St BOSWELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting was held in the Lesser Hall 29th Feb 2024

Date of next meeting 28th March 2024 in the Church Hall
Members of the Public wishing to join this meeting should contact the Secretary at stbospccsecretary@gmail.com or 07736 969 226

DRAFT Notes of Community Council meeting held on Thursday 29th Feb 2024

1. G. Tweddle, Chair, welcomed all attendees.
2. **ATTENDEES :** M. Barrie, W. Burns, Y. Clement, C. Richard, C. Strang, A. Patterson, Cllr Sandy Scott.
   + 1 Member of the Public
   APOLOGIES : C. Emond, A. Farnish, Cllr Hamilton, J. Bathgate
3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES** :
   3.1. Proposed by AP. Seconded by WB.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
   4.1. **Christmas Lights** – a question was asked about whether the electricity was switched off at the cabinet. WB and MB agreed to meet with CE to convene a Festive Sub-Committee and to come back to the CC with some proposals for the future including fundraising options. It was suggested that some communication with the village to look for people who may wish to be part of the subgroup should be a priority. ***WB/MB/CE***
   4.2. **St Boswells/ NSB Shared Access Link** – no further update at this time but it was noted that it seemed that a bike shop would not currently be part of Milestone development plans.

5. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   5.1. Payment to Tony's Newsagent for hosting the Main Street Christmas lights is outstanding. It was agreed that a sum of £50 be offered as a donation towards costs. ***WB***
   5.2. March is the end of the financial year so we need to look at any budget adjustments, Commitments and Carry Forwards for the next meeting. ***ALL***
   5.3. It was noted that CC commitment of match funding of 10% (£300) needed to be reflected in Springfield/Orchard Park project line. ***WB***
   5.4. No invoice has been received for payment of piper on Remembrance Sunday.

5.5. **TREASURER'S REPORT from 25th Jan 2024 Meeting**

5.6. **Balance at 31/12/23** **£9,750.40**

5.7. **Income**

18/1/24	IYN NatureScot Pollinator Award	£250
22/1/24	Closure of Royal Bank of Scotland account	£47.37

5.8. **Expenditure**

25/1/24	SBC- Christmas Lights infrastructure	£2,820

5.9. **Balance at 25/01/24 in Virgin Money account** **£7,227.77**

5.10. **Expenditure since statement**

9/2/24	Village hall lets	£90

5.11. **Income since statement**

Pathways Grant	£450

5.12. **Balance at 27/02/24** **£7,587.77**

5.13. **Expenditure since statement - nil**

5.14. **Ringfenced Monies - as at March 23**

Maintenance Grant	£253.69
Pathways Grant	£210
Scottish Borders Council Generator Hook Up	£339.61
Green St Boswells	£678.31
Polwarth Fountain – remainder of grant	£100
Community Woodland	£247.03
War Memorial – remainder of account	£47.37
Springfield/Orchard Park project (SBC Grant)	£2,529.64
Fair monies	£300
IYN NatureScot Pollinator Award	£250
Monies committed in accounts	**£4,730.65**
Monies uncommitted*	£7,587.77- £4,730.65= £2,857.12

***** Subject to adjustment for Springfield/Orchard Park project monies and Remembrance Day piper invoice noted above.

6. **POLICE REPORT**

6.1. Nothing to Report

7. **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

7.1. **COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

(7.1.1) The Council's Cross party financial plan has been agreed.

(7.1.2) Council Tax will be frozen.

(7.1.3) £126million in capital project investement has been agreed.

(7.1.4) The local by-election resulted in John Bathgate being elected.

(7.1.5) The Glentress Cycling event attracted £6.1million of investment into the area.

(7.1.6) SBC Pension Fund has been confirmed as secure.

7.2. **ENERGY CONSULTATIONS**

(7.2.1) The Village Hall solar panels are now producing energy which is starting to feed into the bank of batteries. LED lights are installed and the next phase is to install underfloor insulation. The possibility of heat pumps is also being looked at. The Committee are sharing their experience and knowledge with other Village Halls seeking to reduce their energy consumption.

7.3. **PLANNING MATTERS**

(7.3.1) CS attended SBC training course for CC's at SBC.

(7.3.2) CS noted the Community Plan is disappointing as a document.

8. **St BOSWELL'S FAIR**

8.1. A drop-in session was held immediately prior to the main meeting. A small number of Members of the Public attended but the event seems to have gone well. Police Scotland and SBC were in attendance. Several feedback sheets were completed and there seems to be a mix of comments and preferred approaches. AF to further analyse the comments and feedback to be discussed at next CC meeting. ***AF***

8.2. Arrangements for 2024 Fair to be discussed. AF to seek draft of SBC leaflets for CC input/comment as they often seem to contain incorrect information. ***AF***

9. **51 BUS SERVICE**

9.1. There has been another meeting between the various parties and discussions are said to be ongoing. There is no further feedback.

9.2. It was noted that the Traveline connection times still appear to be incorrect.

10. **GREEN ST BOSWELLS**

10.1. Still checking hi-viz prices and suppliers. If anyone has any local contacts please let us know. ***ALL***

11. **A.O.C.B**

11.1. Defibrillator training is being arranged in conjunction with Jed Hearts and the Tennis Club who are also installing a defib. Date and time tba

but preferably not Tuesday/Wednesday during tennis season. ***CR***

11.2. Complaints of Dog fouling was discussed. CS to contact Neighbourhood Police and check SBC website to make contact with Dog Warden (if there still is one). Discussed whether a Facebook post would help. Please notify CS of main problem areas. ***ALL***

11.3. A non-animal circus has requested access to The Green. Several questions were raised.

(11.3.1) Liability for Post Holders relating to the CC ownership of The Green has not been adequately resolved. Current CC Insurance only covers activities in connection with standard CC activities and ownership of land is not a 'normal' CC activity. CS to seek further advice from Insurers being sure to cite the ownership issue. ***CS***

(11.3.2) What would be an appropriate level of remuneration be if the event went ahead?

(11.3.3) Would Playing Fields be a suitable alternative location? This is in SBC ownership.

11.4. CS confirmed that Insurance is now renewed on a 3 year cycle and this covers normal activities undertaken by Community Councils.

11.5. Village Spring Clean/Litterpick was discussed. It was agreed that the weekend of 5-7th April would be suitable preferably Saturday 6th April. Litterpicking kits and pick-up of rubbish by SBC. ***GT***
A small number of litterpicker kits are available from CC or those residents wishing to go out at other times.

11.6. Congratulations were offered to our village's two Youth Parliament members. It is hoped that they would like to attend a CC meeting to explain what they hope to do and whether there is anything the CC can do to help younger residents.

11.7. The Fundraising evening for the village sports clubs was very successful raising over £3,000 to be shared between the various clubs.

11.8. It was noted that land at the riverbank by footpath that runs along The Haugh is continuing to be eroded.

11.9. AP advised that she will be standing down from CC after March meeting. Current CC Members' Term of Office is due to end this year. CS to contact SBC to check election arrangements. ***CS***

12. ***Date of Next Meeting – 28th March 2024 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 stbospccsecretary@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.