



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

IN ATTENDANCE: Inspector Jaqui McGuigan (Inspector) and PC Sharon Lackenby, Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Paul Mitchell (Rutherford's Micropub) and member of the public Christine Hamilton.

APOLOGIES: SBC Councillor T Weatherston and Councillor Owen Adams.

- *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.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct question through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost extended a warm welcome to everyone.

Police Matters

The Provost welcomed Inspector Jaqui McGuigan and PC Sharon Lackenby (Licensing Officer) to the meeting who had asked to attend to answer concerns raised regarding youth antisocial behaviour in The Square and noise in general from the Vibe nightclub in Mill Wynd.

The Provost advised the Multi Member Ward Plan for Kelso and District for October 2021 had previously been circulated. There were no comments to the report.

Inspector McGuigan thanked the Council for allowing her to attend to give reassurances that they were dealing with antisocial behaviour and extra attention

had been given by local officers and the CAT team. She reported that as a result of concerns they have stepped up resources to night time patrols at the weekend and were visiting licensed premises.

Inspector McGuigan reported that between the 14 September and 31 October 2021 there had been 9 reported calls to Police Scotland regarding antisocial behaviour in Kelso and there had been no recorded incidents regarding the Vibe nightclub. She emphasised that for the Police to respond, incidents need to be recorded, either by phoning 101, completing an online form (<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>) or in an emergency situation dialling 999.

Inspector McGuigan advised the Police were aware that there has been an ongoing situation with noise in the Square at weekends with either drunken / loud behaviour and had urged members of the public to be respectful when leaving licensed premises for those who live or are staying in and around the Square – and also to those younger ones who tend to gather around the Square.

PC Lackenby commented that the Police work closely with SBC Licensing department and she had visited the Vibe nightclub and spoken to the owner, who seems to be doing everything possible to run a responsible club by employing door staff who check the ages of people attending to avoid underage drinking. Councillor McGrath raised the issue of youths using fake ID to gain entrance and PC Lackenby commented that the door staff were local residents who knew most of the people attending and didn't consider this to be an issue. Councillor Oliver commented she was aware that people attending the Vibe nightclub didn't need to show a vaccination certificate to gain access. PC Lackenby undertook to follow up. Councillor Watson raised the issue of broken glass outside the premises and PC Lackenby commented that the Vibe nightclub didn't sell drinks to be consumed off the premises and presumed the broken glass had come from bottles purchased elsewhere.

Tina Newton on behalf of Visit Kelso advised members were keen to have the issue of antisocial behaviour addressed as visitors had raised many adverse comments on social media which was detrimental to the hotels and B&Bs.

Councillor Oliver advised that she had heard back from the Royal Bank of Scotland that they would be switching off their Wi Fi in the evenings and weekends and this would hopefully stop youths congregating outside the building.

Councillor Roberts asked whether there was an increased drug issue in Kelso and raised the matter of a member of public losing her dog as a result of a drug overdose. Inspector McGuigan commented that illegal drugs were a national issue and she was not aware that there was an increase in Kelso.

Councillor Boulton asked a question of what constitutes antisocial behaviour and Inspector McGuigan advised this was dependent on individual's perceptions but it would be something that impacts on an individual's quality of life.

Inspector McGuigan advised the Police were keen to work in partnership with the Community Council to prevent gatherings and the Provost advised that we needed to engage with the young population to gather feedback on their views of the facilities that are in currently in the town or what else could be provided for them.

Councillor Roberts raised the continuous issue of speeding traffic at the top of Roxburgh Street and drivers entering the street in the wrong direction to gain access to the Cobby and asked whether extra 20mph repeater signs could be put up. Inspector McGuigan commented she would highlight this to colleagues.

The Provost asked how parents reacted when their children were brought home after being reported for antisocial behaviour and Inspector McGuigan commented that in the main the parents were grateful that this had been brought to their attention.

The Provost asked where under age people obtained their alcohol from and although this was not known, it was suggested that their older friends bought it on their behalf.

Councillor McGrath asked how we could go about engaging Police Specials to help with patrolling the town. Inspector McGuigan advised there was a national campaign ongoing and they were keen to carry out local recruitment and she would feedback.

In response to a question on whether the new 20mph speed limit was enforceable SBC Councillor Mountford commented it was a Road Order and therefore enforceable.

