

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community  
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso  
on Tuesday 9 February 2016, at 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Bassett (Chair), Harry Tomczyk, Tamzin Thomas, Peter Cooper, Fiona Scott, John King, Colin McGrath and Scottish Borders Councillors Alec Nicol and Tom Weatherston.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) and Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade)

**APOLOGIES:** SBC Councillor Simon Mountford, Councillors Alan Hall, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh and Dean Weatherston and Suzanne Howgego (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 members to the meeting and Ann Underwood and family who were attending to present Provost Ferguson's photo, SBC Councillor Convenor Graham Garvie, Hazel Woodsell and Derek Robeson (Friends of Kelso Museum), Pupils Katie and Lucy from Kelso High School and Susan Grainger (Lynella Highland dancers).

### **Police Matters**

PS Suzanne Howgego had tendered her apologies post meeting due to operational matters and her January report had been circulated for comments and feedback.

Councillors expressed their disappointment there was no Police presence yet again at the meeting but recognised Suzanne could be prevented from attending due to operational matters. The Provost asked the secretary to write to the Inspector voicing our concerns and to remind him he had previously advised he would make sure that if Suzanne could not attend then someone would attend in her place.

The secretary reminded Councillors that in the event Suzanne could not make our meetings she was more than willing to receive feedback and comments.

### **Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso**

Alan Livingstone advised the Chamber of Trade had recently met and the main issue raised was lack of parking. He advised he had subsequently written to all members and other traders reminding them not to park in the Square on an all day basis.

Alan advised the AGM would be held on the 14 March 2016 at the Cross Keys Hotel and all were welcome.

Alan commented the recent footfall survey in the Borders had indicated Kelso had an upward trend and he hoped to see further improvements in the summer.

Alan advised the Visit Kelso sub group were actively promoting the town and were planning events around Easter including a Treasure Hunt and extended opening of shops over the Easter weekend.

Councillor A Nicol advised he was working hard with Floors Castle on the “Our Borderland” initiative to attract tourists into the Town. Councillor T Weatherston commented tour operators needed to tap into the Borders Railway to attract visitors from Edinburgh.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2016 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor John King.

### **Matters arising**

#### a) Twining opportunities

The secretary advised Brian Sanders had been in touch and he was keen to arrange a visit to Kelso UK for his top salesperson, as a thank you, during the period 8 – 15 May 2016. He would arrange flights, transfers and accommodation at Ednam House. Councillor Dean Weatherston had agreed to draw up a list of activities and to involve Visit Kelso.

The Provost asked the representatives from the Kelso High School to get involved in establishing links with the High School in USA.

Susan Grainger from the Lynella Highland dancers attended the meeting and advised they very keen to be involved in twinning activities. She advised between 13 and 16 May 2016 nine dancers were going to 'Thiron Gardais' in France to perform at a Celtic festival. They contacted the dancers specifically because they class Kelso as a 'sister town'. Thiron Gardais itself has an Abbey and the festival is based around this. Susan presented a letter from the mayor of Thiron Gardais inviting councillors to be part of a delegation from Kelso to attend the Festival to develop tourism and cultural links. It was noted a delegation from Thiron Gardais had visited Kelso in 2011. The secretary undertook to circulate the letter of invite to all Councillors.

#### b) Memorial Wall

Councillors discussed progress on the proposed memorial wall garden and Councillor Nicol advised Hawick Community Council were working on a memorial

wall/garden and it would be useful to make contact with them to see if lessons could be learnt.

Councillor Tomczyk asked who would own the site and Councillor Nicol advised going forward his personal preference would be to develop a low maintenance garden, not including grass and to encourage SBC to adopt it.

Councillor King commented a breakdown of costs was needed. Councillor Tomczyk reiterated the importance of establishing demand through a survey.

Councillor T Weatherston suggested local people working on community schemes could be used to undertake the maintenance of the garden under supervision. Community Councillors endorsed this suggestion.

Councillor Scott stressed the importance of making the garden attractive to potential users.

c) Parking

Councillors asked for an update on Decriminalising parking and Councillor Nicol advised this would not happen in the immediate future. Councillor T Weatherston advised this issue had been discussed at the recent Area Forum and reiterated parking was an issue across the whole Borders area. Councillor Weatherston reminded councillors that they had voted against the use of parking charges in the town several years ago and as a result charges were removed. He also advised that revenue from parking meters had previously directly benefitted the town. Councillor Weatherston reminded councillors there were no funds available presently to introduce parking wardens. Councillor Tomczyk also reminded Councillors that as SBC had rejected the use of the Glebe Field for additional parking alternative solutions should be sought from SBC.

SBC Councillors agreed it would be helpful to ask an officer from SBC to come to a future meeting to talk about decriminalising parking and options available.

d) Defibrillator Training

The secretary reminded Councillors training on defibrillators would take place on Wednesday 24 February at 6.30pm at the Fire Station, all welcome.

e) Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

The secretary advised notes from a meeting of interested parties held on the 19 January 2016 had been circulated. The meeting had been well attended and although there was a lot of enthusiastic interest going forward a small steering group needed to be formed with a leader.

