

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 14 November 2017, at 7.00pm**



**PRESENT:** Councillors James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Alan Hall, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, Jim McCombie, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk, Kerry Yule and Provost Dean Weatherston and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford and Euan Robson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Neil Hastie (SBC Estates Manager), Martin Joyce (SBC Service Director Assets and Infrastructure), Alan Livingston (Chamber of Trade), Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), PC Rachel Stark (Police Scotland) and Kathryn Wyllie (Southern Reporter).

**APOLOGIES:** SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston

- 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.
- All Councillors to make a declaration of interest prior to discussion.
- All correspondence to be circulated via the Secretary.

**Welcome**

The Provost welcomed Councillors, SBC officers and members of the public Ian Aitchison, Colin Banks and Ross Watson to the meeting.

**Police Matters**

It was noted Police Scotland report for November 2017 had previously been circulated. PC Rachel Stark was in attendance and she highlighted the importance of taking part in the "Your View Counts" online consultation – having a say in the decision making process of Police Scotland is a vital tool for residents to be able to shape the way their public services should operate.

PC Stark advised there was an ongoing issue with parking in the town centre and at Broomlands primary school, the Police were monitoring and issuing tickets where appropriate. PC Stark advised there continued to be an issue with the east side of Bridge Street which is covered with a single yellow line. Unfortunately motorists continue to park there and this is causing obstructions to other road users. She advised the Police were working to educate drivers on legislation and rules surrounding parking on a single yellow line and would be using Facebook and the local newspapers. The Provost advised he would highlight this issue in his page in Kelso Life.

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised he had received many complaints around parking at Broomlands primary school and he was concerned there may be an accident as a result.

Councillor Tomczyk asked how often the Police patrol the town to enforce parking and PC Stark advised this happened as often as possible when Police officers were available and not called away for other issues.

The Provost asked whether there had been an increase in shoplifting and PC Stark advised she was not aware of this.

**Commented [h1]:** I think that she actually said when pressed that it was something like once a week but cannot remember the exact figure

### **Future Use of Kelso High School site**

Neil Hastie, Estates Manager SBC and Martin Joyce, Service Director Assets and Infrastructure SBC attended to give an update on the future use of the Kelso High School site.

Neil Hastie advised the new Kelso High School opened its doors today and the new facility was an amazing facility and asset for the town of Kelso. Regarding the old high school site which had been in service for 80 years he advised SBC's main option was to secure the site to prevent any vandalism and they were currently considering employing a guardian to live in while the site was vacant. Neil advised all costs related to the site needed to be reduced to the minimum and therefore there would be no access to the sports facilities.

Neil Hastie advised SBC had been in discussion with Historic Scotland over the past 2/3 years as the main building was Category B listed.

Neil Hastie advised the site is surplus to operational requirements and SBC had been in discussion with selling agents and it would be put on the market at the end of November with Edwin Thompson. As background Neil advised SBC were the legal owners of the land and buildings and the site had been acquired in 1936 for the sum of £2,175. Neil advised the business case for the new high school was dependent on the sale of the old high school to create capital receipts. It was noted the war memorial had been removed to the new high school.

Martin Joyce advised there was a requirement to market the site for six months to demonstrate interest.

Councillor Tomczyk commented the Kelso Rugby Club had an agreement with the high school to use the site for parking on match days and asked whether this would continue. Martin Joyce commented parking by Kelso Rugby Club would not cease immediately and it was noted Kelso Rugby Club had expressed an interest in obtaining land for parking. Councillor Tomczyk commented the car park was often used for parking on match days and by the local church and sports clubs and there would be an issue if the parking facility was taken away. Martin Joyce commented that a traffic impact survey would be undertaken as part of the proposed sale.

Martin Joyce advised the site has been designated for housing in the current Local Development Plan and has been outlined for 50 potential new homes under the council's recently approved five-year strategic housing investment plan. However, a number of other potential uses have been bandied about, including calls for it to become Scotland's first dedicated retirement village or a car park.