The Provost raised the issue of parking in Kelso and advised he had received many complaints regarding parking within the town and that many people are parking longer than the permitted 2 hours within the controlled area. It was noted that Police Scotland, resources permitted, do random patrols of the controlled area but their main remit was to deal with dangerous parking and obstructions.

The Provost commented that previously there had been many discussion on the need for providing additional parking within the town and SBC Councillors had advised that evidence would be needed that there was a requirement for this. As a result the Provost last week monitored the car parks at the Knowes, Coledale, Co-Op. He advised that in the Knowes alone on the Monday, Tuesday and Thursday - at 8.45 there were an average of 85 free spaces, at 11.15 there were 66 spaces, and at 2.30pm there were again 95 free spaces. He commented that drivers needed to be more responsible to help to keep the roads flowing and to stop parking on the single yellow line along Bridge Street and around the Kelso Stone, as vehicles parking there, block lorries coming out of Mill Wynd. It was agreed that if parking spaces were taken up all day by traders and workers this potentially denied a shopper from parking and as a result the shops would suffer. The Provost agreed to put a post on Facebook highlighting this.

The Provost thanked Inspector McGuigan and PC Lackenby for attending the meeting.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton made the following report.

What is Net Zero? As COP26 is now underway, right here in Scotland, it is almost impossible not to get involved in discussion about net zero and how important it is for humanity.

Visit Kelso have been lucky enough to received funding from the Rural Community Test Change Fund.

Together with the Southern Uplands Partnership, Visit Kelso is hosting an event for its members at the Cross Keys Hotel, Kelso on Wednesday 24 November, from 4.30pm to discover what is net zero, what it means for you and your business, and, more importantly, what you could, and should be doing right now, and in the future, to ensure you play your part in reducing carbon emissions.

- What is net zero and why it's vital we all play our part in achieving it
- How to measure the carbon footprint of your business
- How to audit your business's energy consumption and make carbon and cost savings
- What grants and loans are available to support you make changes
- Where you can go to find out more

Tina advised the event includes a complimentary light tea and spaces are limited so book your place by going on to the Visit Kelso site under "Events" and click on the link to register.

The Provost thanked Tina for this update.

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021

The minutes held on Tuesday 19 October 2021 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor James Boulton and seconded by Councillor Gail Watson.

Introduction from Community Councillors

The Provost advised there was a lot of business to address at the first new Community Council meeting last month and thought it would be useful to ask each Community Councillor to introduce themselves and to give a brief background on their interests and other committees they were involved in.

Matters arising from the minutes

Social Media Policy

The Secretary advised the Social Media Policy had previously been circulated this was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Watson and adopted.

CCTV

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised he had discovered SBC had a maintenance contract for the equipment and that an inspection of the cameras would be undertaken. It was hoped that if there were faulty cables these could be replaced. It was agreed to keep this on the agenda.

On Demand buses

Councillor Russell advised following on from Councillor McGrath's question about on-demand buses at the October meeting and SBC Councillor Weatherston's response he had done some research and found that Campbeltown and Dunoon & Cowal have each started to operate an on-demand bus service using the service PINGO. The bus company using the technology is West Coast Motors. The service can be accessed via an App or by telephone and it charges fare-payers £2.00 per passenger and 20p per mile. Councillor Russell advised that that this maybe something to consider as part of the solution to easing parking challenges by encouraging people to come into the town centre on public transport.

Councillor Adams had commented via email that he felt that the App is a great idea, and suggested we publicise the service on our Facebook site.

Councillor Russell advised there were several surrounding villages around Kelso that do not have a bus service, i.e. Roxburgh, Ednam, Stichill and Sprouston.

SBC Councillor Robson suggested an approach be made to Gordon Grant, Team Leader Passenger Transport at SBC and West Coast Motors who own Borders Buses.

It was noted that an announcement had been made recently that in Scotland there would be free bus travel for the under 22s and this is likely to boost demand for the use of Demand Responsive Transit.

Councillor Roberts raised the concern that the SBC Saltire card could not be used on either Berwickshire or Cheviot Wheels which are organisations run by volunteer drivers to offer transport for those in need. He advised Berwickshire Wheels had not been financially sustainable for many years as funding from SBC had remained static and not following inflation costs.

Councillor Russell undertook to make further enquiries and would report back to the Community Council.

