

Minute of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 7:00 in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors Shirley Redgrave, Peter Cooper, Paul Roberts, James McCombie, Gail Watson, Owen Adams and Toni Oliver; Scottish Borders Councillors Euan Robson, Tom Weatherston and Simon Mountford; and Yvonne Oliver (Secretary)
Anne Woodcock (Tweed Commission)

APOLOGIES: Councillors James Boulton, Christine Stewart and Colin McGrath.

It was noted that Colin was currently in Borders General Hospital and the Council asked that their good wishes for a speedy recovery be conveyed to him.

- *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.*
- *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 questions through the Chairperson.*

Kelso Brownies

The Community Council had received a letter of thanks from Kelso Brownies following their recent visit. They had thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Police Matters

The November MMWR had been circulated. It was disappointing to note that, unfortunately, the reports of shoplifting had increased, no doubt due to the time of year.

Visit Kelso

Visit Kelso sent their report as follows:

The Christmas Market being held in the Tait Hall, Kelso would have the maximum number of 30 stalls – these would include food stalls, craft stalls etc. The Market was being held over the weekend of 14/15 December 2024 from 10am until 3pm both days.

There would also be events in The Square, Kelso including Donkey Rides and Crazy Golf. Councillor S Redgrave advised she had heard the Market being advertised on local radio.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2024

The Minute of meeting of Tuesday 12 November 2024 had been circulated and was approved. The Minute was proposed by Councillor Toni Oliver and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts.

Matters arising from the Minute

There were no matters arising from the Minute.

Questions From The Public

Anne Woodcock, Tweed Commission, was in attendance and advised the Council that the River Tweed Commission and Tweed Foundation were holding the inaugural River Tweed Fly-Tying Fair on 1st and 2nd February 2025 at the Town Hall, Kelso. The two-day event will celebrate the opening of the River Tweed salmon fishing season and unite fishing enthusiasts, conservationists, and the local community in a vibrant celebration of tradition and craft. The current world fly-tying champion is coming from Germany.

Anne said that this event would welcome anglers back to Kelso (some from as far away as Scandinavia) and have a huge impact on the town, receiving not only local coverage but national media coverage as well. Kelso is one of the main iconic places in the world for salmon fishing.

From the beginning of January, local schools would be involved as well as the Kelso Men's Shed.

The Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe would be in attendance with the Duchess performing the opening ceremony. It was noted that the route would be slightly changed in 2025.

With regards to the situation regarding the Fishing Museum, Councillor Weatherston asked if the Tweed Commission was going to be involved in running the Museum. Anne replied that in all likelihood this would be the case.

The Provost thanked Anne for coming along and providing this update.

Kelso In Bloom

The Provost advised that, thanks to SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston contacting the Community Payback Team, there were now two bug-houses in-situ at Bridgend Island and two on the Coldstream Road. Councillor Weatherston was asked if he perhaps obtain some more bug-houses. It was noted that all three SBC Councillors (Robson, Mountford and Weatherston) had been instrumental in obtaining funding for this project.

SBCCN

The Provost reported that there was meant to be a Working Group looking at the CCN set-up – Councillor Euan Robson advised there was a briefing coming to the next SBC meeting, being held the following week.

Provost Report

Diary

15 December 2024 – Kelso North Church Special Service
16 December 2024 – Over 60's Lunch Club/ Visit Kelso
18 December 2024 – Carol singing in The Square
23 December 2024 – Christmas Meal
24 December 2024 – Crib Service/Cristingle Service

The Provost commended Councillor Toni Oliver and all the members of the Kelso Christmas Lights Committee for the wonderful display of Christmas Lights this year. The Switch-On had gone really well with Lady Jane Grosvenor performing the switch-on.

With regards to the Time Capsule, the Provost said he thought the following four items should be placed in it:

1. A China cup commemorating Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation;
2. A China cup commemorating King Charles III's Coronation;
3. A 5 Shilling Coin commemorating Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation;
4. A Commemorative 50p Coin for King Charles III's Coronation.

The total of these items would amount to approximately £37 and it was hoped that the Time Capsule would probably be re-buried about April time.

Secretary's Report

Events/Correspondence

Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary was attached to the Minute.

1. SBC Councillor T Weatherston said he expected a decision on the Starbucks application before Christmas.
2. Councillor Gail Watson asked what the current situation was with regard to the ongoing road closure at Union Street. It was noted that there had been eight vehicles parked illegally on Bowmont Street and these had included Painters and Decorators so hopefully the works on the property were nearing completion.
3. The Provost advised that the applicant for the proposed new pharmacy in Kelso was going to appeal the refusal by the NHS.

Consultations

Councillor Owen Adams asked whether, regarding the National Planning Improvement – Customer and Stakeholder Survey – the Community Council should be submitting a response regarding the problems the CC is having with retrospective planning permission for Conservation Areas?

SBC Councillor Simon Mountford advised that SBC have begun looking at Conservation Areas around the Borders but he was not sure when Kelso would be looked at.

Councillor Owen Adams agreed to draft a response and forward it to the Provost for approval (it was subsequently discovered that the deadline for replies was closed so no further action could be taken).

Scottish Borders Council Report

1. Campervan/Caravan Provision

Councillor Toni Oliver advised that there were no facilities for campervans to park up overnight in Kelso and asked if there was anywhere that could provide this facility? SBC Councillor Weatherston said that, previously, SBC had refused consideration, but he agreed to look into this matter again and report back. (It was noted that Springwood Showground did offer overnight parking at certain times of the year).

2. Royal Bank of Scotland, Kelso

The Provost advised that the barriers currently outside The Royal Bank of Scotland Building were due to roof tiles having recently blown off and landing on the ground. The barriers were there to protect the public but were being ignored.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no new Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

There were currently no plans for consideration.

Any other business

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston asked members of the Community Council to urge people to apply for extra benefits, (particularly those over 60). He said that too many people do not realise they are eligible for extra financial help.

Date of next meeting

The next Kelso Community Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 14 January 2025 at the Town Hall, Kelso.