

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 7:00 in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors James Boulton, Peter Cooper, Paul Roberts, Angus Russell, Christine Hamilton and Colin McGrath; Scottish Borders Councillors Euan Robson, Tom Weatherston and Simon Mountford; Yvonne Oliver (Secretary)

IN ATTENDANCE Tony Abbott (Member of the public)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Owen Adams, James McCombie, Toni Oliver, Shirley Redgrave and Gail Watson

- *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.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed Councillors and Mr Tony Abbott to the meeting. He wanted to remind members that this term of Kelso Community Council had now been in existence for a full two years.

Police Matters

The Police Report for September 2023 (up to 29/09/23) had been circulated. There was no representative from Police Scotland.

(i) **Maxmill Park**

The Provost had received a letter from Scottish Borders Council advising there were no plans at present to close the Maxmill Park site, unless someone shows an interest in buying the land.

SBC Councillor T Weatherston advised there was no spare homeless accommodation in the Region and also the Council had to be careful who is

accommodated at this site. There were also extra people coming into the country requiring to be housed.

Councillor Paul Roberts said he had visited the site and was dismayed to find that some residents had spent two nights wrecking their accommodation.

SBC Councillor Simon Mountford advised that he had spoken to the Housing Department and asked what they were doing about the homeless situation. He was told that the Scottish Government do not give money specifically for the homeless – it is up to each individual Council how they deal with the issue.

Councillor Roberts asked, if Maxmill Park is not going to be closed in the near future, could it perhaps be turned into a specialised unit, e.g., for drug addiction?

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised he had spoken to the Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Council and a group of officers had been tasked with looking into this matter. Unfortunately, the Head of Social Services, who was a member of this group, had recently left the Council but Councillor Robson was hoping for an update from the Chief Executive soon.

(ii) Vandalism

The Provost had e-mailed Police Scotland regarding the vandalism which was taking place around the town. Police Scotland advised they would keep an eye on areas of particular problem.

Visit Kelso

The Provost advised that Visit Kelso were trying to build new features for tourism in the town. Christmas was on the horizon and Councillor Toni Oliver would give an update on the Christmas Lights and decorations at the next Community Council meeting.

Engagement and Involvement with Young People

The Provost advised he had hoped that a couple of young people would attend the Community Council meetings but so far there had been no representation. Councillor Christine Hamilton said she would speak to someone at the High School in this regard and report back.

Councillor Colin McGrath said it was important to encourage young people to get involved. The Provost said Scottish Borders Council had recently held a series of “Community Conversations” throughout the Borders and he had attended the meeting held in Kelso. The Chief Executive of Live Borders and the Council Leader Euan Jardine had attended – there were a total of 7 members of the public which was not very encouraging and showed just how difficult it is to get people interested in what is going on in their community.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 September 2023

The Minute of meeting of Tuesday 12 September 2023 had been circulated and, subject to a slight amendment, approved. The Minute was proposed by Councillor James Boulton and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts.

Matters arising from the minutes

(i) Grovehill Parking/ Speeding

SBC Councillor Robson advised that a speed check had taken place in Grovehill and the average speed was recorded at 11-12 mph. There was absolutely no way that Scottish Borders Council would spend money on speed restrictions following that result. He had enquired about the availability of parking behind the wall but was told it was for the use of the tenants of the units. However, if there was no-one in the car parking spaces, they could be used. The opening of the gate was also going to be looked at. It was suggested that "No Parking" and a "Turning Circle" sign could be erected but it was inevitable that these would likely be ignored, however the Provost advised that there was already a sign in place.

SBC Councillor Weatherston said he had been speaking to a resident of Grovehill who told him there was no problem with speeding but there was definitely a problem with parking. Councillor Weatherston suggested that perhaps the residents of Grovehill could use the car park at the Factory Shop as this was part of the planning application when the Factory Shop opened.

(ii) Speeding in Roxburgh Street

SBC Councillor T Weatherston said a recent speed survey had shown that the number of vehicles actually speeding in Roxburgh Street was ridiculously low. Councillor Paul Roberts advised that, following the comments made at the previous Community Council meeting, "Pop-up Bob" had appeared at the top of Roxburgh Street for 4-5 days.

