

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 14 January 2020, at 7.00pm



- PRESENT:** Councillors James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh, Jim McCombie, Colin McGrath, Paul Roberts, Harry Tomczyk, Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Kerry Yule and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford and Euan Robson (part).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Police Scotland Rachel Stark, Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso) and members of the public Rhona Hastie, Jill Mooney and Hazel Woodsell.
- APOLOGIES:** SBC Tommy 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.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct question through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the January meeting and members of the public and wished everyone a happy new year.

Police Matters

The December 2019 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated and PC Rachel Stark was in attendance.

PC Stark summarised her report and highlighted useful information on the Acquisitive crime campaign, scam phone calls and emails and being security conscious. In response to a question on where scam emails should be reported PC Stark advised these should be directed to the Trading Standards Scotland.

PC Stark advised 17 parking tickets had been issued in December. The Provost and Councillors raised their concern and disappointment that the Community Action Team had targeted Kelso town centre on Boxing Day which resulted in many tickets being issued to locals and visitors. Councillor Tomczyk commented visitors would

not be aware of the parking restrictions on Boxing Day in Scotland which is treated the same as a Sunday. SBC Councillor Mountford commented he was aware of the public outcry as a result of parking tickets being issued on Boxing Day and had raised it at the recent meeting of the Community Action Team. Councillors Tomczyk and McGrath suggested better signage was needed to advise the public of parking restrictions and suggested a notice close to the cash machine in the Square. PC Stark commented illegal parking is a priority and her and her colleagues would patrol the town and issue parking tickets whenever they had an opportunity.

The Provost raised concerns regarding the lack of information in recent Police reports and the fact that members of the public were reporting incidents on social media but there was no mention in the reports. PC Stark responded by saying she needs to give careful consideration to what she puts in her reports as she is bound by confidentiality and everyone is innocent until proven. She advised she never reports on domestic or sexual offences. PC Stark urged the public to contact her if they were aware of any criminal activity and not just put a post on Facebook.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised work has been ongoing to update the monthly Community Council Reports in order to ensure that they are GDPR compliant whilst remaining relevant and local, focussing on the priorities of the communities. During January there would be a transition to Multi Member Ward Reports, covering the Multi Member Ward areas rather than only the one Community Council per report. This will massively reduce the number of reports from 69 down to 11, allowing Community Officers to spend more time visible within their respective areas.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised Inspector Jacqui McGuigan and Deputy Local Area Commander had issued an email advising of the above changes and due to GDPR there will be matters that will not be reported on and it is appreciated that this may be seen as a negative thing, however should there be incidents that Community Councils feel they should be aware of due to the impact on their community, then they are free to contact the relevant Community Policing Team mailbox for their area with a request that consideration be given to sharing the information.

PC Stark commented she believed the new reports would be beneficial to the community.

Councillor McGrath raised concern that there had been no public consultation on the changes to the report and he would raise this at the next Community Council Network meeting. Councillors agreed they would monitor the reports and have a review on how it was working at their September 2020 meeting.

The Provost thanked PC Stark for attending the meeting.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised there had been no meeting of Visit Kelso and therefore had no report.

Councillor Boulton asked whether the traders had a successful Christmas and Tina advised it had been slower than previous years and the British Retail Consortium had advised it had been the worse December trading since 1995.

Councillor Horsburgh commented he welcomed the news the Scooter Rally was returning to Kelso on the 22 May 2020.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2019

The minutes held on Tuesday 10 December 2019 were approved subject to some minor amendments. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts.

Matters arising

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised Kelso in Bloom still needed a committee and although there were over 40 volunteers on the database it still needed a Chair person, Vice Chair, Secretary and Rota administrator. As Kelso in Bloom was a sub committee of the Community Council, a Community Councillor needed to act as Chair.

The Provost clarified that the work of Kelso in Bloom was to enhance the entrances to the town and the provision of bedding plants in the town centre, memorial garden, Tait Hall, outside the Police Station, etc and grass cutting would need to be addressed once a committee had been formed.

