

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 11 June 2019, at 7.00pm



- PRESENT:** Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Peter Cooper, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk and Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Scottish Borders Councillor Tom Weatherston.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Rhona Hastie and Paul Roberts
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Ian Brown and Kerry Yule, SBC Councillors Simon Mountford and Euan Robson and Police Scotland.

- *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 everyone to our June meeting and in particular members of the public and wished Councillor Tomczyk a very happy birthday.

Police Matters

Police Scotland had tendered apologies and the June 2019 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated, there were no questions.

The Provost advised the monthly Police report had previously been published on the KCC Facebook page. However, this was stopped because sometimes things were taken out of context and gave a false impression of the level of crime in the town. The Provost advised he had been approached by several people who said they missed it and felt it was a good way to find out what was going on. The Provost, after discussing with the police, suggested the report was made viewable on Facebook but comments would be switched off. Councillors supported this.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised it had been a busy month and 77 hanging baskets had been hung the previous week.

Tina advised annual membership renewals at £50.00 each were from the 1 June and she anticipated a 65% uptake but hoped more would come on board. Non-profit and community groups would continue to receive a free membership.

Tina advised Visit Kelso were busy making preparations for Civic Week including the Spot the Odd Object Window Competition.

Tina advised Visit Kelso had been successful in securing a grant from Charity Begins at Home. Councillor Boulton asked what the money would be used for and Tina advised it would help purchase additional hanging baskets, brackets etc.

Tina advised Visit Kelso were very excited about the forthcoming Tour of Britain which will be taking place on Sunday 8 September and this year Kelso will provide the backdrop and for the first time it will be for both the start and finish with the entire route being hosted within the Scottish Borders. Tina advised a sub group would be set up to lead on this work. Tina advised a small budget had been received from SBC but unfortunately only £1,000 had been earmarked compared to £4,000 last time. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he would speak to colleagues to see if additional funding could be found to help support this event.

The Provost thanked Tina for attending the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2019

The minutes held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Gavin Horsburgh.

Matters arising

Kelso Recycling Centre

SBC Councillor Weatherston suggested the Community Council write to SBC asking them to consider an alternative closure date rather than Monday. Councillor Horsburgh suggesting putting a poll on the Facebook page and placing an article in Kelso Life to obtain the public's feedback.

Following an issue member of the public Paul Roberts made at our May meeting he commented SBC had now renewed the opening times sign at the Community Recycling Centre.

Borders Railway

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had drafted a letter of support for submission to Transport Scotland and the Secretary was asked to share this with Councillor Boulton for comments before submission.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges advised Kelso in Bloom and its volunteers have been extremely busy.

The Provost and Secretary had met with Neighbourhood Services to feedback comments from public consultation and request information on grants. It was disappointing to note that KCC would not be able to apply for available grants to carry out the provision and maintenance of flower beds and grass cutting, a service the Council had previously undertaken, as it is not allowed to apply for funding to replace a service the council had previously withdrawn. The future of floral displays in The Square and Memorial Garden is still uncertain after the autumn.

The Provost, Councillor Hodges and other Community Councillors expressed concerns about the uncertainty of floral provision and grass cutting. They commented they were concerned the town would look unkempt and unwelcoming to visitors and it would have a detrimental effect in attracting visitors to the town. SBC Councillor T Weatherston gave assurances that Kelso would be provided with services to ensure it looked at its best for the forthcoming Festivals.

KIB has launched its own Facebook page - this will include updates on work and future events including litter picks.

The Provost and Secretary met with Gordon Dalziel lead teacher of KHS Duke of Edinburgh scheme. There are over 50 pupils who will be available to undertake 30 hours of voluntary work in the community. This will be timetabled on a Wednesday afternoon from the end of August. The Provost, Councillor Hodges and Secretary will meet with Gordon Dalziel before the end of term with suggestions of activities the pupils can undertake including litter picks, cleaning of signs and undertaking activities with patients at Kelso Hospital.

The Community litter pick held on 26 May had been successful and the next one is scheduled for Sunday 30 June. We have received feedback that these should be held in the afternoon and on a Saturday. It has been agreed that next year we will alternate between morning and afternoon on Sundays, we do not want to hold them on a Saturday as it's too busy and could be dangerous for the children. KIB has purchased its own litter picks as SBC were unable to provide them for the last one.

Kelso in Bloom has entered the Floral Gateway competition which will be judged on Thursday 8 August.

KIB is keen to include engagement with younger people and Councillor Hodges has met with local youth group and provided them with seeds. The local guides are involved with maintaining the Memorial Garden.

Kelso Horticultural Society and three volunteers from KIB have planted up Bridge End and the two small beds at Coldstream

The Jedburgh entrance has been planted with wild flower seeds.

