Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Boswells Parish Community Council

held on 27 June 2024 at 7.15pm in the Lesser Village Hall

1 Welcome by Chair

Gavin Tweddle welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Attendees and Apologies

Present: Gavin Tweddle, Chris Richard, Charles Strang, Craig Emond, Angela Farnish, Yvonne Clement.
Apologies were received from: Mike Barrie, Wilma Burns, and Councillor Bathgate),

3 Minutes of the previous Meeting *held on Thursday 30 May 2024*

These were approved as accurate, having been so moved by Chris Richard, seconded by Craig Emond.

4 Matters Arising from those Minutes not subsequently on the Agenda

a Christmas Lights
Craig now has various fixings for the trees. Donation tins were prepared and there had been a request for contributions via the Facebook page. A map copy would be required to show the extent of lighting. There was discussion about whether an artificial tree as well as a real would be required while the real tree grew. It was agreed to take advice from Annette Patterson as to sourcing of a real tree. A grant application would be required.

5 Treasurer's Report *(Wilma Burns)*

Members all agreed to endorse the Scottish Borders Council Community Council Code of Conduct.

The treasurer's report was noted. It was agreed that Chris Richard should obtain an appropriate gift for Kenny Ovens in light of his assistance in checking over the accounts.

6 Scottish Borders Council:

In his absence Councillor Bathgate had circulated a report:
Today's SBC meeting highlights were:

- *The success of the Borders Book Festival.*
- *Action plan approved for British Sign Language, SBC are a leading council on this.*
- *Action plan approved on Child Poverty. SBC area is one where we have poverty numbers above the national average. The plan is for all areas and focuses on areas of higher poverty.*
- *Live Borders approved changes to governance, so that SBC can take back the active sports and sport development as they fit in with the current education department. This will help both SBC and Live Borders to improve the current situation. This is an ongoing process.*
- *Support for no further action to be taken in respect of the suspension of Mark Rowley after a standing order proposed.*
- *Awaiting response in relation to the Green ownership.*

The schedule for Community Council elections had been previously circulated.

7 St Boswells Fair
a *Freedom of Information Request re costs of portaloos, skips and policing.*
A copy was to be circulated with the Minutes. After discussion it was agreed to take no further action.
b *Fair Arrangements (Angela Farnish)*
There was disquiet as to whether the CC was genuinely consulted over Fair matters including the Trap Race, and it was felt wrong to describe our relationship as a member of a partnership, since this carried significant legal implications. The secretary was asked to draft an improved form of words for the chairman to forward.

Angela Farnish intended to visit the Fair and encouraged members to join her.

8 Police Reports
These were noted.

9 Any Other Competent Business

Some concern was expressed about the height of grass on the Green and the possibility of ticks, although clearly there was positive pollination.

There was continuing concern about the hedging overgrowth on the A68 between St Boswells and Newtown

There had been *Green St Boswells* planter activity. An ecological report had indicated that the Community Woodland pond was in rude health. The tennis club roadway had had its potholes filled.

The application for climate change funding for a Parish Carbon Footprint had been unsuccessful.

The Village Week Saturday had seemed very quiet. The Community Club only opened their toilets.

Concern was expressed about the lack of action on electric car charging points within the village and it was felt essential that SBC consult soon on a village plan to provide sufficient EV charge points.

Chris Richard apologised for an absence created by his further two months spent in the South Atlantic.

10 Date of Next Meeting Thursday 29 August 2024 in the Church Hall

Charles Strang *Secretary St Boswells Parish Community Council*
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