

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council on Tuesday 14 February 2023 at 7:00 in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Councillors James Boulton (Vice Chair), Peter Cooper, Christine Hamilton, Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Colin McGrath, Toni Oliver, Shirley Redgrave, Paul Roberts, Gail Watson and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Tom Weatherston and Euan Robson

IN ATTENDANCE Sharon Johnston (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso) Emma Husband (SBC Community “Engagement Officer”)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Owen Adams. Councillor Gus Russell Councillor James McCombie

- 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 question through the Chairperson.

Welcome

The Provost welcomed Councillors to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to the public.

The Provost welcomed Emma Husband as the new SBC Community Engagement Officer. Emma Husband thanked the Provost for being invited along and advised the council that she could be contacted through her email.

Police Matters

The Police Report had been circulated and there were no comments or questions arising.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton addressed KCC with their report which is enclosed.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2023 were approved by the Council, proposed by Councillor Boulton and seconded by Councillor Oliver.

Matters arising from the minutes

- Kelso Community Food Larder - Councillor Roberts updated the council on the progress of the food larder and thanked Councillor Russell and Alison Russell for their hard work and commitment to the project. They have 37 volunteers who are currently undertaking Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene training. Opening times will be Monday and Thursday 10am - 12pm and 4pm - 6pm. There will be an opening ceremony on 27th February at 3pm. The Provost reiterated that this was a food larder and NOT a foodbank. It was an environmental project to eliminate food waste and it was open to everyone. SBC Councillor Mountford praised the efforts and congratulated the team for their efforts. SBC Councillor Weatherston asked if there was a limit as to how much food one person could take. Councillor Roberts advised the council that any premium food would be held back and displayed bit by bit, but if they would need to see how it went and if they felt there was a need to put a limit on it they would do so. Councillor Redgrave asked if they had enough volunteers, Councillor Roberts advised that they do have 37 volunteers but would still be accepting volunteers.
- KHS - SkatePark presentation - this is to be rescheduled for the March meeting.
- Battlefields Trip – The Provost advised the council that he had 46 members of the public who had confirmed their interest in the Battlefields trip and that he was now collecting deposits.
- Scottish Water Top-Up Tap – The Provost informed the council that after putting it out to the public vote, the overwhelming consensus was to have the top-up-tap placed in the Square next to the Taxi rank. The bin which is already there would be moved elsewhere. The community council asked if they could see photos of where the tap would be placed in order for them to approve. They advised that it needed to be aesthetically pleasing.
- Community Cinema – Councillor Cooper informed the council that someone had shown interest in becoming a trustee for the community cinema, but as all three trustees had resigned, it is a legal requirement to have 3 trustees. Member of the public Verity Mutch advised the council that they have a core of volunteers who work hard in between each movie showing, but the past couple of viewings have made a loss. Looking at the old St Mary's church (bottom of Bowmont Street) may be a viable option but this is likely to take a long time. It was suggested that looking at the plans for the church on the SBC Planning Portal would give the community cinema an indication of what plans are in place at the moment.

Questions from the public

Member of the public Ms Anne Woodcock from Tweed Commission expressed her thanks to the community council for the help and response to the implementation of the River Tweed First Catch event. She advised that it had been a great success and that the angling community and Tweed Commission enjoyed the event very much. It is hoped that this event will take place on a yearly basis.

Member of the public Mr David Whittle asked the council if there was a community committee that could be set up to look after the trees around Kelso (planting ones to replace trees that have to be cut down). The Provost advised Mr Whittle that there were very little funds that would enable the council to do this. Mr Whittle suggested Kelso In Bloom

undertook this and the Provost advised that he would have a discussion with Kelso in Bloom Committee and feedback. Councillor Boulton advised that there were many issues to discuss regarding the planting and felling of trees and that there were legal issues involved. The Provost explained that in the past the Pinnaclehill plantation had been bought by the Kelso Common Good fund but funds did not allow for the upkeep of the plantation, and the council were wary of taking something like this on again.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised the council that funding from Cheviot Neighbourhood Support Fund had been received and that the planting of the 9 flowerbeds at The Linn would commence at the end of February. Border Aggregates had provided a quote for 18 tonnes of top soil at a very good reduced price and the Provost expressed his thanks for this. As there was a difference of opinion with Kelso Horticulture Society, Kelso in Bloom will be planting beds at Coldstream Road and The War Memorial Garden with more sustainable plants. The Provost advised the council that the next litter pick would be on Sunday 26th February at 1pm in the Square.

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee

A report had been circulated by Councillor Boulton and there were no questions from the meeting. Councillor Boulton advised the council that they were working hard to raise the Tweed Valley Railway Campaign's profile.

Secretary's Report

Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary is attached to the minutes.

