

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council on Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 7:00pm in Kelso Town Hall



**PRESENT:** Councillors James Boulton (Vice Chair), Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Colin McGrath, Toni Oliver, Paul Roberts, Gus Russell and Gail Watson and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tommy Weatherston.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Laura Graham (Kelso Co-op Member Pioneer and member of the public Brian Leahiff.

**APOLOGIES:** Police Scotland and Councillors Owen Adams, Christine Hamilton and James McCombie.

- *Please note questions to either the Scottish Borders Councillors or Kelso Community Councillors need to be submitted in writing to the Secretary seven days prior to meeting.*
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- *Councillors to make a declaration of interest prior to discussion.*
- *All correspondence to be circulated via the Secretary.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct question through the Chairperson.*

## **Welcome**

The Provost extended a warm welcome to Councillors.

## **Police Matters**

The Provost advised the Multi Member Ward Plan for Kelso and District for March 2022 had previously been circulated.

The Provost advised there were several issues which he would feed back to Police Scotland:

Parking - after the initial crackdown at the beginning of year there needs to be more of an active role / noticeable presence of parking enforcement within the town.

Speed limits – the majority of the town is now covered by the 20mph speed restriction and only a minority of drivers are actually paying attention to this and he had received complaints that many drivers are not sticking to 30mph, especially on entrances to the Town.

Kelso High School – it was noted in the current report that there were more calls to the school and wondered whether this should be a cause for concern and he would raise this at the next parents meeting.

The Secretary advised she had received notification that there was a poster for Police Specials and this would be distributed to the main supermarkets, library, Mayfield Garden

Centre, Cheviot Youth, Abbey Row, etc. and would request an electronic copy to widen the distribution.

### **Visit Kelso**

Tina Newton advised Visit Kelso have been lucky enough to secure a grant from the Destination and Sector Marketing fund. They are using this money to create four stories relating to Kelso. Two stories have already been published – Freddie the Wonder Horse and Sir Walter Scott's first love. These stories can be found on the Visit Kelso site under "Tales frae Kelsae" or on the Visit Kelso You Tube Channel. A third story will be published in the next 4 weeks.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2022**

The minutes held on Tuesday 8 March 2022 were approved subject to a minor alteration. They were proposed by Councillor Russell and seconded by Councillor Boulton.

### **Matters arising from the minutes**

#### Police Specials

Councillor McGrath advised he would invite a senior member from the Police Specials to a future meeting.

#### Equal Opportunity Policy

The Secretary advised Councillor Hamilton was currently on holiday but on her return she would reissue a draft policy for consideration and adoption.

#### Environmental and Sustainability Policy

The Secretary advised a draft Environmental Policy had previously been circulated and was approved. This was proposed by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Boulton.

#### Charging point in the Square

SBC Councillor Mountford advised there was a procurement issue with replacing the charging point in the Square.

### **Questions from the public**

Brian Leahiff raised the issue of the smell from the Sewage Works and advised he was disappointed he was not getting a response from Scottish Water. SBC Councillor Robson advised he had been in contact with Scottish Water and would pass on up to date contact details. SBC Councillor Robson advised the smell and increased traffic had been as a result of 14 tonnes of gravel being removed from the inlet tank. The Provost advised the Council had requested a site visit to raise concerns and SBC Councillor Robson advised he had arranged for site visits on Thursday 19 May at 10.00 and 11.00 (2 parties of 6 for those interested). SBC Councillor Weatherston advised that it was important members of the public logged any concerns with Scottish Water as the number of complaints logged from Kelso was minimal.

Brian Leahiff advised that until recently the speed signage on the bypass had been wrong and therefore not enforceable but since raising this with SBC it had been rectified and he passed on his thanks to SBC for doing this.

Brian Leahiff commented he was concerned to learn about the vandalism of the defibrillator at the Rugby Club and asked who provided these. The Provost advised the defibrillators had been provided by a charity called Kelso Heartbeat and he would undertake to compile a list of the locations and publicise this.

Brian Leahiff raised the issue of the amount of cannabis currently being used in Kelso. SBC Councillor Mountford advised the police were aware but were concentrating their efforts on trying to find the dealers, rather than users.

Brian Leahiff advised there he had witnessed a potential abduction at Shedden Park recently and had contacted the local Police who had responded in a timely fashion.

### **Presentation by Jill McCoy – Citizens Advice Bureau**

This has been deferred until May.