Councillor Paul Roberts also advised that, since the last meeting, an elderly lady had been knocked down in The Square and, unfortunately, had received life-changing injuries. He felt that the fact there was no official crossing point had not helped the situation. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised that the existing crossing points are not legal and SBC Councillor Mountford said the law states there requires to be a certain amount of traffic over a 24-hour period before legal crossing points can be integrated.

The Provost said he had stood outside “Sparkle & Gifted” to see how difficult it was to get across. He suggested there could be two ways in to the car park and one way out.

(iii) Christmas Lights Switch-on – Councillor T Oliver

As had previously been advised, Councillor Oliver would give an update on the Christmas Lights Switch-on at the next meeting.

Questions From The Public

The Provost asked the Scottish Borders Councillors whether there had been any interest in the decriminalisation of parking? SBC Councillor Robson advised it was all about cost – it costs in the region of £350-400,000 to implement decriminalisation. He also advised that Scottish Borders Council is one of the few Councils where this has not been introduced.

Councillor Paul Roberts said this was not just a Kelso issue and the Provost asked what involvement the Community Action Team (CAT), which was funded by Scottish Borders Council, had? Were there duties instructed by SBC and could at least one officer from CAT be a designated Traffic Warden? SBC Councillor Mountford said that SBC had a certain input but there was a Strategic Oversight Group, consisting of cross-party Councillors, Council Officers and Police Scotland’s CAT sergeants, who raised issues they would like to be looked at. Councillor Paul Roberts asked if Kelso was getting value for money from the CAT? SBC Councillor Weatherston replied that there would be a serious budget review this year.

It was noted that the traffic cones in Bridge Street were making a serious difference to the flow of traffic and they will be in place until the work on the bridge is complete, however the Provost also intimated that as soon as the cones are removed, vehicles will start parking on this side of Bridge Street again, as no one adheres to the single yellow line.

The Provost commented that there were a great deal more HGV’s coming through the town now. He suggested that perhaps a sign could be erected at Springwood advising traffic to avoid the town centre if possible.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised:

- (i) The next litter pick will be on Sunday 15 October 2023 at 3pm – all were welcome to attend.
- (ii) Kelso in Bloom were hosting a “thank-you” evening in the Town Hall on Friday 24 November 2023 at 7pm. This was to show their appreciation of the hard work put in by all volunteers and, again, all were welcome to attend.

Placeplan – Cheviot Place Making Working Group

Councillor Christine Hamilton advised there would be a Cheviot Place Making Working Group meeting on Wednesday 18 October 2023.

The Provost asked the SBC Councillors whether Placeplan was compulsory or advisory? SBC Councillor Weatherston said it was beneficial to have a Placeplan in the event of monies becoming available for particular projects. SBC Councillor Mountford advised that, through the Borderlands Scheme, Scottish Borders Council were being funded to help towns have Placeplans.

Scottish Borders Community Council Network

Councillor Colin McGrath gave an update to the meeting, advising that the SBCCN does not currently have a Chairperson and any volunteer could have a chat with him about the position. He advised that the next meeting was being held on 12 October 2023.

Provost Report

The Provost advised members that the Remembrance Parade was taking place on Sunday 12 November 2023. He would like to see as many Community Councillors as possible taking part – please meet at the War Memorial at 10.45am and thereafter at Kelso Royal British Legion.

Secretary’s Report

Events/Correspondence

- (i) Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary was attached to the Minute.
- (ii) The application for the Annual Grant was in process.
- (iii) A copy of the Kelso Community Council Equal Opportunities Policy had been circulated to all members for comments/consideration. All members were happy to adopt the Policy.

