Draft Minutes of the Meeting of
St Boswells Parish Community Council
held on 30 May 2024 at 7.15pm in the Church Hall

1 Welcome by Chair

Gavin Tweddle welcomed everyone to the meeting

2 Attendees and Apologies

a Present Gavin Tweddle, Chris Richard, Councillor John Bathgate, Charles Strang, Craig Emond, and one member of the public

b Apologies had been received from: Angela Farnish, Mike Barrie, Yvonne Clement

3 Minutes of the previous Meeting *held on Thursday 25 April 2024*

These were agreed. It was thought unlikely that Emily Tweddle would wish to join the Community Council.

4 Matters Arising from those Minutes not subsequently on the Agenda

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

Craig reported that the Scottish Borders Council (SBC) Tree Officer had agreed that lights could be fitted to the Lime Avenue. The cost would be approximately £1500. It would be necessary to decide whether white or coloured lights, probably by plebiscite within the village. Collection boxes should be available within the village. A Neighbourhood Support Grant application should be made.

b Place Planning and Green St Boswells *(Gavin Tweddle)*

Annette Patterson reported on the work of the Place Planning Sub-Group. There was to be a meeting on 13/6 with Beth Landon of Borders Community Action which might provide financial support for a place planning consultant. A project outline had been circulated to the Sub-Group and it was agreed that this would be shared to all.

c Circus: access to Community Club *(Gavin Tweddle)*

Gavin reported that the Community Club could be contacted at StBoswellscommunityclub@gmail.com.

d Energy Surveys: meeting with Julie Nock *(Charles Strang)*

1 Selection of St Boswells

Shared Prosperity Fund – Energy Efficient Supply Chain Project - Southern Uplands Partnership - seeking communities in Scottish Borders who are interested in exploring retrofitting options for their community. St Boswells has been selected as one of three Borders communities for this pilot project.

2 Carbon Footprint of Parish: grant application

Charles reported that on behalf of the Community Council he had applied to the Scottish Government's Climate Change Fund for a project to identify and hopefully reduce the Parish carbon footprint. This would be at no cost to the Community Council. It would be a very long shot.

e Land Ownership and Wind Farm Lead(s). *(Gavin Tweddle)*

The vexed question of the Community Council's ownership of a large part of the Green was discussed at length and it was agreed that

i John Bathgate would ask the SBC Legal Team to clarify the process undertaken when the Community Council obtained ownership of this land despite apparently being unable to own land constitutionally.

ii If no clarification was forthcoming, the Secretary would make a Freedom of Information Request to obtain it.

iii It was noted that the SBC insurance officer had yet to obtain feedback from the Council's insurers as to whether the Community Council had cover for events on the Green in its capacity as "owner".

f Dog Fouling *(Charles Strang)*

Rose Hogg the SBC officer had agreed to focus attention on surveillance and education in St Boswells, albeit that there was only one of her, and Members were asked to draw particular problem areas to her attention.

5 Treasurer's Report *(Wilma Burns)*

The Treasurer's Report had been previously circulated. This was noted. There was discussion on the adequacy or otherwise of SBC maintenance grants, and the problem of finding available maintenance folk to carry out work on those routes which were the responsibility of the Community Council.

It was noted that the defibrillator required to be added to the CC's Asset List. Annette Patterson had a list which she would send to the Chairman.

There was discussion about the need to change bank signatories.

6 Scottish Borders Council

a The Councillors' Report was given by John Bathgate.

i A Public Engagement Plan was in preparation to ensure that Councillors would be "more engaged".

ii There had been a change in the SBC relationship with Community Planning: now the SBC would "continue to support".

iii Borderlands funding (£25m by 2027) would support the Destination Tweed project in which some 10% of new paths would be created.

iv Future options for Live Borders would be reported upon at the next SBC Council meeting.

v SBC had declared a formal Housing Emergency. 6% of the housing stock was vacant or second homes. A Heating Homes Strategy was in preparation.

vi Asset transfer was being encouraged. There was a current consultation on the topic with three months to respond.

vii An electric vehicle charging strategy was in preparation.

viii The Hawick Flood Prevention Works had been completed.

b Current Consultations:

See 6vi above

c StBosPCC Elections: Timetable (Charles Strang)

It was agreed that Charles should obtain an official schedule from SBC officials

7 St Boswells Fair

a Freedom of Information Request re costs of portaloos, skips and policing *(Charles Strang)*

No response had yet been received

b Travellers' donation amounts; and stance on commercial stalls (Angela Farnish)

c Drop-in Feedback, Updated FAQs and Draft Map (AF)

d Arrangements for the 2024 Fair: date of June meeting (AF)

Angela's notes had been circulated to all. These were noted. Greg Aitken's draft notes were to be obtained and circulated to all for approval.

e Arrangements for the 2025 Fair

1 Any agreed dates to include From and Before Noon

2 Reconsideration of "Oliver Guidelines" for 2026 to be for the newly-elected Community Council from September 2024.

These were noted.

8 Police Reports *(April 2024 Jedburgh & District Report attached)*

There were no comments. The CC noted that "our" Community Policeman was now Bruce Anderson in place of Gary Chisholm, who had been redeployed.

9 Any Other Competent Business

There was none.

10 Date of Next Meeting Thursday 27 June 2024 in the Lesser Village Hall

CAS