Councillor Gavin Horsburgh agreed to act as Chair but advised he would only be able to do this work for one year. Member of the public Rhona Hastie agreed to act as Rota administrator. The Provost thanked Gavin and Rhona for taking on these roles and advised he would continue to be on the Committee and our Secretary would continue as Treasurer. Post meeting Wattie Young agreed to remain as a Committee member and Cathy Douglas would remain as administrator for social media.

It was agreed in order to thank our current volunteers and encourage more Kelso in Bloom would host a Meet and Greet drop in event from 7pm to 8pm on Wednesday 12 February 2020.

It was agreed the Community Litter Picks would resume at Easter and following feedback the timings of these would alternate between morning and afternoon to attract more people.

The Secretary advised the recent bag pack at Sainsbury's had raised over £550 and thanked everyone involved.

The Provost advised he and Hazel Woodsell had revamped one of the windows in the town hall and had put on display the certificate and trophy Kelso had won at the Floral Gateway competition for the best town category in 2019.

Councillor Boulton suggested local business could be encouraged to sponsor specific beds and advertise this by placing a plaque in the bed. The Provost advised Mayfields who had kindly providing the bedding plants for the beds in front of the Town Hall wished to place a notice in the town hall window.

Member of the public Hazel Woodsell commented she would welcome Kelso in Bloom getting involved with the Kelso Library Centenary Garden (Friends of Kelso Library currently maintain it) and the Kelso Community Orchard and asked the Secretary whether the volunteers from the Kelso High School Duke of Edinburgh award scheme would have any capacity. The Secretary undertook to follow up.

Kelso USA visit 2020

The Provost thanked Councillor Colin McGrath for offering to lead on this project. Councillor McGrath commented he would be arranging a meeting shortly including the Provost and Sandy Devers to put together a programme and proposed dates. Post meeting Councillor James Boulton agreed to work with this group. The Secretary undertook to forward all relevant correspondence.

Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave the following update -

Kelso Heritage Society had requested access to the SBC Local Community Path Maintenance Grant 2019/20 and it was agreed this should be offered to them.

The annual insurance renewal is due this month and the Secretary would work with Councillor Tomczyk to complete the forms.

SBC had been in contact regarding The Scottish Borders Walking Festival 2021 to 2023 to enquire if there was any interest in organising and hosting a future Festival. It was noted Kelso had last hosted this in 2007. Councillors agreed this would be an excellent opportunity for Kelso and suggested this hosting in 2023.

Member of the public Hazel Woodsell advised she was aware of the 2007 Festival which had been organised out of Abbey Row with the assistance of the U3A

Councillors had submitted comments on the new electronic signs and these would be fed back to SBC.

Information regarding the Scottish Civic Trust "My Place Awards" had been circulated and Councillors were asked whether there were any recent projects that could be submitted for an award. The Secretary was asked to check the application form and liaise with Councillors Boulton and Tomczyk. It was suggested the Kelso Community Memorial Garden could be nominated.

Provost's Report

The Provost advised he had attended the over 60s Christmas lunch which had been a very enjoyable event.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the next meeting of the SBCCN would be held 5 February 2020 and he would report back to the Community Council.

Any Other Business

The Provost commented that he had visited the basement of the Town Hall and had noticed that the boxes of the Community Council archives of minutes were damp and that these would need to be moved.

Councillor Tomczyk asked that sub groups submitted monthly reports in advance of the monthly Council meetings. It was agreed Kelso in Bloom and SBC Community Council Network groups should do this. The Provost commented that of course there would be an opportunity for any Councillor to raise questions about the content.

Councillor McGrath raised concerns that the Locality Fund money (£25K) due to the Borders Search and Rescue unit had still not been paid out although it had been allocated over three years ago. SBC Councillor Mountford commented he was aware there had been issues around allocating these funds and he undertook to get an up to date report. The Provost commented the main issue had been around identifying a suitable site and lessons had been learnt and as a result the rules for the Locality Fund had been changed.