Questions from the public

The Provost advised he had been contacted by members of the public who had raised the following questions –

Ferneyhill Cemetery – would it be possible to close the gates at night. It was noted SBC Councillor Weatherston was looking into this.

Trinity Church Bowmont Street – could SBC arrange a Compulsory Purchase to turn this property into either a community hub or for the provision of additional parking?

Old Foundry perimeter wall – could SBC send out an Improvement Order to the new owners?

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised the beds in the Square had been planted up for the winter and thanked Mayfield Garden Centre for their generous donation and the volunteers who had helped plant them up. He also advised a member of the public had made a generous donation. Councillor Boulton asked whether there were plans to hold future community litter picks and the Provost advised he would organise a couple before the end of the year.

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee

Councillor Boulton gave the following update -

- The *Tweed Valley Railway Campaign* was formally established on 25 October 2021.
- The constitution, equalities and environmental policy have all been adopted and lodged with Heather Batsch, at The Bridge.
- The Campaign has a Management Committee of seven people: SBC Councillor Euan Robson, Visit Kelso's Tina Newton, Ian Aitchison and Kelso Community Councillors Owen Adams, James Boulton, Peter Cooper and Gus Russell.
- James Boulton is Chair, Ian Aitchison is Treasurer and Gus Russell is Secretary.
- Treasurer is setting up a bank account and preparing a budget for 2022.
- An application to the Cheviot Community Fund for start-up costs for up to £2,500 is being prepared and will be discussed at the next meeting on 29 November. The deadline for submissions is 6 December.
- Contributions in kind plus membership fees are expected to exceed easily the min. 10% (£250) required.
- The funding is to cover setting up a website and email account, establishing a social media presence, creating an initial newsletter, drafting a launch press release, procuring content management software, covering the costs of meetings, and paying for the data protection registration.
- It is hoped that the River Tweed Salmon Fishing Museum might be persuaded to make some of their recently-filmed drone footage of the River Tweed available to support the campaign.
- Membership fees for 2022 will be set at £5 – entitling members to a newsletter.
- Would encourage all Community Councillors to become members!.

- Wider membership along the length of possible line will be sought as soon as the bank account is set up.
- Reports from the *Tweed Valley Railway Campaign* will be made to the Kelso Community Council after each meeting.
- Given the Kelso presence on the Tweed Valley Railway Campaign Management Committee, the Railway Committee has decided to remain in place but to hold itself in abeyance
- Kelso CC Railway Committee meetings can be scheduled as and when needed.

The Provost thanked Councillor Boulton for this update.

Secretary's Report

- Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and captured and a summary would be attached to the minutes.
- Code of Conduct – the Secretary advised all Councillors have confirmed they would adhere to the Code of Conduct
- Annual Paths grant- details had been circulated and the Secretary advised Kelso Heritage Society had asked to be considered for this grant. The Secretary asked if any other organisation was interested in applying. None were identified so the grant would be offered to Kelso Heritage Society.

Provost Report

Remembrance Sunday - The Provost outlined the timetable for Remembrance Sunday and asked Councillors to congregate by 10.40 at the war memorial. He advised at the end of the service while the parade is forming back up the Councillors should leave before them and position in front of the Kelso Stone to take the salute and then move onto the Royal British Legion for refreshments.

Kelso High School involvement – The Provost advised he had recently attended a Parents Council meeting and met with the Jill Lothian, Rector. They discussed the possibility of pupils from the High School attending Council meetings. The Rector agreed to publicise this and feedback.

Kelso Abbey Survey Work – the Provost advised he had been in contact with Historic Environment Scotland and had circulated an email.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the SBCCN had met on 27 October 2021 and was delighted to welcome the Provost and Councillors McCombie and Russell. Councillor McGrath advised they were still awaiting a response from Government on the Community Empowerment Act and would feed back. Councillor McGrath advised the next meeting of SBCCN would be on 1 December 2021.

Councillor McGrath advised the South of Scotland Enterprise had launched an engagement tour which would give an opportunity for Community Councils and the

public to feedback views on what they think the priorities should be for the local economy and this would help SOSE share its three year Action Plan. It was noted the date in Kelso was on Tuesday 8 February at the Rugby Club and this would clash with our monthly meeting.