Martin Joyce advised there had been a meeting last week of all local community groups who used the facilities at the old high school site and he was confident the majority of users would be able to carry on their activities at the new site. It was noted responsibility for organising the community group timetables was still to be resolved.

Councillor McGrath advised the old high school site had great potential to be turned into a Retirement Village and under the Community Empowerment Act it was a community asset and there was an opportunity to involve the Scottish Government. Councillor McGrath advised there was a high demand for extra intermediate care beds to prevent bed blocking at the local acute hospital. Martin Joyce advised SBC were currently investing in extra care housing across the Borders with the opening of a 15 bed facility at Tweedbank and plans to provide 250 extra care housing across the region.

The Provost thanked Neil Hastie and Martin Joyce for attending the meeting and asked them to keep the Community Council aware of future developments.

#### **Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso**

Alan Livingston advised a leaflet advertising Festive Shopping and activities had been widely distributed to attract visitors to Kelso. He advised the Christmas Lights switch on would take place on Saturday 25 November but the shops would not be open as they did not find it viable. Alan advised the traders were being encouraged to open on Sundays during December.

Alan Livingston advised the Secretary/Treasurer for the Chamber of Trade had resigned and he would welcome any interest.

Alan Livingston thanked SBC for erecting the signage for pedestrian access to Roxburgh Street but commented several traders had suffered badly during the road closure. The Provost urged members to support the traders in Roxburgh Street.

The Provost advised the traders from Roxburgh Street had applied to the Kelso Common Good Fund for financial support and would use the money to enhance Roxburgh Street to attract visitors leading up to Christmas. The Provost advised the money would initially be paid into the Kelso Community Council account.

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 October 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Colin McGrath and seconded by Councillor James Boulton.

## Matters arising

### Campaign for Borders Railway

Councillor Tomczyk advised the question of expanding the Border Railway to Kelso had been raised at the recent Campaign for Borders Railway AGM and they advised it was important to establish demand. Councillors Tomczyk and Boulton agreed to meet to see how this could be progressed. SBC Councillor Robson advised it was important to establish how much of the land between Charlesfield and Kelso was protected and he would make enquiries.

### National Park

Councillor McGrath advised a report on the National Park had been submitted to the Scottish Government. The Provost questioned the status of the independent author as he had previously been employed by National Parks and therefore his views could be biased. Councillors commented the creation of a National Park would help with tourism and therefore this could potentially be positive for Kelso but was an expensive way of marketing the Borders in relation to other possible approaches.

**Commented [h2]:** I am absolutely certain that I made that comment.

### Memorial Garden

Councillor Tomczyk confirmed Morrison's would be supplying the materials and SBC Councillor T Weatherston was currently looking at costings and available grants. Both SBC Councillors Mountford and Robson advised they would support any grant application for this project.

### Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

Councillor Hodges gave the following update:

- Volunteers and members were working to clear and enhance the beds at Rose Lane and an application for funding would be submitted to SBHA (Scottish Borders Housing Association).
- The Rotary Club had finished planting bulbs at the Coldstream entrance and it was hoped the Jedburgh Road entrance will be planted with bulbs in 2018.
- The winter bedding had been completed at Bridge End and Coldstream Road.
- Jim Mackie had submitted an idea for planters on Hunter's Bridge but the committee felt this was not a good idea due to the cross winds on the bridge and it would be difficult to maintain plants in these conditions and the planters were open to vandalism.
- Development work was continuing on opening an addition bed at the Coldstream entrance but Councillor Hodges reported one of the new trees had been broken.
- Councillor Hodges would be contacting Linda Cornwall regarding possible funding for the additional bed.
- A bag pack had been arranged for Friday 29 December as a fund raiser and she asked the Secretary to issue a rota for volunteers.

Councillor Mountford asked whether Kelso in Bloom was responsible for the window boxes at the Town Hall and suggested the current flowers be removed for the winter. The Secretary undertook to approach appropriate officers at SBC with this request.