### **Presentation by Laura Graham (Kelso Co-op Member Pioneer)**

Laura Graham advised the Co-op Member Pioneers are looking for ways to help and support local communities and she is based in Kelso, representing the Highcroft and Roxburgh Street shops. Laura highlighted some of the ways that Member Pioneers can help:

Food-share - to help prevent food waste, community groups can apply to collect produce that is nearing its end date. It's ideal for breakfast clubs or food larders and, though the produce varies on what is left over at the end of each day, it can include bread, cakes, fruit, veg, and meat. <https://www.coop.co.uk/environment/food-share>. Laura advised the Cheviot Youth have signed up to this scheme. It was noted that food larders are currently based at Wooler, Chirnside and Eyemouth.

Councillor Roberts advised he was involved with the local food bank and wondered how they could link in, however, it was noted that the food bank consists of tinned and package goods and they didn't hold fresh stock. He advised that from next week all service users in addition to the 2 carrier bags of food and fresh milk and bread, would be issued with a £10 voucher from the Co-op to purchase personal items (excluding alcohol and tobacco).

Local Community Fund - each year we search for and support three local causes to be selected to receive funding for the Coop Local Community Fund ([coop.co.uk/causes](https://coop.co.uk/causes)). This is money which is raised in store by customers using their membership card. For every £1 spent on co-op products, 1p goes to the Local Community Fund and 1p goes to national fundraising. Applications open at the start of May 2020. To qualify you must be a local group or charity that is non-profit making, have a bank account and sign up to the Co-operate website. You'll also need a project in mind. <https://causes.coop.co.uk/> Laura wondered whether Kelso in Bloom would benefit from this fund.

Supporting events - If any community groups are hosting events, especially those focusing on mental health, fair access to food / education and environmental issues, I'd love to spread the word, come along and help, and where possible, offer additional support, be it items for a raffle, or teas and coffees.

SBC Councillor Weatherston thanked and congratulated Laura on her work as a Member Pioneer and asked whether she had any details regarding how the charge for carrier bags had been allocated to the community. Laura undertook to find out.

### **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee celebration**

The Provost advised plans were proceeding and everything seemed to be in place and thanked Visit Kelso for publishing the event. The Provost advised there would be a Churches Together service in the Square on Sunday 5 June between 11.00 and noon.

The Provost advised the Borders Vintage Automobile Club will be holding a special run of Vintage and Classic cars on Sunday 5th June and they hope to have up to 50 vehicles involved. They plan to arrive in the Square at 12.30 after the service and will remain until 2.00pm to allow the public to inspect the cars before departing to Mellerstain House.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the KLA had applied for £350 funding for new bunting and a flag.

### **Kelso in Bloom**

The Provost advised the summer bedding has been ordered and Robin Hogg (KHS) has taken into account our request of adding more annual shrubs in the two beds on Coldstream Road, which will cut down the bedding plants in those areas. It was agreed that the planting would take place after the Queens Jubilee celebrations.

The Provost advised the Cubs have organising a litter pick in the Square on Tuesday 31 May, to work towards a badge.

The Provost advised Mayfield has offered some spring bulbs that have been left over and these would be planted in the bed outside the Police station.

The Provost advised he would arrange some evening community litter picks and SBC Councillor Robson advised Woodside Park was in need of a litter pick. Councillor Watson advised the Pipewell Brae area also needed a litter pick. The Provost advised he would share this information to see if it was possible.

The Provost advised a committee meeting had been arranged for 26 April 2022.

### **Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee**

Councillor Boulton advised an update had previously been circulated, which is appended to the minutes and advised he has written to every election candidate for the Scottish Borders Council in the five most affected wards (Kelso & District, Jedburgh & District, East Berwickshire, Mid Berwickshire and Selkirkshire) seeking their views on and support of the campaign's aims. Councillor Boulton thanked our SBC Councillors for their response. Councillor Boulton advised the committee had agreed a date to visit Reston Station prior to its opening.

### **Secretary's Report**

- Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and captured and a summary would be attached to the minutes.
- The Secretary advised Councillors had received an invitation to the Declaration of the 2022 Laddie on Friday 15 April.

- The Secretary advised Kelso Life had kindly placed an advert in the current edition to advertise the AGM to be held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 and the Annual Accounts were currently being audited.
- Annual subscription to The Bridge has been paid.
- Annual insurance renewal – awaiting confirmation but this is now becoming a pressing issue as Public Liability insurance is required for the Jubilee celebrations.
- Letter on dog fouling – still outstanding.

### **Provost Report**

The Provost advised he had opened the Arts Festival on the 1 April and attended the over 60s lunch. He had enjoyed both events.