Provost Report

The Provost advised the council that he had attended the opening of the River Tweed and that he would be holding a meet and greet at the next Kelso Farmers Market.

The Provost advised that he had been in contact with Brian Young SBC regarding the uplifting of the time capsule and that there was a procedure in place for this. The Provost hoped that the contents of the time capsule would be displayed by April. He informed the council that Hazel Woodsell and Christine Henderson were going to make enquiries as to what was placed in the time capsule. The Provost advised the council that a feasibility study was being carried out as to what the town could do to celebrate the King's Coronation, thoughts were, a family day, similar to that of Civic Week in Shedden Park. The council were informed that Borders Vintage Automobile Club were interested in taking part in the celebrations. The Provost advised that there may be an opportunity to apply for funding but we would only need a small amount. Discussion took place on other funding options and it was agreed that this item be added to March's agenda. The Provost advised the council that the Duke of Roxburgh would also be inviting King Charles III to Kelso.

An invitation to the Community Council had been received by the Old Parish Church to join them for a celebration of 250 years of worship on Sunday 26 March 2023. RSVP to be emailed to the Provost by 6 March.

Secretary's Honorarium

The Provost advised that he would like to propose that the Secretary's Honorarium be raised from £850 to £900. It was agreed that the money should be distributed equally between the Secretary and Councillor Redgrave (Treasurer), and was proposed by Councillor Boulton and seconded by Councillor Roberts. The Provost also commented that he would like to see the KCC annual grant from SBC be raised to reflect the cost of living increase and also the increase in the town's population. The Provost also indicated that he would like to see surplus budgets from other communities be distributed amongst all community councils.

Walking Festival 2023

Councillor Redgrave circulated a report and there were no questions.

Consultations

There were no consultations

Scottish Borders Community Council Network

Councillor McGrath gave an update of the SBCCN and their continued integration with the Joint Planning Board at SBC and continued pushing SBC with the implementation of the Community Empowerment Act and NHS.

Councillor Hamilton mentioned that there had been Placemaking events in some towns in the Borders and asked if there had been one in Kelso. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised that it would be a good idea for Kelso to have a Placemaking plan in place as it highlights and demonstrates what the town's needs are. Councillor Hamilton asked if there was funding available for consultations. Emma Husband replied that if the council registered their interest then funding would be available and that she would be happy to facilitate this. The Provost agreed that an email should be sent out to KCC and this item to be added to March's agenda.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Parking/Traffic management – SBC Councillor Robson noted that the road in Berry Moss Court was in a bad way and that a site visit is needed with engineers. SBC Councillor Robson was unsure if the road belonged to SBC or a housing association. However, if this was the responsibility of SBC, funding would be needed. The Provost asked when the yellow lines would be repainted. SBC Councillor Robson advised that it would not be for a while as this work only comes up every 2 years. The Provost asked if signs could be erected on Bridge Street on the back of an ambulance unable to get through Bridge Street due to parked vehicles. The Provost also addressed the issue of the size of the parking spaces in The Knowes car park being too small for most cars now and asked if these could be made bigger. SBC Councillor Robson agreed to take this forward at the next SBC meeting. SBC Councillor Weatherston highlighted that parking in the town would become a major issue as the town's population grows bigger.

The Provost advised SBC that some residents had received letters from Waverly Housing stating that residents needed to pay for the upkeep of trees, beds and grass cutting within housing estates and whether this was a legal obligation to residents. SBC Councillor Mountford advised that it could well be within the title deeds of the owner, when the property was sold off from the Council / Housing Association..

SBC Councillor Robson advised the council that the middle section of the road in Drying House Lane had been removed, that the footpath at Lloyds was complete and that the lights at Bridge End Park had been fixed.

Shedden Park Toilets – This is to be addressed after the SBC budget is in place.

Electric Charging Space – SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the council that the relocating of the electric charging points was being looked into.

CCTV – SBC Councillor Mountford advised the council that there had been no update as of yet and that there was a conservation issue with the Town Hall.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised the council that a report from the executive regarding a new grant being offered to redevelop empty homes called “empty homes grant” and that they were looking to extend this. For an owner/occupier there would be a 50% grant and for social housing there would be a 75% grant.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no licensing applications.

Consideration of planning applications

Planning applications had been circulated to the council for consideration.

Planning 23/00020/FUL | Single storey extension to dwellinghouse | 4 Wooden Linn Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8HY. The community council supported this application.

23/00015/FUL | Installation of oil storage tanks and erection of office accommodation, storage building and boundary fence and gates | Plot 7B Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8DW. The community council supported this application with no comments.

Community Council Consultation for application 23/00157/LBC Mr Pearson and Ms Jeffery - Replacement of 3 no windows - 4 Maxwellheugh Terrace Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8DG. The Community Council supported this application with no comments.

