

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 9 January 2108, at 7.00pm



PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett, Ian Brown, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk, Provost Dean Weatherston, Kerry Yule and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Lucy Angus (Kelso High School) and Anne Laidler, Paul Roberts and Catherine Tees (members of the public)

APOLOGIES: PC Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland), Councillors Peter Cooper, James McCombie, James Boulton, Alan Hall 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, representative from Kelso High School and the public to the meeting.

Police Matters

It was noted Police Scotland report for January 2018 had previously been circulated. PC Suzanne Howgego had tendered her apologies and asked for feedback.

Councillors commented on the number of thefts that had occurred recently in the town and Councillor Yule raised a concern regarding the time it took Police Scotland to respond to thefts at Sainsbury's supermarket. Councillor Yule advised that the first theft was reported on the 5 December 2017 and it took until 8 January 2018 before Police Scotland visited Sainsbury's. The Secretary was asked to contact Police Scotland for their comment.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2017

The minutes held on Tuesday 12 December 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor John Bassett and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Matters arising

Parking at Kelso High School and Broomlands Primary School

It was noted parking issues at the new High School appeared to have settled down.

Anne Laidler, member of the public, attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding parking at the new Broomlands primary school. She advised she lived close to Broomlands and had previously contacted SBC to raise concerns and had been advised it was against SBC policy to encourage parents to use cars to bring children to school. The Provost advised it was the responsibility of parents to personally deliver primary 1 to 3 children into the care of their teacher and for those parents that worked it was important parking was provided to enable them to do this.

Paul Roberts, member of the public, commented in other schools a designated drop off zone had been allocated which worked as a flow through and this appeared to be successful. Councillor Horsburgh commented there was an area at the school which worked as long as no-one obstructed the road.

SBC Councillor T Weatherston commented under Scottish rules only teachers and staff were allowed to park on school property and no parents were allowed to park on site. He suggested that once the old school was demolished the land be transferred from the education estate to the general SBC estate which would allow the land to be used for parking by parents.

The Provost advised the community council had flagged up parking issues during the initial planning stage. He also commented that during the opening of the new school earlier in the day SBC Officers had said they were looking into increasing parking provision. Councillor Robson advised he was attending a meeting on Wednesday 10th January to discuss parking issues with the council.

Campaign for Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised he had spoken to SBC officers and would give an update in February 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 James Walker of Robertson Memorials had ordered the stone for the Memorial Wall but there was a long delivery period. Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC officers had chosen the stone for the pavement area. Councillor H Tomczyk asked whether photos could be provided of the proposed stone work to ensure that the pavement stone matched the memorial stone.

Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

Councillor Hodges advised the bag pack held at Sainsbury's on 29 December 2017 had been successful and over £600 has been raised.

Cinema

Councillor Cooper had tendered his apologies, but had advised a full page feature had appeared in the Southern Reporter on the 21 December 2107. The next cinema evening is Friday 26 January – Ferdinand and Star Wars: The Last Jedi. Councillors and members of the public were asked to note the earlier start time.

NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised there had been no meetings, but would provide an update at the February meeting.

Social Housing

The Secretary advised she had been unable to contact staff direct at the Housing Associations to find out about housing allocation but had checked their web sites and the information available gave details of how to apply for property and how points were allocated.

Councillor Yule highlighted a case whereby an individual had been unsuccessful in bidding for a property and asked how he should appeal. SBC Councillor T Weatherston recommended the individual contact the Housing Association and ask for an explanation. Councillor T Weatherston also advised priority was given to the homeless.

There was a general discussion regarding the management of the social housing stock and its allocation and it was noted anyone, including those outside of Kelso, could apply for housing and if they met the criteria they would be awarded a property. Councillor C McGrath wondered whether there was a discrimination issue and undertook to investigate this. Councillor Tomczyk added that the town seem to have had little or no benefit from the new housing as it appeared not to have gone to Kelso people but the town had lost valuable parking space.

Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised she had written to Councillor Gordon Edgar, Executive Member Roads and Infrastructure regarding parking issues in Kelso. Councillor E Robson advised he was attending a meeting of the working group and would follow up a response.

The Secretary advised she had sent a thank you letter to Sainsbury's for facilitating the bag pack on 29 December which raised over £600 and requesting a date for a future one.

The Secretary advised she had received a request from Graham Easton, Community Learning and Development Worker based at Kelso High School to give an update to Community Councillors on the nine Community Learning Partnerships in SBC. The Secretary advised she had invited Graham Easton to the March meeting.

The Secretary advised she had received notification the annual insurance renewal was due and asked for comments. It was agreed the renewal should be based on the previous year's submission, but to include the "ownership" of the memorial garden when this is transferred to Kelso Community Council. The Secretary would work with Councillor Tomczyk to ensure this was covered.

Correspondence

- A letter from Mr and Mrs Walsh nominating Ali Hay for a local award or some public recognition.
- SBC updated version of the Programme of Planned Revenue and Capital Works for 2017/18 for the Cheviot area. This had previously been circulated.
- Christmas cards had been received from Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh and John Lamont MP and Rachael Hamilton MSP.

Provost Report

The Provost advised he had been a guest at the Kelso Over 60s Club Christmas Lunch in Ednam House. A great afternoon was had by all.

Any Other Business

There was no other business raised.

Scottish Borders Council

Cheviot Area Partnership – The issue of membership of the Partnership was raised. SBC Councillor Mountford advised it was up to the community councils within the Cheviot area to elect the four representatives. The Provost advised he would make contact with the other Cheviot area community councils to take this forward.

Councillor McGrath advised he was concerned the Partnership did not comply with the Empowerment Act and he would be raising this at the next Community Council Network Council meeting.

SBC Councillor T Weatherston advised there would be a public announcement on Friday regarding the outcome of the Locality Bids and the venues for the ballot boxes for voting purposes.

Parking / Traffic Management – This had been covered earlier in the minutes.

Funding for broadband – Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update on the announcement that funding for broadband is coming direct from the UK Government to Councils and asked SBC what their plans were for funding. Councillor Robson advised an announcement had been made in the Scottish Budget that every home and business will have access to superfast broadband by 2021 and £600m

investment had been confirmed. The announcement was made as part of the Scottish Governments 2018-19 draft budget for the R100 (Reaching 100%) programme. This capital investment is being made over the next four financial years to March 2022. There was no news regarding the funds to be provided direct by the UK as yet.

SBC Councillor Mountford commented he thought Councils would have an opportunity to bid for funds and there was a universal obligation to provide broadband facilities to every household.

The Provost advised he had read comments about the rollout of broadband in Scotland from former MP Calum Kerr and would circulate it to councillors.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor H Tomczyk advised he had been approached by a member of the public regarding the state of the pavements and in particular the amount of chewing gum on them. SBC Councillor Mountford advised he was aware there was an issue and would check when the next pavement scrub would be carried out and noted that it is important that this is done before the start of the tourist season.

Councillor H Tomczyk commented there were several broken slabs around the town and asked whether SBC could undertake an examination of the town.

The Provost advised several windows at the old Kelso High School had been broken over the weekend.

The Provost advised he had received a complaint that the door to the public toilets was stiff and the machine was taking money and not opening the door.

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 13 February 2018 at 7.00pm