Councillor Russell advised he enjoyed attending the meeting and highlighted the following –

Selkirk had a Community Action Plan. SBC Councillor Mountford advised Kelso had one in 2013(?). The Kelso Townscape Heritage Initiative was a partnership project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and Scottish Borders Council, aimed to regenerate the historic centre of the Kelso Conservation Area through the provision of grant funding to eligible properties for external fabric repairs. SBC Councillor Mountford advised the next Cheviot Area Partnership meeting would take place on 24 November 2021 at which consultation on future priorities would be highlighted.

Community Council Handbook – a handbook to aid Community Councillors in carrying out their roles and responsibilities. The SBCCN had produced a Community Council handbook in 2019 and 700 copies had been printed and were handed out to each Community Council, the Provost commented that Kelso never received such but had downloaded the handbook from the SBCCN website and forwarded onto Kelso Community Councillors.

Community Empowerment Act – was there a summary on this? It was noted that this is the main subject on the agenda.

Scottish Borders Council

Kelso Ambulance provision

No update available.

Rosebank Cemetery Wall/Fence

SBC Councillor Robson advised the new fencing had been installed, which was a great improvement and going forward he hoped funding could be secured to install a permanent wall.

Parking and traffic management

In addition to that covered under Police report earlier, a discussion took place on the introduction of a “disc system” in Kelso. Councillors agreed in principle this was a good idea but would need to be monitored.

Tina Newton commented that more signage was needed to let people know that parking within the town was only for two hours. SBC Councillor Robson advised it was agreed two years ago to review the car parking signage within the town and this would be addressed.

Open Water Safety

SBC Councillor Robson gave an update and advised currently there were five lifebuoys. He advised regarding the location of the additional lifebuoys currently the thinking was they should be located at Bridge End park, Mayfield, Gillies hut and opposite the Showground but he would welcome suggestions from walkers, dog walkers, swimmers to their location.

Library opening hours

SBC Councillor Robson had written to the Directors of Live Borders regarding the library opening times and the response he received advised the library opening times were dependent on the opening times of the Contact Centre.

Union Street

SBC Councillor Mountford advised officers were speaking to the new owners to get an update on when the scaffolding could be dismantled.

Questions to Councillors

Councillor Watson raised the issue of lights out at Berry Moss Court and along the path between the Ice Rink and the Co-op.

Councillor Oliver asked if the windows to the Town Hall could be cleaned.

Councillor Oliver commented the black and yellow tape along the step and ramp at the Bank of Scotland needed replacing. The Provost agreed to visit the Bank of Scotland and advise this to senior staff.

SBC Councillor Mountford asked the Provost if he would be in agreement to be the representative on the Kelso Common Good Fund committee, which he accepted.

Consideration of Licenses

The Secretary advised no applications had been received, however, Paul Mitchell of Rutherfords Micropub was in attendance and gave the following update –

He wished to place on record his thanks to Kelso Community Council for their support over the last 6 months by supporting the use of the additional outside space adjacent to the business premises. This has allowed us to trade effectively during the re-opening period and through the summer when Covid restrictions significantly restricted operations in the bars internal space. We managed to re-open the business in May this year after a 14-month closure following the previous owner's decision to close the premises and cease trading in March 2020.

He advised they have tried hard to play our part in the re-opening of the local economy by enhancing the outside space with floral planters, contributing to the Kelso in Bloom initiative and organising live music to entertain customers and people in the square (when we could do so safely and within the guidelines). We have tried to create a 'continental café culture' feel in the outside space which we feel works well, this additional space has made the business more sustainable going forward.

He commented Kelso has one of the finest market squares in Scotland and we hope

what we have tried to achieve with the space has been seen as a positive development. We meet the licensing objectives set out by the local licensing board and offer a safe and inclusive space for all our customers. We operate within our existing operating schedule serving locally produced cask ales and speciality gins plus wines, cocktails, coffee/tea and light snacks. We have received many positive comments from both locals and visitors on the outside space which is very encouraging. We have managed to create 1 full time and 3 part time jobs so far and hope to be able to offer more employment opportunities in the future.

The Scottish Government is currently encouraging hospitality businesses to maximise their use of any available outside space where possible to help mitigate future Covid risks etc. This is also being championed by Scottish Borders Council through their Spaces for People programme.

In response to a question on why Rutherfords didn't want to use the outside space over the winter, Paul advised it was not a viable proposition.

The Provost thanked Paul for attending and giving the update and confirmed the Kelso Community Council were happy to support his application to use the outside space from Easter to October 2022.

