St BOSWELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting was held in the Church Hall 25th January 2024

Date of next meeting: 29th February 2024 in the Lesser Village Hall

- 6pm – 7pm an open drop in opportunity to express your views on St Boswells Fair (details to be confirmed)
- 7.15pm St Boswells Parish Community Council meeting

Members of the Public wishing to join this Community Council meeting should contact the Secretary at stbospccsecretary@gmail.com or 07736 969 226

DRAFT Notes of Community Council meeting held on Thursday 25th January 2024

1. Chair welcomed all attendees.
2. **ATTENDEES:** G Tweddle (Chair), C. Richard, W. Burns, A. Farnish, A. Patterson, C. Emond, Cllr. S Scott + 2 Members of the Public

   APOLOGIES: Cllr S. Hamilton, M. Barrie, Y. Clement, C. Strang

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

4. **MATTERS ARISING from previous Minutes Thursday 30th November 2023**

   4.1. **51 Bus Service** – CR attended an online meeting on 7th December with Border buses to discuss current concerns. It was explained at this time that changes to the 51 service was a rationalisation due to reduced usage. Focus is on the BGH, Melrose, Galashiels routes. Looping into St Boswells was suggested but this was deemed impossible due to the tight turn around of the bus in Edinburgh. Jedburgh Community Council also expressed their concerns that the 51 was previously through from Jedburgh to Edinburgh. Cllr. SS alerted us also to the bus driver shortage. New proposals were released this week by SBC with further details of the "DRT" (Demand Responsive Transport) buses to replace the link between St Bowells and Newtown.. AF to circulate the link to the CC: https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/public-community-transport/bus-services/3. GT encouraged all to complete the survey regarding bus usage that has been delivered to houses in St Boswells. **AF**

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4.2. **Christmas Lights** The Community Council thanked CE for his hard work to make this happen on time despite difficulties. CE updated the CC that the cone currently on the hole in the green will be replaced with a socket, CE sugggested that if enhancements (additional lights, lights along the avenue) are to be organised for next year the planning needs to be started as soon as possible and fundraising will have to be considered. CE to find out from SBC if collection boxes could be left in Tony's shop / Chip Shop etc for year round fundraising.
CE to email AF with details of publicitiy for any members of the community to join the Christmas Lights Subgroup going forward, this to be put out by AF as a poster and on social media. **CE / AF**

4.3. **Fair Update Session** – Unfortunately SBC are unable to host or attend a public drop in session regarding the Fair as previously proposed. They have also not produced the FAQs regarding the Fair to the timescale proposed. This means that the Community Council will host the public drop in session in February ahead of the regular CC meeting as a way of rpresenting the views of residents. It was discussed that it is important for everyone to be aware this is not, and has not historically been, an SBC or CC run event, but a "happening" such as the Jedburgh Hand Ba' and as such there are limited powers that any one authority has including Police Scotland in any matters that do not cross the line into being illegal. It was mentioned that the Police costs must have been significant.
It was noted that it was a shame the FAQs are not to view and that the delay in publishing is not acceptable from a CC viewpoint, they are currently still with SBC Legal Department after so many months of work, They explain clearly the standpoint on matters such as dates, private land and anti-social behaviour. It was pointed out that Buccleuch Chase is a relatively new housing development in the history of the Fair and so there is conflict around who has rights to use the land. It was suggested that we request additional community representation in the SBC / Planning Coordination Meetings, including a representative from each of Buccleuch Chase, the Green and local businesses as well as current CC presence. It was mentioned that there are also positives associated with the Fair and it is not all about negatives, although there are residents who are

affected by anti-scoial behaviour or feel strongly about the changes over the years and the perceived lack of control by any authority. A member of the public asked the opinion of the CC regarding reverting to a one day Fair as in the past, it was noted that this is not something we have any control or authority over as a CC. It was mentioned that the village itself has also encroached on land used by the travellers in the past. It was proposed that improved communication including the CC was the way forward.

It was noted that the Trap Race is run as a separate licensed event through Parades and Marches.

AF will coordinate the wording of a statement out to the community ahead of the February meeting and prepare a guest list of those to be invited with CS, including Community Council and elected members **AF/CS**

4.4. Community Plan – AP commented that this may become subsumed as part of the Placemaking initiative. CS to update next meeting. **CS**

5. **TREASURERS REPORT (WB)**

5.1. WB confirmed the RBS account is now closed.

5.2. Thanks to WB for providing this month's report; highlights include the £450 Pathways grant coming in soon, £170 to be paid for Christmas lights from CC budget