Consultations

The consultations regarding Pavement Parking at the Co-op, Highcroft, Angraflat Road (beside the drop off point at Kelso High School) and the former Baptist Church, Bowmont Street, were noted and will be submitted to SBC

Walking Festival 2023

Councillor Shirley Redgrave had previously circulated a report on the Walking Festival 2023. Councillor Angus Russell advised the meeting that there was an approximate surplus of £3,500 which was an excellent result. It had been suggested that the donation of £1,000 from Charity Begins at Home be given back to them. Councillor Christine Hamilton said the final figures would be available for the next Community Council meeting at which time it would be discussed what to do with the surplus.

The Provost advised that Charity Begins at Home had decided to give Kelso Community Council an automatic donation of £500 each year.

Scottish Borders Council Report

(a) Bus Shelters – Horsemarket/Woodmarket Painting

SBC Councillor Robson said investigations were under way to ascertain a paint which could repel graffiti – the colour was unknown.

(b) Bridge Street – Single Yellow to Double Yellow

The Provost advised there would be a meeting in Kelso Square on 30 October 2023 at which a long list of items would be discussed.

(c) CCTV (Kelso Town Hall)

SBC Councillor Mountford advised that Scottish Borders Council had agreed, in principle, to the updating and digitalisation of CCTV in seven Borders towns, including Kelso. He would report on the figures to the next meeting of the Community Council but it was not cheap. It was hoped to install CCTV on Kelso Town Hall.

(d) Signage Traffic from Poynder Apartments/Orchard Park

SBC Councillor Robson was taking a Council Officer to investigate this matter and would report back to the next meeting of the Community Council.

(e) Other issues raised:

- SBC Councillor Robson apologised for the oversight regarding the low-level lighting in The Square and on the cobbles not working and is looking into the matter.
- SBC Councillor Robson raised the issue of buses not being able to park in The Knowes. He said the tarmac was in a serious state of disrepair and would have to be attended to before any other measures could be put in place, e.g. perhaps a hatched area.
- It was noted that there was an issue with the pavement at the JET Garage at Maxwellheugh.
- SBC Councillor Robson advised that the Wooden Anna Woodlands was in private ownership. He was unsure about ownership of the land under the bridge but fortunately there were not many trees there.
- Councillor James Boulton asked if the Waterloo Lamps could be lit. It was noted that electricity was too costly and the Conservation Officer was not keen for anything else to be used.
- Councillor Angus Russell wished it to be noted that thanks be given to Scottish Borders Council for the efficient and quick way they had dealt with the issue of Short-Term Let Licences. SBC Councillor Weatherston said it was thanks to delegated powers being used.
- SBC Councillor Mountford advised that Scottish Borders Council had started illuminating the Tower at their Headquarters in Newtown St Boswells in blue and white in respect of the current situation in Israel.

SBC COUNCILLOR MOUNTFORD LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no licensing applications for consideration.

Consideration of planning applications

23/01393/FUL – Installation of 5No. floodlights/Kelso Skatepark, Shedden Park Road, Kelso, Scottish Borders – No objections

23/01352/FUL – Change of Use from Class 4 (Business), Class 5 (General Industrial) and Class 6 (Storage or Distribution) to Gym and fitness studio falling within Class 11 (Leisure)/Units 8 and 9 Carlaw Road, Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 8AS – No objections – With a note regarding retail to be member branded clothing.

23/01350/FUL – Change of use from food catering to Class 4 business light industrial and Class 6 storage and distribution, installation of automatic carwash and jetwash/Workshop Golf Course Road, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7SL – No

objections – however to note regarding the removal of the Laundry Machines and whether the new occupiers would consider keeping these as they are a helpful asset to those who use them.

23/01170/FUL – Change of use from guest suite to bedsit apartment/4 Poynder Apartments, Poynder Gardens, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7FN –

The Provost had written to the planners and Eildon Housing replied but made no reference to the Provost's comments or this application. He had e-mailed them again but received no response. **The Community Council are objecting to this planning application on the grounds of loss of amenity – however will wait until an answer becomes available.**

23/01439/PPP – Erection of dwellinghouse (renewal of planning permission 20/00805/PPP/Land South of Dalveen, Maxwell Lane, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 8DJ – No objections

23/01413/FUL – Extension to garage/1 Barony Park, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 8DJ – No objections

23/01430/C67 – Installation of 25m lattice tower, 3no. antennas, 2no. 0.6m dishes, 2no. equipment enclosures, and associated meter cabinet, and ancillary development within fenced compound and formation of access/Land at Dick's Knowe, West of Heathershope Reservoir, Kelso, Scottish Borders – No objections

23/01457/FUL | Partial change of use of shop to cafe/bar with outdoor seating area, cocktail bar and food service kiosk | Shop 54 - 56 Horsemarket Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AE – No objections.

