

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council on
Tuesday 14 June 2022 at 7:00 in Kelso Town Hall



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

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Peter Cooper

- *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 extended a warm welcome to Councillors.

Police Matters

The Provost advised the Multi Member Ward Plan for Kelso and District for May 2022 had previously been circulated. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he attended a CAT meeting and the issue of youths congregating in the bus shelter, playing music had been raised. The Provost commented that he had received several complaints about this.

Councillor Roberts advised people continued to enter the top of Roxburgh Street against the No Entry sign and speeding and asked whether the "Pop up Bobby could be reinstated, as this appeared to act as a deterrent previously. SBC Councillor Weatherston undertook to make enquires.

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had reported the damage to the new lighting in Shedden Park.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton placed on record her congratulations to the SBC Councillors for retaining their positions and gave the following update:

Visit Kelso had been busy with Jubilee celebrations but had held their annual AGM on 19 May.

The final two stories for the Talers Frae Kelsea have been published on You Tube and links are on the Visit Kelso site. The Commercial Monks of Kelso Abbey and the Capture of Roxburgh Castle. She advised they haven't been marketed yet as they went live at the same time as the Jubilee weekend so they didn't want the launch to be overshadowed by Her Majesty.

This year 77 baskets and 4 troughs were purchased through Visit Kelso and these were hung by a team of willing volunteers on Thursday 2 June.

Visit Kelso are in the process of collecting annual subscriptions and have sent out a quarterly newsletter.

Finally Tina thanked the Council for all its hard work this year and wished everyone a happy summer break.

The Provost thanked Tina and commented the hanging baskets were an asset to the town.

SBC Councillor Weatherston offered thanks to Kelso Community Council, Kelso Laddies Association and Visit Kelso for all their efforts in preparing for the Jubilee celebrations.

Tina advised Visit Kelso had done a tremendous job advertising the Jubilee celebration and there had been wonderful media coverage in both national and local TV, radio and press.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2022

The minutes held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 were approved subject to a minor alteration. They were proposed by Councillor Boulton and seconded by Councillor Oliver.

Matters arising from the minutes

Defibrillators

The Provost advised he had received a list of the defibrillators available for public use from Kelso Heartbeat and would circulate it. SBC Councillor Mountford advised there were a couple of defibrillators at Yetholm and these should be included in the list.

EV charging points

SBC Councillor Mountford advised the charging point in Coal Market was in working order and would chase up on the charging points in the Square.

Access to Kelso Abbey

The Provost advised he had received several requests from the public to see whether access could be given to the Abbey. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he had written to Historic Scotland and was awaiting a response. He advised that all the Abbeys in the Scottish Borders were currently closed. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented that if Historic Scotland could not find the funds for the repairs there was concern that the Abbeys could be handed back to SBC and their future could be uncertain. SBC Councillor Mountford commented that in that event it would be down to Scottish Government to resource funds for necessary repairs.

Questions from the public

Councillor Russell advised he had been approached by Laura Graham of the Co-op to see whether a Community Food Larder could be set up somewhere in Kelso using the fresh food passed its sell by date from the Co-op. Councillor Roberts advised that the Kelso Food Bank only dealt with tinned and non-perishable items but suggested a Larder could possibly be located within the Mens Shed, as this was a central location and there would be scope to install refrigeration. It was noted there already was a Food Larder run by Cheviot Youth, situated at the Planet. Councillors commented that there would be a need for reliable volunteers to ensure perishable items were removed from the larder. It was noted that there were volunteers who were interested in setting up a Food Larder in the Orchard Park location.

The Community Council agreed to support the introduction of a Food Larder in Kelso and would ask for an update after the summer recess.

The Provost advised he had received concerns from members of the public living close to the Floors Castle main entrance who had asked whether traffic and litter management arrangements had been put in place for the forthcoming Floors Castle concerts in July. It was noted there would be a charge to park within the grounds and they were concerned that participants would park in Roxburgh Street to avoid this charge. The concert held earlier in the year had resulted in excessive cars parking in Roxburgh Street and leaving rubbish. The Provost advised he would raise this issue with Floors Castle to ensure adequate measures were put in place.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee celebration

The Provost advised plans for the Jubilee weekend celebrations had gone extremely well and thanked everyone who was involved. He advised SBC had provided a grant of £2,500 and the accounts would be reconciled.

