St BOSWELLS PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A meeting was held in the Village Hall 28th March 2024

Date of next meeting: Thursday 25th April 2024 in the Lesser Village Hall @7.15pm
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 28th March 2024

1. Chair welcomed all attendees.
2. **ATTENDEES:** G Tweddle (Chair), C. Richard, W. Burns, A. Farnish, A. Patterson, C. Emond, M. Barrie, Y. Clement, C Strang, Cllr S. Hamilton, Cllr. J Bathgate, E. Tweddle (MYSP) + 2 Members of the Public
   APOLOGIES: Cllr S. Scott

   2.1. **Minute Secretary Role** – A Patterson to stand done as Community Councillor at the end of this month. It was proposed by AP that A Farnish take on the role of Minute Secretary, this was seconded by W Burns. Thanks was given to AP for her service to the Community Council.

3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**: to be approved at next meeting

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

   4.1. **Christmas Lights** Email circulated by the Subgroup in advance of the meeting with a plan going forward, communication strategy, volunteering, sponsorship and fundraising. After some discussion about the total cost required and community owenership of this project, it was agreed that £500 is to be awarded to the Subgroup from the Community Council for an initial starting fund as mentioned last meeting. It was then confirmed by SH that the remainder of the Generator monies from the the surplus of the Small Schemes grant awarded previously could be redirected to the Christmas Lights project. Proposed by CS, seconded by CR. Subgroup to meet and plan next steps as per plan. **Subgroup**
   AF offered to help with publicity and posters once details are confirmed.
   WB to check the correct procedure for handling money coming in via the

collection boxes. **WB**

Post-meeting note: the official quote was received but will need to be revisited to match site sizes after subsequent measuring up ***CE***

4.2. **Defibrillator Training** –CR has arranged and publicised for this drop-in event from 4-7pm on Thursday 25th April 2024 in the Church Hall. CR suggested a donation of £100 to be given to Jed Hearts who are providing the training. This was agreed by the CC.

5. TREASURERS REPORT (WB)

5.1. WB noted that we have been recently very successful in grant applications.

5.2. £300 remaining unused of the Fair Fees to be rolled over to this year.

1.1 Balance at 1/2/24		**£7227.77**
1.2 Income		
14/2/24 Pathways Grant		£450
1.3 Expenditure		
9/2/24 Village hall lets – November and December		£90
1.4 Balance at 14/02/24 in Virgin Money account		**£7,587.77**
1.5 Expenditure since statement		
22/3/24 Grant Springfield/Orchard Park		£120.85
27/3/24 Power for Christmas Lights		£50
1.6 Income since statement		
n/a		
1.7 Balance at 27/03/24		**£7,416.92**
1.8 Expenditure since statement – cheques not cashed		
21/3/24 Dryburgh District Churches -hall let		£26.25
21/3/24 Galashiels Ex Service Pipe Band		£25
21/3/24 Printer Cartridges		£49.99

NB no invoice has been received for payment of Village hall lets for meeting in February, need dates of working party meetings.

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* £501.30	(£630)	**£128.70**
Pathways Grant *Spent £240*	(£450)	**£210**
Scottish Borders Council Generator Hook Up *Spent £522.37*	(£861.98)	**£339.61**
Green St Boswells *Spent £25.45 plus £46.24 to Village Enhancement Grant*	(£750)	**£678.31**
Village Centre Enhancements Grant *Spent £371.24*	(£325)	£0
Polwarth Fountain		**£100**
Community Woodland *Spent £52.97*	(£300)	**£247.03**
War Memorial		**£47.37**
SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund + £300 matched funding *Spent £592.09*	£3300.88	**£2,408.79**
Fair monies *Spent Benches £150*	(£450)	**£300**
Pollinator Award		**£250**
Christmas Lights project (SBCNeighbourhoodSupportFund2) (Spent £5,420.73)	(£5330)	£0
£90.73 deficit taken from maintenance fund.		