The Provost advised he had been invited by the Consul General of Poland on the occasion of the Polish National Day to attend a concert and reception at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh on 3 May 2022.

### **Walking Festival 2023**

The Secretary advised she had been in contact with the Galashiels Walking Festival and would be participating in their April/May weekend festival to gain insight and would be arranging a small working group, including representations from the local U3A and the two local Ramblers in May to start taking this project forward.

### **Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)**

Councillor McGrath advised the SBCCN AGM would be held on the 14 April 2022 in person and via zoom. The main speaker is David Wood, Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) who would be presenting "An Introduction to PAS and overview of the role of Community Councils in planning matters."

Post meeting Councillor McGrath advised the SBCCN held their AGM and during this he had asked various questions including one about receiving all planning applications not just those selected by the planning department. The response had been that under the recent Planning Act all Community Councillors are now "statutory consultees" and as such should receive all planning applications relevant to their area.

The Provost commented that the Community Council should be sent the Planning Applications, however, it was noted that the portal is open to the public and the general public and Community Councils can log comments. He advised that he would check the portal once a week and share any relevant applications with Councillors for comments.

Councillor McGrath advised that it was agreed that every Community Council should have its own locally agreed Place Plan with every decision being community lead, bottom up.

In response to a question from Councillor Russell on how the Place Plans fit with the Local Development Plans, SBC Councillor Mountford advised the LDP has to comply with the National Planning Framework and SBC had sent the draft LDP to an independent examiner for comments. SBC Councillor Mountford advised the Place Plans would be discussed at the forthcoming Area Partnership meetings. Councillor Mountford advised that currently SBC set aside 2.8% of their budget for public participation. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented it was his personal opinion that the Area Partnership needed to be reformed and Kelso and Jedburgh should be treated separately.

## **Scottish Borders Council**

### **Kelso Ambulance provision**

SBC Councillor Robson advised there was no update and asked for this to be removed from the agenda and would report back with any updates.

### **Parking /Traffic management**

Councillor Roberts raised the issue of drivers continuing to speed at the top of Roxburgh Street and abusing the no entry sign to gain access to the Cobby. SBC Councillor Mountford advised the Police did not have enough resources to enforce speeding, however, if there was evidence of an accident hot spot they would monitor.

Councillor Oliver asked whether the proposed notice regarding illegal parking had been finalised and the Provost advised we would need to wait until after the SBC elections to request permission to use their logo on the notice.

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had requested the reinstatement of white lines on the Teviot Bridge and that the signs at the loading bay had been installed.

### **Dog Fouling**

The Secretary advised she would draft a letter.

### **Questions to Councillors**

Councillor Watson advised the pavements in Woodmarket had been damaged due to buses parking on them. It was noted that the bus stop at Coledale was to be upgraded.

Councillor Boulton asked for an update on the unsightly scaffolding and fencing in the town. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised SBC were in discussion with Historic Scotland regarding the Abbey. The site had been inspected and deemed dangerous, hence the safety fencing. He commented that there was no indication of timescale but the project was a priority and would be addressed once funding was available. Councillor Roberts asked whether there were any reports available outlining the extent of the damage to the Abbey and SBC Councillor Mountford recommended approaching local MSPs to access this information.

Regarding the Glebe Wall, SBC Weatherston advised SBC were in discussion with the Church of Scotland and negotiations were ongoing regarding who was responsible for paying for the works.

## **Consideration of Licenses**

The Secretary advised there were no applications for consideration.

## **Consideration of Plans**

The Secretary advised the following plans had been circulated for comments =

22/00430/FUL – Mr Simon Forsyth, Installation of solar panel array to roof, Springfield, 1 Abbotsford Grove, Kelso TD5 7BN. The Community Council supported this application.

22/00501/FUL – M&J Ballantyne Ltd, erection of 48 dwellinghouses with associated roads and infrastructure, land north of Queens House (Phase 2), Kelso. In principle the Community Council approved this applications but with comments on parking and the provision on charging points.

22/00615/FUL - Mr & Mrs Robert Meins -Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse - 8 Sutherland Gardens Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7BF. The Community Council supported this application.

The Provost thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked for the current SBC Councillors for all their hard work and wished them well in the forthcoming elections and looked forward to working with them in the future.