All Councillors unanimously thanked the Provost for all his efforts in making this an outstanding event.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised all beds had been planted up and extended thanks to the volunteers for maintaining the beds. He placed on record his thanks to CBAH for their generous grant, Mayfields Garden Centre for donating the plants in the Square and members of the public for their very generous donations. The Provost advised the KIB committee had agreed to pay for the watering of the beds. It was noted that the water bowser that had previously been purchased from SBC funds was the one currently being used. The Provost advised he would be organising community litter picks during the summer and all Councillors were welcome to participate.

The Provost advised he had received requests from the KIB litter pickers for a supply of black bag hoops which make it easier for carrying and keeping the bag open.

Councillor McGrath advised he had received a request from a resident at Eschie Court suggesting the establishment of a group of Kelso Community Litter Pickers – volunteers who wished to look after the area where they live and would like to have a litter pick donated for their use. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented that he was confident that he could access funds to provide these.

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee

Councillor Boulton advised an update had previously been circulated, which is appended to the minutes and highlighted –

The draft North East Rail and Metro Strategy which was expected to be adopted by the North East Joint Transport Committee makes reference to the link from Berwick-upon-Tweed to Borders Railway – There are studies beginning to consider Berwick as a junction station, potentially extending to the West Coast Mainline through the extension of Borders Railway down to Carlisle. This would create connections into the communities and economy along the line, enabling an increase in leisure, tourism, business activity as well as access to education, alongside active travel opportunities.

The Provost thanked Councillor Boulton for his report and SBC Councillor Mountford offered his thanks to the committee for all their hard work.

Secretary's Report

- Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and captured and a summary would be attached to the minutes.
- The Secretary highlighted the number of post that were needed to be placed on the KCC Facebook pages and Councillor Adams agreed to assist with this.
- The Secretary advised that a very suitable person had come forward to take over this post and she would introduce her to the Council in September and if all went well she would take over from November 2022. The Secretary

advised she was willing to carry on as Treasurer and would ask to be co-opted as a Councillor so she could assist with the 2023 SBC Walking Festival.

Provost Report

The Provost highlighted the protocol and timings for the forthcoming Civic Week events and commented he was looking forward to the various festivities and hoped Councillors would participate and enjoy them.

The Provost advised a team from KCC would participate in the Kelso Bowling Club event on the 9 July.

Walking Festival 2023

The Secretary advised she had set up a full Committee of interested members, including Community Councillors Christine Hamilton and Gus Russell and they would be meeting to start making plans. A subcommittee of members from local walking groups would meet to start drafting the walking programme and would report back after the summer recess.

Consultations

SBC Electric Vehicle charging feasibility study – The Provost advised he had shared this consultation on Facebook and encouraged all to submit individual responses. Councillor Russell commented he had attended an event regarding this and it was suggested SBC might negotiate bulk supply prices with third party suppliers for charging points to enable the public to purchase them at a cheaper rate than would otherwise be available to them as consumers buying single units

Future of Transport – Councillor Russell advised there was a drop in session on the 29 June at Tait Hall.

SBC Community Engagement Strategy – it was noted that this consultation had been received too late to respond to it.

SBC Councillor Mountford commented there was a new initiative (as part of the Community Engagement initiative) launched by SBC to enable the SBC Leader, Chief Executive and senior officers to meet the public to encourage local engagement and a local drop in session would be organised in Kelso in July.

On Demand Buses

Councillor Russell advised the Pingo on demand bus service, arranged through Borders Buses had been launched in Berwickshire. This allows customers to book a shared journey not served by a bus at that particular time. This was proving extremely successful and filling a gap in the provision of public transport. There was positive feedback on Facebook for this provision and it was hoped this service could be rolled out across the Borders in April 2023. It was noted there was a charge of £2.00 for a pick up and a fixed rate of 20p per mile for the journey.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the meeting scheduled for the 19 May did not go ahead and a meeting would be scheduled for later in the summer. It was noted that current chair of SBCCN was James Anderson from Eyemouth.

Scottish Borders Council

Parking /Traffic management

It was noted there was no update but the Provost commented the installation of the new bollards in the Square was currently ongoing.

Toilets Shedden Park

It was noted there was no update although the Community Council wished for these to be reopened as a matter of urgency. It was agreed to keep this on the agenda. SBC Councillor Weatherston the re-opening of public toilets would be a discussion for the new Council after the summer recess.