Consideration of Plans

The Secretary advised the following plans had been considered –

21/01543/FUL – Kelso Evangelical Church, temporary siting of mobile unit to provide additional crèche / toddler facility – Bowmont Christian Centre, Bowmont Street, Kelso TD5 7DS (renewal of planning permission 16/01279/FUL). The Community Council supported this application.

21/01671/FUL – Ms Christine Hamilton – change of use to commercial property, alterations and extension to form dwellinghouse – 161C Roxburgh Street, Kelso TD5 7DU. The Community Council supported this application.

21/01693/FUL – Ms Emma Haile - Replacement windows – 2 Victoria Place, Kelso TD5 7JJ. The Community Council supported this application.

21/01721/FUL - Scottish Borders Housing Association - Replacement windows - 171 Roxburgh Street Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7DU. The Community Council supported this application.

21/01687/FUL – Scottish Borders Housing Association – Replacement windows – 111C, 113, 119 and 121 Roxburgh Street TD56 7DU. The Community Council supported this application.

21/01686/FUL - Scottish Borders Housing Association - Replacement windows - 5, 6, 7 And 8 Cross Street Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AG. The Community Council supported this application.

21/01685/FUL – Scottish Borders Housing Association – Replacement windows – 1 And 3 Coal Market Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AH. The Community Council supported this application.

21/01686/FUL - Scottish Borders Housing Association - Replacement windows - 41A and 43A Horsemarket Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AA. The Community Council supported this application.

The Provost thanked everyone for attending the meeting

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 December 2021

**KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS OCT / NOV 2021**

Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
19.10.21	Approved minutes Sep 21 posted	For information
20.10.21	Rutherford Micropub request to continue to use space outside for hospitality	For comments and agenda item
	Social Media Policy circulate to Gav and Owen for comments before circulating to Council for feedback	For comments
	Planning application - 21/01543/FUL - Kelso Evangelical Church Temporary siting of mobile unit to provide additional creche/toddler facility (renewal of planning permission 16/01279/FUL) SITE: Bowmont Christian Centre Bowmont Street Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7DZ	For comments – approved
22.10.21	KCC and SBC Councillors contact details	For information
	Updated KCC details sent to Visit Kelso	For information
	On Demand Buses	For information
	SBCCN Core Group meeting on Wednesday 27 October at 7pm	For information
	Residents invited to attend next round of local Area Partnership meetings – Cheviot 24 November at 6.30pm	For information
	Kelso Shed Opening Times	For information
	QME Care Press Release	For information
	Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils including the Code of Conduct	For reading and confirming acceptance
	Response to planning application 21/0151/FUL erection of 16 dwellinghouses and associated parking, former site of Kelso High School	Supported with comments
	Response to planning application 21/01599/PPP erection of dwellinghouse garden Mansefield	Supported with comments
25.10.21	Community Council Complimentary Places	For information
	Scottish Community Council news	For information
	Update On Demand buses	Agenda item

26.10.21	Planning application - 21/01671/FUL - Change of use to commercial property, alterations and extension to form Dwellinghouse - 161C Roxburgh Street Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7DU	For comments
27.10.21	Bowmount House, Union Street and scaffolding update	For information
30.10.21	Kelso Abbey update	For information
	Police Scotland monthly report	For information and feedback
	Minimum Income Standard research publication	For information
	Remembrance Day Parade – road closures	For information
	Community Council Handbook	For information
31.10.21	21/01441/FUL – Douglas Elliot – Removal of condition A of planning permission 424/72 to allow for 12 months occupancy of static caravans – Springwood Caravan Park, Springwood Village, Kelso TD5 8LS – request for clarity on conditions	For information
721	Papers for Council meeting on 9 November 2021	Circulated
08.11.21	News release: £1.3m in funding awarded for local Borders projects	For information
08.11.21	Planning applications 21/01721, 01687, 01686, 01685, 01684 Scottish Borders Housing Association replacement windows	For comments – approved
	SOSE update: first ever engagement tour of South of Scotland	For information
	Public Appointments: South of Scotland Enterprise - Member Appointments	For information
	Local Community Council Paths Maintenance Grant 2021-22	For information and comments
	Planning application 21/021693 Ms Emma Haile replacement windows 2 Victoria Place TD5 7JJ	For comments – approved