Councillors Hodges and Tomczyk have tidied the Community Memorial Garden at Rosebank. A member of the public has donated plants to this area.

Kelso in Bloom have received a donation of £1,000 from CBAH and £185 from Kelso Camera Club.

Councillor Hodges will be meeting with representatives from Alnwick and Melrose in Bloom over the summer.

Questions from the Public

Electrical car charging bays - Paul Roberts asked whether Kelso had plans to install additional electrical charging bays, similar to the one at Broughty Ferry which could accommodate 10/12 cars under a canopy. He advised the government were providing funding to improve the infrastructure for electric cars and Kelso was in an ideal geographic position, situated between Newcastle and Edinburgh to attract people with electric vehicles. The Provost advised there was cabling installed during the Townscape Heritage Initiative to add more charging points to The Square when demand was needed and that two new charging points had been installed in The Knowes car park.

Public toilets – Councillor Tomczyk advised he had received several complaints from people unable to access the ladies toilets due to the box being full. The Provost advised the box was emptied on a daily basis, but there was often issues with the mechanism caused by the wrong coins being used and vandalism.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised feedback on the consultation on drinking alcohol in public places was due by end of June 2019. After discussion it was agreed to respond to the consultation stating that whilst some of the Community Councillors were in favour of the introduction the majority felt that there was no need to change the status quo for Kelso as there didn't appear to be an issue in Kelso.

The Secretary advised an invitation had been received from the Kelso Laddies' Association inviting them to The Laying of the Wreath Ceremony at the War Memorial to take place at 6.00pm on Sunday 14 July and thereafter to the Church Service in St Andrews Church at 6.30pm and the Community Councillors and spouses were also invited to attend the Bussing Ceremony on Wednesday 17 July at 6.45 in the Square and also for refreshments in Tait Hall after the Ceremony. She advised she would circulate the details requesting feedback on attendance.

The Secretary advised the SBC Community Council budget has been approved and one criterion for drawing down the grant was the submission of a minute whereby all Community Councillors agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. The Secretary advised she would circulate a copy of the Code of Conduct and all Councillors were asked to confirm their acceptance. Post meeting all Kelso Community Councillors agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct.

Provost's Report

The Provost advised he had no official engagements and Councillor Horsburgh had attended the annual Schools Day at Showground and attended the Charity Begins at Home awards ceremony.

VE Day 75 – 8 May 2020

The Secretary had previously circulated the SBC Communication outlining plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on the 8 May 2020.

The celebration will cover the weekend of 8 – 10 May 2020 and will be an international celebration of peace. There are various planned activities over the weekend and the Secretary asked what involvement the Community Council wished to play.

Councillor Horsburgh suggested holding a Street Party. It was agreed the Provost would contact the British Legion and Churches Together.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the AGM was held on the 22 May at the Men's Shed. He advised the AGM had been a successful event with 55 people attending and he had been reappointed Chair and Councillor Cooper had been re-elected to represent the Cheviot area. Councillor McGrath advised the facilities at the Men's Shed were fabulous and urged organisations to use them.

The subject of the review of the Community Council scheme had been discussed and Councillor McGrath advised there had been a lot of confusion around the review.

The Provost advised there would be a meeting on the 19 June to discuss the working groups for the Scheme review.

Any Other Business

Decommissioning of Play Parks - Councillor McGrath raised concerns regarding the closure of 72 play parks in the SBC area and the fact there had been no public consultation on this. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised all play parks were currently being looked at as some of the equipment was not safe, he also advised work was underway to provide a state of art Play Park at Shedden Park. Councillor Cooper questioned whether the Shedden Park would create parking issues.

The Provost asked if the pathway from Kelso to the new cemetery on Ednam Road could be cleared as it was proving inaccessible to wheelchair users. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he would report it.

The Provost advised there was still a communication issue around the provision of day centres for people with Dementia. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised link workers were currently being recruited and they would be able to assist those affected. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised Alzheimer's Scotland were having issues attracting volunteers to work with the Befriending service.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the hedge at Pipewell Brae would be cut back next week.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 19 June at 6.30pm at Jedburgh Grammar School. There would be a presentation on inspired learning programme for schools.

Parking /Traffic management

There was no update.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no license applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

(19/00185/FUL) Re-consultation – Incorporating revisions to previous consultation – Erection of 49 affordable dwelling houses and associated roads and infrastructure Land east of Queens House, Angraflat Road, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections to the plans and were happy to support these but it was noted concerns were expressed that no play parks had been included in the plans and parking was remote from the houses.

(19/00698/FUL) Replacement front door – 7 Victoria Place, Kelso TD5 7JJ. The Community Council had no objections to the plans and were happy to support these.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 September 2019.