Dropped kerb at Railway walk entrance

There was no update but SBC Councillor Mountford anticipated work would be carried out over the summer.

Grass cutting

The Provost advised he had received various complaints from the public regarding the infrequency of grass cutting, particularly at Ferneyhill Cemetery and a request that the edges be strimmed for a tidier finish. SBC Councillor T Weatherston advised currently the grass areas were cut every 21 working days but this could change with the new Council. The Provost commented he would write to the Estates Department to get a copy of their grass cutting schedule.

Wild flower planting trial

Councillor Hamilton commented she welcomed the SBC trial of planting wild flowers throughout the town but the area at the Cobby was disappointing. SBC Councillor Robson agreed the initial islands of wildflowers did not work and plans were being put in place to rectify this.

SBC Councillor Robson advised SBC were seeking the public's help in promoting and protecting areas of wildflowers across the region as part of their plan to promote more biodiversity cross the Borders and a number of designated wildflower sites have since been developed as a result of this increased focus on protecting the environment and in response to the public's changing attitudes towards the local environment. He advised SBC are keen to receive feedback from the public and get input to identify more potential sites that could be turned into grassland or wildflower meadows.

Water stagnation at the Cobby, Hogarth Mill end

Councillor Hamilton advised there was significant water stagnation at the Hogarth Mill end of the Cobby and this could be caused by a build-up of logs and branches.

SBC Councillor Robson advised this was a regular occurrence and he had previously reported this to SEPA. Councillor Hamilton undertook to make contact and report back.

Community Woodland

Councillor Bolton asked who managed this woodland and SBC Councillor Weatherston advised this area had started as a community project but the group had now folded. Its current owner is Mr Scot Watson.

Short Term Let Licences

Councillor Russell raised the above subject and asked whether SBC had any plans concerning the mandatory licensing which is due to come into effect from the 1 October 2022 at a considerable cost to the owners of B&Bs and holiday lets. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the SBC Licensing team were concerned about the tight timescale to implement this and would need to carry out a public consultation as soon as possible.

Cemetery Gates

SBC Councillor Robson advised it was the 250th anniversary of Kelso Old Church next year and he had secured funding to repaint the railings. It was his intention to also repair the ornamental gates at Ferneyhill and Rosebank.

Border Hotel

The Provost comment the current owner of the Border Hotel was experiencing difficulties with obtaining building warrants. SBC Councillor Mountford undertook to investigate and report back.

Bus Shelters

The Provost put in a request to have the bus shelters washed.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised Kelso would be receiving a pavement size road sweeper, specifically to clean the cobbles. SBC Mountford commented the Council had a new approach towards equipment which would be more cost effective.

Consideration of Licenses

The Secretary advised there were no applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Secretary advised the following plans had been circulated for comments -

22/00430/FUL – Mr Simon Forsyth, Installation of solar panel array to roof, Springfield, 1 Abbotsford Grove, Kelso TD5 7BN. The Community Council supported this application.

Planning application 22/00679/FUL – Mr Hislop - 100 Abbotseat Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7LP - Erection of boundary fence (retrospective). The Community Council supported this application

Planning application 22/00688/FUL – STELA Ltd – alterations to form dentist (both NHS and private) from former bookmaker – unit 1, ground floor 36 – 40 Horsemarket, Kelso TD5 7HD. The Community Council supported this application

The Provost thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 September 2022

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign / Railway Committee
Update for Kelso Community Council – 14 June 2022

- 1) The website is now live at tweedvalleyrailway.co.uk
- 2) A delegation visited Reston railway station, hosted by Rail Action Group for East Scotland (RAGES), on 11 May. The impressive, £20 million station opened to huge fanfare on 23 May after about 14 months of construction. Plans are now afoot to build hundreds of new houses in Reston and to re-open the pub.
- 3) The PINGO on-demand bus service was launched in Berwickshire before the opening of the station and many people who live outside Reston are already using this service to access their new station.
- 4) The construction of a further new station at East Linton in East Lothian costing £15m has started, with opening expected in 2023.
- 5) Councillors Boulton and Russell, in their capacity as Management Committee members of the TVRC presented to the North Northumberland Local Area Council meeting on 19 May. The ten Northumberland County Councillors present were unanimously supportive of the campaign and we are following up on leads to contact the Borderlands Partnership about recognising the Tweed Valley Railway as another potential benefit of extending Borders Railway south from Tweedbank. We have also been given contacts at Northumberland County Council to explore sources of future funding for the campaign and to understand their officials' experience of the challenges involved in reopening passenger services on the Ashington-Blyth railway line.
- 6) We have requested the opportunity to present the campaign to the Berwickshire Town Council, the north Northumberland Parish Councils along the potential route of the railway and to the Berwickshire and Cheviot Area Partnerships. A similar approach will be made to Community Councils later in the summer.
- 7) We have agreed a programme to contact local MSPs, Borderlands Partners and SOSE, with the assistance of SBC Councillor Robson.
- 8) We have also agreed a program to attract supporters, members and sponsors including having a stall at farmers' markets and a presence at agricultural shows.
- 9) Councillor Adams we will be setting up a social media presence for the campaign in the very near future.

**KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS – MAY – JUNE 22**

| Date | Event/Correspondence | Venue and comments |
|----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 10.05.22 | Approved minutes April 22 and 2021 AGM posted | For information |
| | Consultation on SBC Priorities recirculated | For information |
| 14.05.22 | Request from Peebles CC on how we operate our meetings in person or on line | For information |
| | Former Kelso High School- Suggestions for a new building name | For comments by end of month – done |
| | News Release: Current and future electric vehicle use and charging to be put under the spotlight | For information |
| | News release: Greener Gateway Community Awards launched to celebrate civic pride across the Borders | For information |
| | QME Care Press Release | For information |
| | Kelso Heritage Society Community Orchard - Watering of Trees | KIB to address |
| | Greener Gateway Awards | For information |
| | Borders Vintage Automobile Club | Request for addition parking |
| | KCC Facebook request for seating at Jubilee event in Square | For information |
| | KCC Facebook – request for more information on dropped Kerb At Railway walk entrance | For information |
| | Traffic Regulations - Jubilee Event - Forestfield Kelso | For information |
| 26.05.22 | Requested SBC for a litterbin at the layby, beside the river junction, near the Teviot Mill – would have to be moved from another area | For information |
| | Ferneyhill Cemetery grass cutting | Request to discuss at next KCC mtg |
| | Road Closure - D98-4 Roxburgh Mains, Roxburgh | For information |
| | Jubilee letter | For information |
| | News release: Reston station opens to the public as first passengers depart for Edinburgh | For information |
| | Co-op plastic bag fund | For information |
| | SBC Community Engagement Strategy Refresh | For comments |
| | QME Place & Space now Open | For information |
| 06.06.22 | Vote of thanks to the Provost and KCC from Visit Kelso for the Jubilee celebrations | For information |
| | Press Release - Jubilee Celebrations – QME Care | For information |

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| | Tresspass shop moving into Orvis. | For information |
| | People urged to have a say on future of transport - comms release from charity Bus Users UK. Survey in partnership with Scottish Borders Council | For information and comment |
| | NHS SHARE, The Scottish Health Research Register | For information |
| | Facebook enquiry - We have recently set up a very successful Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in Kelso. The Scottish Borders has so many problems with alcohol we are delighted to hold a Newcomers meeting in the Quaker Hall, Abbey Row at 7:30. | For information |
| | News Release: CivTech – innovation, technology and solutions to public sector challenges – comes to the Scottish Borders | For information |
| | News Release: Hundreds of primary pupils from the Scottish Borders attend the first Inspiring Learning Festival | For information |
| | Citizens Rights Project expands its service offer to welfare | For information |
| | Joint News Release: Glentress Forest will welcome the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships as a host ven | For information |
| | Invites to KLA bussing ceremony etc | For feedback |
| 07.06.22 | Posted papers for June KCC meeting | For information |
| 08.06.22 | Place & Space Day Opportunity's at QME Care | For information |
| 09.06.22 | Border Bus update | For information |
| | TVRC update | For information |
| 14.06.22 | Planning application - 22/00615/FUL Mr & Mrs Robert Meins - Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, erection of two sheds and erection of fence 8 Sutherland Gardens Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7BF | For comments |
| | Short Term Let licences - light touch licensing regime | Agenda item |
| | Edenside Road | For information |
| | Events in July at Floors Castle | For information |
| | Border Hotel | For information |
| | News release: Could you become a carer for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people? | For information |
| | News release: Review of Council's public transport offering seeks public feedback | For information |
| | Audit Scotland annual report 2021-22 | For information |