23/01458/LBC | Internal and external alterations to form cafe from part shop | Shop 54 - 56 Horsemarket Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AE – No objections.

Any other business

900 Year Anniversary – Kelso Abbey – SBC Councillor E Robson

SBC Councillor Robson advised the meeting that various projects were being looked at but discussions were at an early stage. Amongst some of the ideas for the Anniversary were the use of the Abbey Row centre as a Visitor Centre/public art gallery and museum; use of the green fields as a monastic garden; improved facilities.

Proposals were in the early stages at the moment and were part of the local Placeplan. A feasibility study would have to be undertaken first.

The Provost commented that this was an excellent project and would certainly be good for the town.

Date of next meeting

The next Kelso Community Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 14 November 2023 at the Town Hall.

**KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS – SEPT / OCT 23**

Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
11.09.23	Cheviot Area Partnership - A Climate Focused Discussion	For Information
13.09.23	BBC political TV Show is filming in a town near you Be in the Studio Audience	For Information
21.09.23	Borderers urged to be prepared for winter as Council approves Winter Plan	For Information
22.09.23	23/01393/FUL Installation of 5No floodlights Kelso Skatepark Shedden Park Road Kelso Scottish Borders	Comment by 20th Oct
	23/01352/FUL Change of Use from Class 4 (Business), Class 5 (General Industrial) and Class 6 (Storage or Distribution) to Gym and fitness studio falling within Class 11 (Leisure) Units 8 And 9 Carlaw Road Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8AS	Comment by 20th Oct
	23/01350/FUL Change of use from food catering to Class 4 business light industrial and Class 6 storage and distribution, installation of automatic carwash and jetwash Workshop Golf Course Road Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7SL	Comment By 20th Oct
	23/01170/FUL Change of use from guest suite to bedsit apartment 4 Poynder Apartments Poynder Gardens Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7FN	Comment by 20th Oct
	Post Office delivering services in SBC headquarters	For information
26.09.23	Alzheimer Scotland What's On Guide - October	For Information
	Bring more visitors to Kelso centre with a mobile phone-based town trails	For Information Inc Visit Kelso
	Kelso Conservation Area - Planning - John Hayward	For Information
27.09.23	Shared Access Routes - Citizen Space Survey	For Information
	Road Closure - D103/4 Roxburgh Moor to Roxburgh, Kelso - 17th October 2023	For Information
28.09.23	Road Closure - C46 Newtonlees, Stichill - 29th November 2023	For Information
	2023 Greener Gateway Community Awards winners announced	For Information
	23/01439/PPP Erection of dwellinghouse (renewal of planning permisison 20/00805/PPP) Land South Of Dalveen Maxwell Lane Kelso Scottish Borders	Comments By 26 th Oct
	Kelso Christmas Event – Change of Traffic Order Timings	For Information

	23/01413/FUL Extension to garage 1 Barony Park Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8DJ	Comments By 26th Oct
	23/01430/C67 Installation of 25m lattice tower, 3no. antennas, 2no. 0.6m dishes, 2no. equipment enclosures, and associated meter cabinet, and ancillary development within fenced compound and formation of access Land At Dick's Knowe West Of Heathershope Reservoir Kelso Scottish Borders	Comments By 26th Oct
06.10.23	23/01457/FUL Partial change of use of shop to cafe/bar with outdoor seating area, cocktail bar and food service kiosk Shop 54 - 56 Horsemarket Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AE	Comments By 3rd November
	23/01458/LBC Internal and external alterations to form cafe from part shop Shop 54 - 56 Horsemarket Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AE	Comments By 3rd November

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