Any other business

Councillor Oliver asked the Provost if he could remind the Farmers Market stall holders to remove their vans from the square once they had been emptied. The Provost advised the council that a letter had been sent to the Farmers Market and that they would forward it onto the stall holders.

Councillor Oliver advised the council that the skip at The Tofts had been vandalised but she was not sure who the skip belonged to. The Provost suggested that she take a photo of the skip.

Councillor Hamilton asked if there had been any planning applications forwarded regarding the old Baptist Church as she was not sure if there was someone residing in the property. The Provost was not aware of any applications being sent through for this property.

Councillor Hamilton will make some enquiries with SBC and report back via email of any updates.

Councillor Watson fed back an email to SBC representatives she had received from Wonky Giraffe regarding the complaint made against the business. The Provost advised that this was raised by a member of the public and was raised at a public meeting. The matter as far as Kelso Community Council can deal with, is being addressed and looked into by SBC Planning Department.

The Provost thanked the public, Kelso Community Councillors and SBC representatives for attending and closed the meeting.

The next Kelso Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 March 2023.

Visit Kelso Notes 14th February 2023

It has been a busy time so far this year from organising a Window competition on behalf of the River Tweed Commission to open the river to compiling our marketing plan for the next 12 months – Watch this space.....

But the big news is around a campaign that has been built to promote out of season tourism with thanks to funding from Destination Sector. To stand out Visit Kelso used the 6 doctors of wellbeing: fresh air, exercise, water, rest, diet, and sunshine and with local businesses signing up to become wellbeing warriors we are looking to be known as Scotland's Wellbeing Capital. The fantastic image of the lady in the Square in Yoga poses with an umbrella caught the imagination of the press and was featured in national newspapers and on TV. This has resulted in 5 new VK members and 8,300 Facebook Followers (up from 7,500 in October 2022, and 8,000 on 9th January 2023). Instagram now has 1,900 followers – I don't have previous data.

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign
Update for Councils
February 2023

St Boswells Parish Community Council

The Chair (James Boulton) presented the campaign to the St Boswells Parish Community Council on 26 January. He was very pleased at the Community Council's broad support for the campaign and Community Councillors' keen interest in how the railway and station would operate.

Wendy Myers joins the Management Committee

We are delighted that Wendy Myers, a Coldstream and District Community Councillor whose career includes experience of publication of leading railway magazines, has joined our Management Committee. Her knowledge and infectious enthusiasm will be a boost to the campaign.

Facebook campaign

To expand our reach, the campaign has engaged a communications specialist, Wendy Richardson, to promote the Tweed Valley Railway on social media. We need your help to spread the word about the campaign. To follow the Tweed Valley Railway Campaign Facebook page, just click on the Facebook icon below and please share it with your own followers.



Kelso Life advert

With thanks to generous sponsorship from Hastings Legal and assistance from Richard Sked of Kelso Life, we were able to place a full-page, colour advert in the February edition of *Kelso Life*. We are delighted at the response and enthusiasm for the campaign. Within just one week of publication, there has been a huge increase in the number of supporters for the campaign.

Transform Scotland

The Tweed Valley Railway campaign has joined Transform Scotland: Scotland's alliance for sustainable transport. The group campaigns for walking, cycling and public transport to be the easiest and most affordable options for everyone.

info@tweedvalleyrailway.co.uk
www.tweedvalleyrailway.co.uk

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS – JAN / FEB 23		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
10.01.23	Approved Dec 22 minutes to be posted	For information

	Kelso Abbey HES Report	For information
	News Release: More budget survey responses sought from across the region	For information
	EDF Renewables UK's Dunside wind farm update - Kelso Community Council	For information
	Alzheimer's Scotland - What's on Guide	For information
12.01.23	Kelso USA have made contact – some members are visiting first week of April – they have been put in contact with Councillor McGrath	For information
	Bridge Street, Kelso - Heras Fence Screens – the Walking Festival will take some space once website is live	For information
	News release: Permanent 20mph speed limits to come into effect from 16 January 2023	For information
	Road closure - B6436 Mainhouse, South of Kelso - 13/2/23	For information and FB
	Energy efficiency advice training	For information
	Traffic Regulations - Tweed Salmon Season Event - 1st February 2023	For information
13.01.23	Lights out Bridge end up to Jet Garage	Reported
	SBCCN Meeting Wed 18th January 2023 at 7pm via zoom	For information
17.01.23	Planning 23/00020/FUL Single storey extension to dwellinghouse 4 Wooden Linn Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8HY	For comments
	23/00015/FUL Installation of oil storage tanks and erection of office accommodation, storage building and boundary fence and gates Plot 7B Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8DW	For comments
	News release: Council keen to hear from people interested in direct payments for provision of social care services	For information
	News Release: Community Action Team focus on winter road safety and local issues	For information
	Complaint from member of public regarding dogs harnessed and diving through Bowmont Forest. Responded that Bowmont is the property of Floors Castle and they should take up their complaint with Floors	For information
	Annual Paths Grant for £450.00 received and transferred to Kelso Heritage Society	For information
	Provost request to SBC to dig up Bull Ring in April in anticipation of Coronation	For information
18.01.23	SOSRLUP Workshop, Jedburgh Town Hall 24th January	For information and attendance if interested
	Request from Louise Whittle (Wonkygiraffe) for copies of KCC minutes planning application. Copies provided by Secretary	For information
19.01.23	News Release: Scottish Borders Council seeks feedback on Council Plan	For information and comment
20.01.23	Invitation to River Tweed Opening Ceremony – Wednesday 1 February	Please respond if attending
	Road Closure - A698 Hendersyde to Edenmouth, Kelso - 7th Feb 2023	For information