The issue of public liability insurance had been raised and the secretary was asked to clarify the situation with SBC.

It was agreed funding needed to be secured and the secretary had written to Charity Begins at Home and The Bridge. The secretary advised Stuart Young had recommended applying for the Tesco grant scheme. It was noted the first round had been closed and round 2 would start in April 2016. The secretary had logged an application of interest and would apply for funding at the appropriate time.

The Provost suggested Councillor Hodges could be a potential chair for the steering group.

The secretary reminded Councillors that funding of planting was needed for Bridge End as the Farmers Market and BUS had pulled out. The Councillor agreed to fund the planting for 2016 from its reserves. It was agreed letters should be sent to local businesses to see whether they would be prepared to make a contribution towards the cost of planting at Bridge End and for projects under Kelso in Bloom.

f) Questions from the public

Hazel Woodsell and Derek Robeson (Friends of Kelso Museum) attended to discuss the 200<sup>th</sup> Town Hall anniversary project. They advised they are planning a series of exhibitions throughout the year and a parade on Saturday 26 March to mark the day the first stone was laid. They had approached the Kelso Community Council to see whether our public liability insurance would cover the event on the 26 March. The secretary had spoken to insurance officers at SBC who had advised the event organisers are Friends of Kelso Museum and consequently they would be required to ensure that their existing insurance provides cover. Councillors suggested Friends of Kelso Museum contact Kelso Community Events and the Kelso Laddies Association to see if they could assist with insurance cover.

**Correspondence**

The secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors and a summary schedule had been compiled. In addition the following documents had been received:

- Formal notification from SBC regarding Traffic Regulation Order – Speed Limits 40 mph Huntlywood A60105 and Kelso A699.
- SBC – Local Development Plan: Intention to Adopt
- SBC – Supplementary Guidance (Housing) Call for Sites. Councillor Nicol commented it was desirable to have an additional 916 houses in the Borders area and suitable sites had already been identified in the Kelso area.
- Post Office – modernising Kelso Post Office to change from branch to main
- An invitation from the Rotary Club of Kelso to attend an Italian Night at Ednam Village Hall on Saturday 5 March 2016 at 7.00pm. The proceeds will go to “Stable Life”.

- A letter from Barclays Bank advising the Kelso Branch was closing on the 11 March 2015 and they wanted to know if there were any groups where they could offer support.
- A letter from Mr M McGuigan highlighting his concern over dog fouling in the town and damage to Shedden Park. The letter was passed to SBC councillors for action.

### **Secretary's Report**

The secretary advised the following –

The Kelso Community Council had received a complaint from Mr McKenzie, a taxi operator in relation to illegal parking before, during and after the Kelso Farmers Market. The secretary took advice from SBC licensing and planning officers to check the terms and conditions of the Farmers Market licence and no infringement was noted. Letters have been sent to both the Farmers Market and Mr McKenzie suggesting the Council could act as a moderator if needed to resolve issues but no response has been received.

The secretary reminded Councillors John Lamont will be attending the next meeting on the 8 March and any issues for discussion should be directed through the secretary prior to the meeting.

The secretary advised the Code of Conduct had been re-circulated to Councillors to remind them all correspondence is directed through the Provost and secretary.

### **Scottish Borders Council**

#### **Area Forum**

Councillor T Weatherston advised the next Area Forum meeting would take place in Kelso on the Wednesday 30 March and urged Councillors and members of the public to attend.

#### **Kelso High School and Broomlands Primary School update**

Councillor T Weatherston advised work would start on both projects in March 2016 with a scheduled finish for the High School October 2017 and Broomlands August 2017.

#### **Questions to SBC Councillors**

Derek Robeson asked whether the tree shelters on trees on the bypass could be removed and raised concerns regarding areas of overlapping vegetation in the town. Councillor Nicol asked him to email him with his list of issues which he would endeavour to address.

The Provost asked whether drains in the town could be subjected to annual maintenance to avoid them becoming blocked. Councillor Weatherston advised

blocked drains had been reported and he was not aware regular maintenance had stopped.

In response to a question Councillor Weatherston advised the SBC budget would be ratified on Thursday. It was noted SBC had undertaken a survey to see where money could be saved and the Tapestry project received the highest number of votes for it to be scrapped although this was only 8. Councillor Tomczyk reiterated his opposition to the project in times of financial restraint.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plan

- a) Variation of Condition 3 of planning permission pertaining to roof material and installation of photovoltaic array to roof. Land West of 24 Bowmont Street and car park Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

### **Consideration of Licenses**

No Variation of Premises Licence had been received for consideration.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7.00pm

The Provost welcomed Ann Underwood and family to the meeting who was here to present a framed photo of her father Provost Ferguson who was a Provost under the old form of the Burgh Council. Mrs Underwood thanked the Council for the opportunity to present her father's framed photo. The secretary was asked to arrange for the photo to be displayed appropriately in the town hall.

The Provost advised the four other Provosts family under the old form of Burgh Council would be given the opportunity to present a framed photo for display in the town hall.