**Commented [h3]:** I think that these are artificial so planting is hardly appropriate, re[place with flowers

### Cinema

Councillor Cooper advised numbers for the first showing had improved. He advised the majority of customers at the evening film were concessions and therefore the ticket price may need to be tweaked to ensure breakeven was achieved. Councillor Cooper advised two more film nights had been organised for November and December. Councillor Cooper advised volunteers were still needed to help run the events. Councillor Cooper advised the film company had agreed to subsidise the first four film nights and going forward the club would need to apply for sponsorship and grants to cover any short fall in revenue.

Councillor Mountford suggested the club apply for a grant from the Localities Bid Fund. Councillor Cooper advised he had arranged a meeting with Linda Cornwall to investigate grants.

### NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised Elaine Torrance the Chief Executive of the Integration Board had resigned and new Chief Executive had been appointed. Councillor McGrath advised SBC Councillor David Parker had been appointed as the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Group.

### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary advised she had sent a letter of congratulations to Babs Clark at the Border Union Agriculture Society on her appointment as Executive Director BUAS.

### **Correspondence**

- Letter of congratulations from Rachel Hamilton MSP regarding Kelso coming second in the Champion of Champions category at the 2017 Floral Gateway Awards.
- Letter from The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP: Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence People and Veterans, Ministry of Defence regarding our letter about the presence of soldiers in Kelso town centre on Thursday 14 September.
- SBC Traffic Regulation Order – Speed Limit Review – A6089 Angraflat Road, Part Time 20mph limit.

Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update on submitting a letter to SBC regarding the demand for parking. The Secretary advised she wanted to check previous correspondence and would report back.

### **Provost Report**

The Provost advised he had nothing to report.

### **Any Other Business**

### **Scottish Borders Council**

Locality Committee/Kelso Common Good Fund – Councillor Mountford advised the Locality Committee had met last night. Councillor Mountford advised the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had updated members on the consultation for service redesign and urged members to look at their web site. The Secretary was asked to circulate the appropriate link. Councillor Mountford 75% of present staff were retained. He commented the Cheviot area were piloting a scheme whereby when officers visited elderly residents to under a fire safety check they also looked at trip hazards.

Councillor Mountford advised the new Cheviot Area Partnership would start on the 7 February 2018.

Localities Bid Fund – Colin Banks advised that there was still time to submit ideas for funding to the Localities Bid Fund. The first phase opened to applications on 15<sup>th</sup> October and closes at 3pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Scottish Borders Council has allocated a total of £500,000 to the Localities Bid Fund for the purpose of piloting participatory budgeting across the Scottish Borders. In the first phase £35,000 had been allocated to the Cheviot area.

Parking / Traffic Management – Councillor Mountford advised a Working Party was being set up to review parking across the Border region and this would consist of seven members yet to be decided and Chaired by Gordon Edgar from Selkirk, the Executive Member responsible for Roads and Infrastructure. Councillor Mountford commented the group would look at the data available from the previous survey and he reassured Councillors that everyone wanted to find a solution to the parking issues both in Kelso and Borders area.

Councillor Tomczyk asked whether there were any plans to produce a car sticker specifically for Kelso and Councillor Mountford advised no.

Kelso High School – In response to a question Councillor Euan advised the new high school had LED lighting and solar panels.

### **Consideration of Licenses**

An application had been received from Rutherfords Micro pub to extend their opening times. As comments were due by 9 November this had been circulated to Kelso Community Councillors and no objections were voiced. The Secretary had written to the Licencing Officer to confirm this.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plan –

Kelso Men's Shed – change of use from retail to form men's shed comprising hobby, leisure and administration rooms. The Community Council had supported the plans.

Replacement windows and door 6 Victoria Place, Kelso. The Community Council has no objections to the plans.

**Commented [h4]:** I am sure that we agreed that in this case we would support.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 12 December 2017 at 7.00pm