Councillor Horsburgh thanked SBC for replacing the lamp on the Rennie Bridge and asked whether the lights on the benches in front of the town hall could be addressed.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

SBC Councillor Mountford advised there had been no meetings but the next one would be held on Wednesday 29 January in Jedburgh and all were welcome.

Parking /Traffic management

SBC Councillor Robson thanked everyone for their comments on the current review of Kelso parking. He explained that the next stage of the Borders wide parking review was the revision of Traffic Regulation Orders in each of the towns in the local authority area. These were being done two at a time and Kelso could be in the next couple to be considered. It was therefore very important that the Community Council came to final conclusions by June as to the revisions to parking which it would like to see including for example, altering yellow lines or parking bays, changing parking bay designations including taxi ranks and loading bays and any other relevant changes. The new TRO for Kelso would likely be consulted upon in 2021 and implemented later in that year.

Councillor Robson commented he would put in an early request to have the existing road markings redone.

Review of Bus Services

The Provost advised correspondence had previously been circulated on the SBC review of local bus services. This review had been discussed at the Cheviot Area Forum in the autumn and several bus services had been identified as not being well used and therefore attracting a high cost subsidy per passenger.

SBC Councillor Mountford commented that the provision of any home to school journeys currently allocated will continue for entitled (bus holding) students.

Several services will be withdrawn and these have been widely advertised. SBC Councillor Mountford advised the Councils Transport Manager would be attending the next round of Area Partnership meetings to look alternative transport solutions including Demand Responsive Transport and he urged Councillors to attend and put forward suggestions.

The Provost asked whether more “dial a bus schemes” would be introduced and Councillor Robson undertook to investigate and report back.

Councillor Roberts commented SBC already subsidise a Transport Hub facility which is open to everyone and suggested SBC advertise this service.

SBC Councillor Robson advised the review of the Community Council Scheme Review had been delayed until March 2020.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no license applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The following plans were considered.

Replacement 8 no existing windows, Dispensary House, 106 Roxburgh Street, Kelso TD5 7DY (19/01759/LBC and 19/01758/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to these plans.

Replacement of windows to front elevation and external redecoration to 1 Shedden Park, Kelso TD5 7AJ (19/01828/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to these plans.

Internal and external decorations to 5 Maxwellheugh Terrace, Station Road, Kelso TD5 8DG (19/01824/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to these plans.

It was noted that planning application 19/00466/FUL construction of new road Land east of 12 Broomlands had been withdrawn on 14.01.2020.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 February 2020.

APPENDIX

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS DEC 19		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
19.12.19	Scottish Borders Council/AskSARA	Circulated
	Electronic signs – feedback	Circulated
	Area Partnership/Community Fund focus groups	Circulated
	Borderlands Growth Deal - Conference Nov 19	Circulated
	Community Council Consultation for application 19/01759/LBC and FUL	Circulated
	Provost message re Councillors involvement	Circulated
30.12.19	Police Scotland - Introduction of the Contact Assessment Model	Circulated
	Planning Performance and Fees Consultation - 18 December 2019 to 14 February 2020	Circulated
05.01.20	Community Council Consultation for application 19/01828/FUL	Circulated
	Community Council Consultation for application 19/01824/LBC	Circulated
	Mens Shed Meeting 14th Jan 2020 at 1430 hrs at the Shed	Circulated
7.01.20	SCOTTISH BORDERS WALKING FESTIVAL - 2021 TO 2023	Circulated
	LBF2 Evaluation - last few days to comment	Circulated
07.01.20	Council papers for meeting on 14.01.2020	Circulated
08.01.20	Mobile recycling service consultation - survey reminder	Circulated
	My Place Awards 2020 - celebrating community-led built environment projects	Circulated
	Live Borders Tell us what you think! We want 2020 to be our best	Circulated
11.01.20	Community Council Insurance Renewal 2020	Circulated
	Cheviot, Berwickshire and Eildon Area Bus Service Withdrawals Letter 2020- comments please	Circulated
	Police Scotland Community Council Reports	Circulated