1.1 Balance at 1/11/23		**£11,535.93**
Held in 2 accounts		
Virgin Money		£11,488.75
Royal Bank of Scotland		£47.18
Balance at 1/11/23 in Virgin Money account		**£11, 488.75**
1.2 Income		
20/11/23	SP Distribution Christmas Lights Connection	£787.08
1.3 Expenditure		
3/11/23	SP Distribution Christmas Lights Connection	£787.08
16/11/23	Dryburgh District Churches (hall let)	£26.25
17/11/23	SP Distribution Christmas Lights Connection	£868.21
28/11/23	Treetop to Workshop (benches)	£150.00
27/11/23	Thankyou – audit of accounts	£11.00
28/11/23	St Boswells Village Hall (Hall lets £225, Website fees £60)	£285.00
30/11/23	Poppy Wreath	£50.80
1.4 Balance at 30/11/23 in Virgin Money account		**£10,097.49**

1.5 Expenditure

13/12/23	Christmas Lights project (tree, etc)	£243.46
21/12/23	Plants, £73.03, Christmas Lights £30.60	£103.63

1.6 Balance at 21/12/23 in Virgin Money account £9750.40

1.7 Income since statement

18/1/24	Pollinator Award	£250
22/1/24	From closure of Royal Bank of Scotland account	£47.37

1.8 Balance at 22/01/24 £10,047.77

1.9 Expenditure since statement – cheques not cashed

20/12/23	SBC- Christmas Lights infrastructure	£2,820
22/1/24	Village hall lets – November and December	£90

Grant Pending

Pathways Grant £450

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	(£630)	**£344.42**
Pathways Grant	(£450)	**£210**
Spent £240		
Scottish Borders Council Generator Hook Up	(£861.98)	**£339.61**
Spent £522.37		
Green St Boswells	(£750)	**£724.55**
Spent £25.45		
Village Centre Enhancements Grant	(£325)	- **£46.24**
Polwarth Fountain		**£100**
Community Woodland	(£300)	**£247.03**
Spent £30.99+£21.98 = £52.97		
War Memorial		**£47.37**
SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund	(£3000.88)	**£2,529.64**
Spent £471.24		
Fair monies	(£450)	**£300**
Spent Benches £150		
Christmas Lights project	(£5330)	- **£90.73**

Monies committed in accounts £4,842.62

Monies uncommitted £10,047.77 minus 2 unpresented cheques (£2820 + £90)
£10,047.77 - £2,910= £7,137.77
£7,137.77- £4,842.62= £2,295.15

6. POLICE REPORTS

6.1. These were circulated with the Agenda, no comments.

7. SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

7.1. Councilor's report presented by Cllr S Scott.

(7.1.1) SBC currently in the middle of the budget and discussions taking place to reduce costs, including the value of the CAT team.

(7.1.2) Pension contribution passed today.

(7.1.3) By election in Jedburgh and District Ward due on 22nd February.

(7.1.4) Community Council grant increased by 10% and increased Path Maintenance grant.

(7.1.5) New 5 year local housing strategy including affordable housing

(7.1.6) Live Borders under new management

(7.1.7) Non-domestic rates amendment for empty proprties to encourage business use

7.2. No current consultations

7.3. No circulated Planning Applications. CS to report at next meeting. AP exlained that the CC should be a statutory consultee but for some reason we don't seem to get all Planning Applications even though we are registered with Planning Alerts. AP suggested it would be helpful for CC members to respond to circulated Planning Applications even if they have no objection, otherwise it is registered in SBC Planning Portal as "No comment from CC".

8. GREEN ST BOSWELLS

8.1. Community Woodland

(8.1.1) Borders Forest Trust have cut back hedges at the woodland.

(8.1.2) A diary of woodland events has been arranged for 2024, first Spring Planting and Tidy session 1-3pm on Sunday 4th February.

(8.1.3) Tennis club has requested cutting back trees overhanging the lane, proposal to raise the canopy.

(8.1.4) Some trees came down in the recent storms, one safely cut by Buccleuch and 2 other small ones to be tackled by volunteers.

8.2. AP previously circulated SBC Draft Grass Cutting Regime of the Green and explained the rationale with regards to the Fair and the Pollinators project (Greener Gateway meeting attended by AP in conjunction with

Pollinators Along the Tweed). This information regrading the grass cutting to go out the community in March 2024. AF

9. **Any other competent business**

9.1. A member of the public asked for support and advice from the CC regarding a proposal for a safe shared pedestrian/cycleway between St Boswells and Newtown. There is also to be a cycle shop at Milestone. Discussion took place of the current perceived dangers to cycists, pedestrians and vehicles along this stretch, the potential difficulties of obtaining land/permissions for this and priority within the bigger transport network. It was decided to add this to the agenda for next month for further discussion, in the meantime Cllr S Scott to query with SBC, GT to speak to Caroline Cochrane and other members of the CC to think of additional support. All CC / Cllr SS / GT

9.2. It was noted that the tennis club lights are still not adjusted, AP to email AP

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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.