Farnish and Annette Patterson were welcomed to the meeting. There was discussion of the previously circulated papers, most notably the calendar of proposed activities for 2025, which was agreed. Other points raised included liaison between the Sub-group and the Community Council, the possibility of a five-year Plan being prepared for the Community Woodland, the terms of reference of the Sub-group, and its Risk Assessment. In order to ensure effective communication between the Sub-group and the Community Council it was agreed to clarify rules of co-option and, subject to those, Wilma proposed that Angela and Annette be co-opted to the Community Council in respect of Green St Boswells.

There was detailed discussion about the mowing regime on the Green, with differing views as to what was being attempted, and why. It was agreed to circulate a drawing of the current mowing regime, and invite a representative of the Council's maintenance staff to meet the CC for a more informed discussion and subsequent sharing with villagers.

8 Police Reports

There were no comments. It was agreed to circulate reports from both multimember wards as previously.

9 Any Other Competent Business

a Car Boot Sales

It was agreed to resume car boot sales. Sylvia had a set of the previous car boot sale paperwork and she agreed to pass these to Mike Barrie so they could be updated and available for the new season. It was noted that bollard replacement on the Maxton Road was required, as well as a replacement dog poo bin on the main Green.

b Village Week Committee

Craig Emond reported with some relief that a new Village Week committee had been formed. The Community Council agreed to support if requested to help with any event insurances required, and in any other appropriate ways.

c Destination Tweed

All were encouraged to think of projects which might fall within the remit of this major investment.

d The chairman felt that where possible earlier circulation of papers would be welcomed.

e Gipsy Fair: *a liaison meeting with all official parties was agreed to be called by the Community Council in March, to go over arrangements for 2025 and to consider plans for 2026.*

f Peter Jones enquired whether there had been any update to the call for a shared use path to and from Newtown St Boswells, possibly behind the major hedge on the east side of the road. *Perhaps this was something that could be put forward to Destination Tweed, or it might be something which might qualify for active travel funding?*

10 Date of Next Meeting *This was agreed to be Wednesday 26 February 2025 in the Church Hall*

11 Dates and Locations of Subsequent Meetings for remainder of 2025 *James agreed to circulate a Survey Monkey survey to establish preferred dates for Community Council meetings in the rest of 2025.*

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