Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Boswells Parish Community Council

held on 29 August 2024 at 7.15pm in the Church Hall

1 Welcome by Chair
In the absence of the Chairman, Craig Emond agreed to chair, and welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2 Attendees and Apologies
Present: Wilma Burns, Charles Strang, Craig Emond, Angela Farnish, Yvonne Clement, Mike Barrie, and Councillor Sandy Scott (SBC).
Apologies were received from: Gavin Tweddle, Chris Richard, Councillors Hamilton and Bathgate,

3 Minutes of the previous Meeting *held on Thursday 27 June 2024*
These were approved as accurate, having been so moved by Angela Farnish, seconded by Yvonne Clement.

4 Matters Arising from those Minutes *not subsequently on the Agenda*
a Christmas Lights
There had been two meetings of the sub group. Lights were being bought. A grant application for funds was going in. The painting which was to be the subject of the raffle was in hand. It had been agreed that a raffle license would be obtained. There was discussion about the Tree. Mike Barrie has been pointed in the direction of someone from Lilliesleaf by a contact at Milestone. A member of the public had spoken to the Stichill Nursery, and the advice was to get a small live tree if the live tree option was being pursued. It was agreed to talk to Nikolai at Lilliesleaf. Multicoloured lights had been agreed. An application had been made to the Neighbourhood Grant Fund, and an application has also been made to BT with no success.

Primary School children will tackle picture competition. Lynn Rogie will judge entries. The winner of the competition will switch on the Christmas lights. Donations are coming in, including a substantial sum from the Village Committee.

Sandy Scott was asked whether the various trees SBC provided might be called upon, and said he would enquire.

5 Treasurer's Report *(Wilma Burns)*
Financial papers had been issued by E-mail. These were noted.

It was agreed that the treasurer's Ink and other stationary supplies should be funded by SBPCC.

It was also agreed that a Remembrance Day wreath should be ordered, and it was noted that a piper would be required.

6 Scottish Borders Council:

a Councillor's Report
Sandy apologised for the absence of his colleagues.

He reported that bones had been dug up in Jedburgh by badgers.

There had been excellent Borders exam results and Borders schoolchildren were in the top quartile of those with 'destinations after school'.

Community Council representatives could still be nominated for participation in a joint working group on non-financial aspects of Community Councils' operations.

The Tour of Britain had been a success as it had come through the Borders.

The Council was undertaking some "Community Conversations" and he advised that the one in Jedburgh would be on 17 September at the Jedburgh School.

Changes had been made in Councillor representation and, for example, Scott Hamilton was to be the new economic development tsar.

In Jedburgh a banking hub had been set up in the old Bank building on the High Street.

b Legal Matters
There was considerable discussion over ownership and insurance of that portion of the Green which is understood to be owned by the Community Council. it was agreed that current views expressed by an SBC legal officer without prejudice should be circulated. It would be for the 'new' Community Council to take this forward.

c Election of the Community Council
The amended timetable provided by Fiona Henderson was agreed.

7 St Boswells Fair
Angela Farnish reported that there seemed to be no significant problems this year.

The Secretary observed that because the portaloos had arrived the day before the Fair entry, vans had been on site a day before the agreed period. He had raised the possibility of an additional standpipe being provided at the southwest corner of the main Green, and it was understood that this had been agreed for future years.

The Secretary highlighted the general question of site provision for gypsy travellers in the Scottish Borders, since this appeared to be a continuing difficulty notwithstanding Scottish Government guidance. Sandy Scott said this was an ongoing process and that it should come back to be discussed at the Fair washup meeting in the early spring.

On the question of social media, Angela Farnish suggested that any successor to Gavin posting on social media on behalf of the Community Council must use a diplomatic tone, especially in the context of responses about Fair matters.

8 Police Reports
These were noted. The associated information which came with this month's police reports was thought to be useful and for wider dissemination. It was agreed that the question of what level of local dissemination was being carried out by the police should be raised the next time the police representative attended.

9 Any Other Competent Business
The new Community Council would be asked to consider amongst other things, place planning, ownership of the Green, contributions on Facebook, and the matter of speeding within the village, this last being a continuing concern despite the application of 20mph limits in most areas of the village.

It was noted that the Village Hall would be reopening in late September.

It was noted that the St Boswell's Burn appeared to be contaminated once more.

It was noted that bus shelter graffiti were still present and their overpainting was still to be addressed.

It was noted with much approval that Tennis Club ladies' teams had won titles in all three Borders leagues, a unique treble.

The Treasurer reported that £410 had been received from Borders Berries for their advertising sign positioned on the Green.

There was discussion about the cutting of various pathways including the Beastie Path and Braeheads, and Craig Emond agreed to follow these up.

Mike Barrie announced the winners of the garden competition, Jennifer Butler of Weirgate Way and Sheena Borthwick of Weirgate Avenue. The shoe shop (Turnbull of Selkirk) did trophy engraving for free as a donation.

It was also suggested that "Mark's grass" might also be cut. If all else failed, contact would be made with Susan Gray of SBC.

There was still concern about the cutting back of the hedge on the A68 from St Boswells to Newtown, and Craig agreed to follow this up also.

The meeting closed at 8:55pm.

10 Date of Next Meeting *Thursday 31 October 2024 in the Lesser Village Hall*

Charles Strang *Secretary St Boswells Parish Community Council*
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