Monies committed in accounts £5,009.81

Monies uncommitted £7,416.92- £5,009.81= £2,407.11

5.3. End of Year Report presented by WB

Income		
SBC King's Coronation Grant		£500
SBC Cheviot Support Fund (Pensioners)		£500
SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund (Comm Food/Wildlife)		£3000.88
Fair Fees from Green		£450
Border Berries		£410
SBC Cheviot Support Fund Grant (Christmas Lights)		£5000
Maintenance Grant		£630
Hall Lets reimbursement		£261.75
Transfer Royal Bank Monies		£47.37
Pollinator Award		£250
Pathways Grant		£450
		£11,500.00
	Balance at 31.3.23	£5,354.85
		£16,854.85
Plus 2 cheques not cashed		
Galashiels Pipe Band		£25
W Burns – ink cartridges		£49.99
		£16,929.84

Expenditure		
Grants to groups		£1000.00
SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund (Comm Food/Wildlife)		£592.09
Fair Fees from Green		£150.00
SBC Cheviot Support Fund Grant (Christmas Lights)		£5420.73
Maintenance Grant		£358.07
Hall Lets		£420.00
Community Woodland		£52.97
Foodbank		£360.00
Village Centre Enhancements		£371.24
Green St Boswells		£25.45
Pathways Grant		£240.00
Generator Point in Church Hall		£522.37
		£9,512.92
	Balance in account 28.3.24	£7416.92
		£16,929.84

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 J Bathgate and Cllr S Scott. Main SBC meeting today in which these points were covered:

(7.1.1) Some Ukranian families / asylum seekers are still being accomodated in hotels, this is being worked on

(7.1.2) There will be optimisation on Council buildings over the next 5 years to make a 10% reduction

(7.1.3) SEPA have issued new guidance on upholsteled furniture with regards to disposal due to toxicity concerns, particularly if damaged. The details of the legal compliancy will be in guidance coming out soon.

(7.1.4) Live Borders – SBC is providing support to pay employees the Real Living Wage in order that they can apply for Government funding

(7.1.5) CCTV – there was a dicsussion regarding CCTV in Borders towns. Mobile CCTV is still not available due to an issue with data sharing.

(7.1.6) Fossil fuels non-proliferation treaty was discussed

(7.1.7) 51 Bus was discussed – NB meeting in St Boswells 11th April

(7.1.8) South of Scotland tourism strategy launched with an aim for generating £1 Billion.

7.2. AP highlighted the current Food Provision Consultation.
AF reported that the Voting Accessibility Consultation meeting due to happen today at SBC HQ was cancelled and there will be further discussions how to make this more accessible.

7.3. U240-4 St Boswells – Redetermination Order: this was clarified as locally known as “Dog Poo Alley”, map provided in email circulated regarding the 2m stretch of road involved.

7.4. StBosPCC elections – it was noted that with AP stepping down, there are now 2 vacancies on the CC. Email circulated to all CC regarding the procedure in September when the remaining CC members come to the end of their term of office. AF to edit publicity poster for this with comments from CC members to go out ahead of the summer in preparation for this. **AF**

7.5. Area Partnership Review – this was attended by CS (Secretary) and E Tweddle (Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire. ET reported that a Youth Wing of the APR is to be created, with the help of Pam Rigby (Youth Engagement Officer). CS reported that the 2019 Report on the Area Partnership is to be revisited and reviewed post-Covid The next meeting is in May 2024. SH highlighted that there is a vacancy on the Funding Panel for Jedburgh and District for a CC member. CS has also attended training on Planning Issues which focused on the interaction between CCs and SBC..

8. **51 Bus and any other public transport matters**

8.1. CR reminded everyone that there is a public meeting regarding this on 11th April 2024 in the Lesser Hall. Attendees Gordon Grant (SBC), Rachel Hamilton, John Bathgate. Representative from Borders Buses has been invited.

8.2. There have already been some submissions of issues from members of the public to the CC. It was requested that any more of these would be welcome and useful to have ahead of the event. AF to add this request to the publicity on social media and all CC members asked to direct particular experiences to email StBosPCC Secretary. **AF/all CC**

8.3. It was mentioned that we are unsure of the feedback from the Parliamentary Surveys issues last month. CR to follow up with R Hamilton ahead of the meeting. **CR**

9. **St Boswells Fair**

9.1. Drop In Feedback, Updated FAQs and Draft Map

(9.1.1) Feedback from the Drop In session has been circulated to CC members, AF to take this to the SAG Meeting, date not yet set, AF to chase **AF**

(9.1.2) Following the Drop In session, there are no additional FAQs required. Still waiting for FAQs from SBC, AF to chase **AF**

(9.1.3) Draft Map on leaflet – this was highlighted as innacurate, AF to ask G Aitken for sight of this year's draft leaflet (which contains the map) a week before the next CC meeting in April

(9.1.4) It was decided that St Boswells Fair should be an item at the beginning of the agenda in the April CC meeting. AF to invite G Aitken, Police Scotland and a Traveller representative to this meeting. **AF**

9.2. Arrangements for the 2024 Fair

(9.2.1) Dates confirmed as Wednesday 17th July – Monday 22nd July as agreed and advertised out last year to all travellers.