The next Community Council meeting and AGM will be held on Tuesday 10 May 2022

**Tweed Valley Railway Campaign / Railway Committee  
Update for Kelso Community Council - 4 April 2022**

- 1) Since the first press release, membership has grown by 60%.
- 2) The Campaign held very productive discussions with Rail User Groups RAGES (East of Scotland) and SENRUG (Northumberland) and with NCC Councillor Georgina Hill (Berwick East - Independent).
- 3) A delegation will give a presentation to the Local Area Council for North Northumberland on 19 May (at which 12 of the NCC's 67 Councillors will be present and where members of the public and press attend).
- 4) A communications plan and logo have been adopted.
- 5) Following correspondence with the Scottish Minister for Transport and Transport Scotland, the Chair has written to the Borderlands Partners offering to provide supporting evidence and arguments on how the potential Tweed Valley Railway would enhance the case for an extension of the Borders Railway through Hawick and on to Carlisle.
- 6) The Chair has written to every election candidate for the Scottish Borders Council in the five most affected wards (Kelso & District, Jedburgh & District, East Berwickshire, Mid Berwickshire and Selkirkshire) seeking their views on and support of the campaign's aims.



KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS – MAR 22 – APR 22		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
08.03.22	Approved minutes Mar 22 posted	For information
	Planning applications – request for information on why our questions are not being responded to. SM to investigate	For information
09.03.22	News Release: Consultation seeks feedback on plans for Tweedbank to Eyemouth active travel route	For information and participation
	News Release: Council launches public consultation on kerbside waste and recycling services	For information and participation
	Draft notice to place on cars either parked on yellow lines or over the time limit	For comment
	Charging point in Square	
	Response to R Pennington regarding speed reduction on A699 and SBC response	For information
14.03.22	A699 additional comments from member of public put to SBC	For information
	News release: Council gives special vote of thanks to community volunteers	For information
	News Release: New beginning for Harestanes visitor centre	For information
	News Release: Actions agreed on Independent Inquiry	For information
	SBCCN AGM 2022 - Calling Notice Thurs 14th April 2022 at 7pm	For information
	News Release: Centre of excellence to be developed as Scottish Borders Council awarded Apple Professional Learning Provider	For information i
	News Release: Notice of Election published	For information
	News Release: Help shape the future of your local community	For information
	SBCCN Minutes of previous meetings	For information
16.03.22	SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY COUNCILS NETWORK – Pension Credits	For information
	A699 feedback from SBC to question from member of the public	For information
	Request from Canon Bob King to advertise St Andrews concerts	For information
	SBC Community Engagement Newsletter March 2022	For information
	Consultation document for MSP Murdo Fraser's Members' Bill on Fly-tipping.	For information
	Community Councils - waste survey	For information
	Invitation from Kelso Laddies Association to Laddies Declaration on Fri 15 April at 7.00pm	For confirmation if able to attend
17.03.22	Road Closure - Albert Place, Kelso	For information

18.03.22	Draft Environmental Policy	For sign off
	Planning 22/00430/FUL - Mr Simon Forsyth: Installation of solar panel array to roof: Springfield 1 Abbotsford Grove Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7BN	For comments
20.03.22	Secretary asked for AGM notice to be placed in Kelso Life	For information
	Secretary wrote to Citizens Advice Bureaux inviting them to a future meeting – attending April meeting	For information
23.03.22	Accounts Commission newsletter	For information
	Lighting on path to Springwood	For information
	Road Closure - D93/4 Heiton to Ladyrig Farm Cottages	For information
	News Release: Don't miss out if you want to run for election	For information
25.03.22	Road Closure - Bowmont Street, Kelso	For information
	SBCCN AGM Thurs April 14th at 7pm - hybrid meeting in Selkirk and via zoom	For information
	Road Closures - Dryinghouse Lane / Kelso Bypass	For information
30.03.22	News Release: Nominations announced for Council elections	For information
	Traffic regulations - Coldstream Civic Week - Installation Ceremony	For information
	Latest Information on National Lottery Funding	For information
	Volunteers' Week Launch 2022	For information
03.04.22	SBC comments on planning applications	For information
	Planning application 22/00501/FUL – Ballantyne Ltd – Erection of 48 no dwellinghouses with associated roads and infrastructure. Land North of Queens House (Phase 2)	For comments
	Papers for April meeting circulated	For information
	Cheviot Neighbourhood Support Fund	For information
	News Release: Less than two weeks left to register to vote in upcoming council elections	For information
06.04.22	The Bridge annual membership paid	For information
	Railway Committee update	For information
07.04.22	Traffic regulations - No Waiting - Station Road, Kelso	For information
	Member briefing: Park & Environment - Cheviot tree survey update	For information
12/04/22	Planning application 22/00615/FUL - Mr & Mrs Robert Meins - Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse - 8 Sutherland Gardens Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7BF	For comments
	Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network AGM Thurs 14th April 2022 revised agenda and paperwork	For information