

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 12 December 2017, at 7.00pm



PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett, Peter Cooper, Jim McCombie, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk and Provost Dean Weatherston and Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston and Euan Robson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), PC Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland), Derek Robeson, Hazel Woodsell and Nick Prior (Kelso Heritage Society), Lucy Angus and Aiden Gates (Kelso High School) and Kirstin Murray (member of the public)

APOLOGIES: SBC Councillor Simon Mountford and Councillors Gavin Horsburgh, James Boulton, Alan Hall, Betty Hodges, Kerry Yule and Ian Brown and Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade) and Kathryn Wyllie (Southern Reporter)

- 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, representatives from Kelso High School, members from the Kelso Heritage Society and public to the meeting.

Police Matters

It was noted Police Scotland report for December 2017 had previously been circulated. PC Suzanne Howgego was in attendance.

PC Howgego advised there had been a series of property break-ins and she had visited the victims to give reassurance and see if security could be improved. The break-ins were currently under investigation and she was unaware of a pattern.

Under road safety PC Howgego advised parking continued to be a problem and the Police were monitoring and issuing tickets where appropriate. PC Howgego advised the issue with parking on the east side of Bridge Street seemed to be improving and it was proposed the yellow line be redefined. PC Howgego confirmed when a road traffic accident happened as long as the parties exchanged details this was not

recorded in the monthly report. PC Howgego advised public parking in the taxi rank continued to be an issue with the taxi drivers.

PC Howgego advised there had been a series of shop lifting incidents at the charity shops. No one had been charged and she had visited the shops to offer reassurance and to see how security could be improved.

PC Howgego reminded Councillors she was available if they wished to report any issues.

Kelso Heritage Society

The Provost welcomed members of the Kelso Heritage Society who attended to update Councillors on their proposal to provide a Heritage Hub and Information Centre in the room formerly occupied by Visit Scotland in the Town Hall. Derek Robeson (Chairman of Kelso Heritage Society) advised the Friends of Kelso Museum group had changed their name to Kelso Heritage Society at its AGM in November. Derek advised the members felt the time was right to extend the role of the group, not only to seek to establish a museum in Kelso but to be more actively engaged with the local community and schools.

Derek Robeson advised this was an unique opportunity to apply to occupy the space vacated by Visit Scotland to use as a Heritage Hub and Information Centre. He advised Kelso Heritage Society were still in the early stages of pulling the project together and they were currently working on a business case.

Derek Robeson advised he was in discussion with the Tweed Salmon Fishing Museum and were sharing ideas.

Derek Robeson advised the Kelso Heritage Society were currently working on a business plan and applying for grants and had attending tonight's meeting to the ask the Community Council for their support and endorsement of the proposal. The Provost and Kelso Community Councillors confirmed support and endorsement.

SBC Councillor T Weatherston advised a pilot was currently taking place whereby Registrars visited clients at home by appointment to register births, deaths and marriages. If the pilot was successful and was rolled out across the region the Registrar's office downstairs could also be available to the group.

Councillor Tomczyk declared an interest as Vice Chairman of the Kelso Heritage Society and commented it was important to have an information hub within the town for visitors and locals. Derek advised he hoped it would be a focal point for the town.

In response to a question Hazel Woodsell advised there were very few artefacts available for display and the majority of items for display would be documents and photographs. SBC Councillor Robson commented Wilton Park Hawick had a large collection of local paintings in their store which could be of use. It was noted that other artefacts may be available which had been given to other organisations when the original museum closed. Councillor Tomczyk mentioned Polish memorabilia.

The Provost thanked members of Kelso Heritage Society for attending the meeting.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone had tendered his apologies and there was no update from the Chamber of Trade.

The Provost advised there would be a meeting of Visit Kelso next week and he commented Visit Kelso had secured a "I Know Service" workshop, free of charge, to be hosted by Visit Scotland in the New Year.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2017

Councillor McGrath asked for an amendment under NHS / Social Services Integration. It should read Councillor McGrath advised SBC Councillor David Parker had been appointed as the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Group. With this amendment the minutes held on Tuesday 14 November 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Colin McGrath

Matters arising

Roxburgh Street

Councillor T Weatherston advised the traders in Roxburgh Street had been awarded £1,000 from the Kelso Common Good Fund to assist with promotion after the recent road closure. The Provost advised the traders had decided to purchase laser lights with these funds.

Parking at Kelso High School and Broomlands Primary School

Councillor Robson advised he had received a number of complaints regarding parking and drop off point for Broomlands School while the construction of the new school was underway. He suggested the current staff car park could be used as a drop off / collection point as this would alleviate issues with the access road. Councillors supported a review of a drop off point at the school. Councillor Robson advised he had raised the issue of parking during the construction of the new Broomlands Primary School at the SBC Council meeting in September.

In response to a question on parking at the new High School, Councillor T Weatherston advised the situation seemed to have settled down and cars were parking on the service road. The Provost advised the head teacher was allowing the disabled car park bays to be used by non disabled drivers as there were currently no disabled drivers attending the school.

Campaign for Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised he had spoken to SBC officers and would give an update in January regarding ownership of the land on which the old line ran. Once the update was received Councillors Tomczyk and Boulton would meet to see how to progress matters.

Memorial Garden

Councillor T Weatherston advised funds had been secured and he had instructed James Walker of Robertson Memorials to order the stone for the Memorial Wall. He advised there was a twelve week delivery period but was hopeful the Wall would be erected by March/April 2018. Councillors agreed an official opening would need to be organised and there would be publicity to promote this community venture.

Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

Councillor Hodges had given apologies and the Secretary advised the following:

- Scottish Borders Housing Association had donated £250 towards the cost of renovating the beds at Rose Lane, this was on the understanding Kelso in Bloom would continue to maintain the beds. The Secretary had written to SBHA to acknowledge the cheque and advised Kelso in Bloom would maintain the beds as long as volunteers were available.
- The Secretary reminded Councillors a bag pack had been arranged for Friday 29 December at Sainsbury's as a fund raiser and all volunteers were welcome. Representatives from the High School suggested the Secretary contact Jill Lothian to request she made an announcement regarding volunteers.

Cinema

Councillor Cooper advised the fourth pilot was taking place this week – the films being Paddington and Murder on the Orient Express. Councillor Cooper advised Ron Hasting had kindly sponsored a half page flyer. Councillor Cooper advised the group were actively seeking grants as it was important to have a financial cushion as there were high fixed costs to be covered. Councillor Cooper advised a competition had been organised with the local primary school to produce a poster for the Paddington film.

NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised he had attended an emergency crisis meeting to discuss winter pressures. Councillor McGrath advised the Development Day scheduled for 29 November had been postponed due to lack of support and this would be rescheduled in January 2018.

Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised she had written a letter of appeal regarding the change of use for 40-41 The Square – change of use from Class 1 (retail) to allow mixed use Class 2 (podiatry clinic) and Class 1 (ancillary retail) planning application (ref: 17/00047/RREF) and confirmed the Council's full support for the planning application which we understand has been refused and to request you reconsider the application. The Kelso Community Council do not agree with planner's decision not to grant the change of use and support the applicant. We would rather see occupied

premises than empty ones and with an increasing number of vacant premises, changing shopping habits we should be encouraging new businesses.

The Secretary advised the SBC Community Grants Team are in the process of identifying locations where ballot boxes can be left for people to collect and return their voting form for the Localities Bid Fund. SBC want to make sure that it is as easy as possible for people to vote hence giving people the opportunity to collect and return a voting form in their local area; there will also be the option for people to vote on line, post a voting form back to SBC HQ or attend a voting event (if taking place in the locality). The following locations had agreed to have a ballot box – Brown's newsagents, Cloud Nine and Seasons.

Correspondence

- SBC Cheviot Area Partnership – a letter had been received regarding the change of committee structure with the Cheviot Area Partnership replacing the Cheviot Locality Committee with effect from 1 January 2018. The letter outlined that the functions, membership and operation would be different. It was noted there would be 4 places for Community Council membership as core members and Kelso would not automatically have a place and it would be up to the Community Councils in Cheviot to decide who should represent them. It was noted there are 15 Community Councils in the Cheviot area. Councillors agreed it was important to discuss this with the Chair, SBC Councillor S Mountford and this subject should be discussed at the January meeting.
- SBC: Supplementary guidance on Housing – Scottish Ministers confirmed SBC could proceed to adopt the Supplementary Guidance on Housing and this now forms part of the Local Development Plan 2016.
- The Bridge newsletter.

Provost Report

The Provost advised the Buccleuch Hunt would be in Kelso Square at 10.30 on New Year's Day and they would be leaving at 10.45 and he hoped Councillors would be in attendance.

Any Other Business

Scottish Borders Council

Locality Committee/Kelso Common Good Fund – The Provost advised he was concerned the venue for the Kelso Common Good Fund meetings were held outside the town. It was noted the Elected Members decided how funding was awarded and the meeting were held immediately prior to the Area meetings.

Councillor T Weatherston reminded Councillors the Kelso Common Good Fund was a dwindling asset as it received no income unlike other town common good funds..

Parking / Traffic Management – Councillor Robson advised the new Working Party had been set up and he had been elected to its membership. The Chairman of the

group is Gordon Edgar from Selkirk, the Executive Member responsible for Roads and Infrastructure. Councillor Robson advised the group would be meeting in the New Year and he would welcome all comments. Councillor H Tomczyk agreed to draft a letter to the Chairman of the Working Party.

Wooden flower boxes situated outside the Town Hall – the Kelso Heritage Society had contact the Community Council to raise the issue of the wooden flower boxes. It had been noted water was reacting with the peat to form an acid which is discolouring and dissolving the paving stones underneath. In addition the walls behind are becoming green with mould due to the damp conditions. The Provost asked whether Kelso Community Council should write to SBC to ask for them to be removed. It was noted a great deal of thought went into these boxes during the Townscape Heritage Initiative. Councillors agreed members of the public should be consulted and the Provost agreed to put an article in Kelso Life and on the Council's Facebook pages.

Allocation of new housing in Roxburgh Street and elsewhere – Councillor Tomczyk raised this on behalf of Councillor Yule. Councillor Tomczyk asked for confirmation on how new housing was allocated. Councillor T Weatherston advised there was a very transparent bidding system in place for both Eildon Housing and Scottish Borders Housing Association, both had a scoring system and details are available on their web sites. Councillor T Weatherston advised there was no legal requirement to offer housing in Kelso to Kelso residents and anyone outside the area could apply and if they met the criteria they would be allocated a house.

Funding for broadband – Councillor Tomczyk advised an announcement had been made that funding for broadband is coming direct from the UK Government to SBC and asked for an update from SBC regarding their plans for funding. Councillor T Weatherston advised the area had achieved 80% of its target and 100% was required by 2020. Councillor Robson undertook to get an update and report back.

Consideration of Licenses

No new applications have been received.

Consideration of Plans

No new applications had been received.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 7.00pm