	Facebook comment – parking outside Treetops, Bridge Street	Responded
	Request from Mike Curtin on 22/190322/AMC Planning application	Responded
23.01.23	Note from Bruce Henderson to Facebook regarding pot hole on Gordon Road	SBC to action
	Request to Kelso Life to place AGM notice	Accepted
	Sue Molyneux to your Facebook – replacement of lights in Shedden Park	SBC to action
27.01.23	Patsy Laing to your Facebook – update on lights on corner of old Bridge	SBC to action
	Alzheimer’s Scotland Whats on Guide for February and Café Connect.	For information
	Local People Leading	For information
	QME Care Press Release	For information
	Decision Notice - Land East Of 16 Hendersyde Avenue Kelso - 22/00093/PPP and 22/00021/RREF	For information
	Community Council Consultation for application 23/00157/LBC Mr Pearson and Ms Jeffery - Replacement of 3 no windows - 4 Maxwellheugh Terrace Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8DG	For comment by 28 Feb
	Scrutiny & Petitions Committee - Proposal of Subjects for Review by Community Councils	For comments
02.02.23	Police Scotland January report	For comments
06.02.23	SBC Walking Festival 2024 – 2026 request for interest	For information
	EDF Renewables UK: Dunside wind farm update	For information
07.02.23	Papers for KCC meeting on 14.02.23	For information
11.02.23	News Release: Below inflation five per cent Council Tax increase to be proposed to support frontline services and community priorities	For information
	Tweed Valley update	For information
	Community Council update: Coast to Coast cycling route webinars - 9 March	For information
	Thanks from Police Scotland	For information
	Local People Leading	For information
13.02.23	Facebook Half term skating date	For information
	Community Planning Partnership Work Plan	For information

Kelso Walking Festival – report to Kelso Community Council February 2023

Dates: Sunday 3 September to Saturday 9 September 2023

Committee consists of KCC Councillors Christine Hamilton, Gus Russell and Shirley Redgrave (Chair), Helen Rabour (Coldstream Ramblers), Sally Keen and Lorna Mackenzie (Eildon Ramblers), Jim Stone (U3A walking group), Keith Robeson (SBC Chief Ranger) and Visit Kelso (June Swan or Tina Newton).

Walks programme

- This has been finalised - walkers are currently submitting maps of route, names and photos
- Transportation arranged
- Ticket prices £10.00 if walking from hub or £12.00 with transport
- First aid training ongoing
- No cancellation policy available from insurers
- Terms and conditions to be drafted
- Risk Assessments to be submitted.

Social programme - drafted, will be shared once firmed up.

Funding/Sponsorship

- Cheviot Neighbourhood Area Partnership funding application £5,000 has been awarded and confirmed.
- Ticket sales via Evenbrite.
- Sponsorship opportunities via local traders – “sponsor a walk”
- Fallago Fund – being considered to produce booklet and video.
- Paul Mitchell of Rutherfords has offered to donate £500
- Alternative funding streams being considered.
- Roll over budget of £2,500 has been received from Galashiels CC.
- SBC Rangers have provided £1,000 funding

Web site

Agency engaged to develop web site and we hope to launch mid-March 2023

Marketing/branding/promotion

- Working with Visit Kelso to help with promotion via Facebook and/or Instagram and targeted adverts.
- To approach South of Scotland Destination Alliance to promote
- To approach UK Walking Festivals to promote

Venue

- Tebbutt Rooms for reception hub

- Coffee lounge in Abbey Row for afternoon tea – local groups to be invited to host. So far Kelso Horticultural Society and *Stitchill* Village Hall are considering
- Kelso Town Hall for civic and welcoming ceremony on Saturday 2 September and handover ceremony on Saturday 9 September 2023).

Future meetings –

- Marketing strategy meeting – Thursday 16 February 2023
- Full committee meeting – Friday 24 March 2023

Shirley Redgrave
06.02.23