(9.2.2) There was a query about the Trap Race this year and if there are to be changes based on last year. AF to find out from G Aitken if the application has been submitted for 2024. **AF**

9.3. Arrangements for the 2025 Fair

(9.3.1) To be discussed and agreed at the April CC meeting

Post-meeting note: AF sent email to all parties above inviting to April meeting and asking for information on the points raised.

10. **Green St Boswells**

10.1. Bench on the Green has been refurbished and funding to be used to tidy round the bench and replant

10.2. Springfield: wildlife friendly shrubs and bulbs have been planted

10.3. Orchard Park Food Growing: consultation with SBHA is still in the review period

10.4. Discussions still taking place regarding Hi-Vis clothing

10.5. Community Woodland update: Saturday 13th April 2024, 10-12pm is a Spring Wildlife Watch, bugh hunting, building hedgehog houses in conjunction with Mauldsheigh Woodland project. No pond dipping as ecologist is due to survey the area regarding Great Crested Newts.

10.6. Drainiage channels dug at the tennis club car park look rough but are doing

the job in heavy rainfall. A work in progress to tidy up.

10.7. Bin at the road end of the Woodland, AP to arrange emptying **AP**

10.8. AP to speak to SBC regarding Draft Grass Cutting Regime of the Green to improve habitiat for Pollinators Along the Tweed project. AF and C McPhee attended a PAT presentation this month and will be inviting along someone from the project to speak at a future CC meeting **AF**

10.9. AF proposed that AP be seconded to the CC in order to continue her work with Green St Boswells. Seconded by CS.

11. **Place Planning**

11.1. AP reported that AP, AF, WB, CS and M Douglas are meeting regularly and have developed a draft outline and brief, including a communication strategy to raise awareness.

11.2. There will be a meeting on 22nd April with Borders Community Action to discuss appointing consultants to help with this. AF explained that as a pilot of the scheme, this comes with no cost to the CC.

11.3. Networking: M Douglas attended th Newtown consulation meeting and there will be a Peer Support Group meeting for all CCs involved in the process, details to be circulated

12. **Any other competent business**

12.1. There was a query about a previous enquiry regarding a Circus using the Green. CS to chase. **CS**

12.2. CE asked about the cycle path viablility along the A68 between St Boswells and Newtown. A member of the public has been digging back some of the overgrown grass, but the hedge is still blocking much of the path. CE to contact BEAR to request this cut back. **CE**

Post-meeting note: CE contacted BEAR Scotland who are requesting further information and photos, which have now been sent on.

A member of the public had been told by Amey workers there on 11th March that they were measuring the pavement due to a feasability study on the Active Transport Route between Newtown and Maxton and they needed to work out if the path was better in front of or behind the hedge, with any proposals going up for public consultation. This information to be passed back to member of the public who was present in January CC Meeting. **AF**

12.3 CS asked about the previously discussed Railway Feasibility Study. SH

reported that SBC is moving forward with the consulatation process.

12.4 Dog fouling is becoming more of a problem in the village, CS reported that, as per email circulated, he has requested laminated posters and educational materials from SBC as well as inviting the Dog Warden to a future CC meeting. SH commented that stencilled pavements may also be available. It was noted that there are very few prosecutions for dog fouling in the Borders.

12.5 Following a discussion of reporting other issues in the village, AP explained that the online reporting form from SBC website was easy to use and has proved effective

12.6 A member of the public asked about the calendar of bin collections as there is currently nothing in place. SH assured the CC that this is progressing and will be on the SBC website for home printing.

12.7 CS has a meeting with Julie Knock from the Southern Upland Partnership 29th April 2024

12.8 AP leaving the CC means there are two other responsibilities that will need to be allocated, Land Ownership and Wind Farm. Discussion at next CC meeting. **CS**

12.9 Litter pick – equipment was not available for the proposed date, new date agreed 20th April, with AP to source kit from Earlston Group Hub. Advertising to go out once confirmed. **AP**

12.10 There was a question about the 20 zones, that now that they are in place would the cables be reinstated to measure effectiveness of this. SH reported that Napier is still collecting data from this and so this will be the case.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 25th April 2024 in the Lesser Village Hall @7.15pm

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. We currently have two vacancies on the Community Council. Please consider joining us to make your views known.