

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 10 December 2019, at 7.00pm



PRESENT: Councillors Peter Cooper, Colin McGrath, Paul Roberts, Harry Tomczyk and Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Kathryn Wyllie (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Rhona Hastie, Christine Hamilton and Mags Clark (Borders Events Centre)

APOLOGIES: Councillors James Boulton, Ian Brown, Gavin Horsburgh, Jim McCombie, Kerry Yule and Police Scotland Rachel Stark

- *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 the December meeting and members of the public.

Police Matters

The November 2019 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated and PC Rachel Stark had offered apologies.

The Secretary advised she had contacted Police Scotland to see whether the work of the local CAT team be included in the monthly reports. PC Stark had responded that this would be useful and had passed this on to Inspector McGuigan and is awaiting a response from the CAT team Sergeants.

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had witnessed an event involving many Police vehicles on the evening of Friday 6 December parked outside the Cross Keys hotel and wondered what was going on. SBC Councillor Mountford commented this event

would be too late to include in the current report. The Secretary was asked to contact Police Scotland for comment.

Councillor Roberts raised the issue of school children from the KHS being banned from the Co-op at High Croft due to shop thefts and anti-social behaviour and that there had been a meeting between Police Scotland, regional managers from the Co-Op and KHS. It was suggested that any anti-social behaviour of school children outside of the school premises should be a Police issue. The Community Councillors asked the Secretary to contact Police Scotland for comment.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised Visit Kelso organised a Christmas Market on Sunday 1 December which proved to be another success for all stall holders.

Tina advised the Christmas windows are now in and judging took place last weekend by our Provost. He is keeping the winning window a secret until the cup can be engraved and the winner announced on Friday 13.

Tina advised the Christmas email campaign of the elf on the shelf is in full swing with many business signing up to promote their wares and see what naughty tricks the elves can come up with. Visit Kelso has asked its members to like and share the posts to get a further reach and this is working well and is so far the best Christmas Facebook campaign we have run.

On Sunday 15 shoppers will be able to fill out a ticket for each purchase they make in a Visit Kelso shop and drop their ticket into Seasons where they will be entered into a prize draw. This will be drawn on Sunday 22 December at 3pm at the community Carols around the tree in the Square. The Provost commented it would be good if the Community Councillors could attend this event.

Tina advised Visit Kelso would like to wish the Community Council a Happy Christmas and thanked them for all their hard work throughout the year. The Provost reciprocated the festive message and thanked Tina for attending the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019

The minutes held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 were approved subject to some minor amendments. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Peter Cooper.

Matters arising

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised he had received notification that Betty Hodges had tendered her resignation as a Community Councillor and Chair of Kelso in Bloom due to ill health. The Provost placed on record his and the Community Councillors thanks for all the sterling work Betty had undertaken and wished her well for the future. SBC

Commented [HT1]: Suggest that we add "due to ill health"

Councillors endorsed this and thanked Betty for all her work and in particular winning the Floral Gateway award this year. Councillor Tomczyk commented that Betty had indicated that she would be happy to consider getting involved in the future once her health issues had been resolved. The Secretary was asked to send a letter of thanks to Betty.

The Provost advised the Secretary will continue as Treasurer of Kelso in Bloom but wished to pass on the secretarial duties she had previously assisted Betty with and asked whether another Councillor would be willing to lead this subgroup. The Provost advised Kelso in Bloom could not function without a Chair person, Vice Chair, Secretary and Rota administrator.

The Provost clarified that the work of Kelso in Bloom was to enhance the entrances to the town and the provision of bedding plants in the town centre, memorial garden, Tait Hall, outside the Police Station, etc would need to be addressed in the New Year by the Community Council.

Kelso USA visit 2020

The Provost advised that although Kelso Community Council supported this proposed visit he stated that this would need the assistance of one of the Community Councillors to take the lead on co-ordinating the visit.

Post meeting Councillor Colin McGrath had offered to do this and would set up a subgroup in the New Year.

Questions from the Public

Christine Hamilton asked whether there was any update on the proposed closures of play parks as she worked at the Castlegate Nursery and wondered whether any of the play parks in the locality would be closed. SBC Councillor Mountford stated that there had been no further developments due to the General Election and reiterated that no play park areas would be closed to the public but rather some of the obsolete equipment may be taken away. Councillor Tomczyk asked if there was any data available on the actual usage of each play park and Christine undertook to speak to the parents of children at Castlegate Nursery to get a better picture.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised she had no report to make.

Provost's Report

The Provost advised he had attended a very interesting meeting of the Rotary club who were looking into providing Trishaw bikes. This initiative which had started in Denmark and was being considered at Hawick and Jedburgh is a way of taking the elderly into the community to help tackle isolation.

The Provost advised he had attended the annual Christmas light switch on ceremony which had started earlier in the day and the feedback he had received from parents

was positive. He also commented that the story telling sessions at the Cross Keys had been welcomed.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the SBCCN had met on the 4 December in the Kelso Mens Shed and the next meeting would be held 5 February 2020.

Councillor McGrath advised the SBC Community Councils' Review was ongoing and was due to be debated at the full SBC Council meeting on the 19 December and this would include the report by the Scottish Development Centre.

Councillor McGrath advised the next Integrated Joint Board was scheduled to take place on the 17 December.

Councillor McGrath advised the review by the Care Inspectorate was now complete and he looked forward to hearing the outcome.

Any Other Business

Councillor Tomczyk raised the issue of the recent Road Traffic Order shutting the Knowes carpark to the public for the General Election period and asked why there was no consultation on this matter as it would have an adverse effect to the traders. SBC Councillors advised it would be impossible to put Road Traffic Orders out to consultation due to the volume and time constraints. The Provost suggested that any future road traffic orders should be shared with our three SBC Councillors in advance and they could make a decision on whether there would be an adverse reaction prior to their publication.

Councillor Tomczyk suggested it would be useful to have regular reports such as SBCCN, Visit Kelso, Provost and Secretary reports and Kelso in Bloom circulated prior to the Community Council meetings. This would help cut down the length of the meeting and enable Councillors to read them prior to the meetings and there would be an opportunity for Councillors to raise any issues at the meeting.

Councillor Roberts raised the issue of damaged done by the large pot hole on Maxton Road and asked who would be liable for damage. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the pot hole had been reported on a Friday and temporary fix had been done over the weekend but due to water getting under the road the temporary fix had lifted but confirmed it had been addressed.

Councillor McGrath asked for an update on replacing the lamp on Rennie Bridge and SBC Councillor Weatherston would follow up again.

Councillor McGrath asked whether any tree had been made available to the public this year and the Secretary undertook to follow up but commented she was not aware of any trees being offered to the public.

Councillor Tomczyk asked who the Chief Executive of the SBC reported to and was advised that she reports to the Leader who does her appraisal.

Mags Clark attended the meeting to advise the Borders Showground had been re-branded as the Borders Event Centre who were actively promoting their facilities which would be of benefit to the town of Kelso and surrounding areas and asked the Council to contact them with any issues or concerns. The Provost and SBC Councillors commented they appreciated the contribution Borders Event Centre made to the town and surrounding area and looked forward to working with them.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he had secured funding to replace the fence at the Kelso Community Memorial Garden.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

SBC Councillor Mountford advised there had been no meetings due to the General Election.

Parking /Traffic management

SBC Councillor Mountford advised he had followed up the issue of non-disabled people parking in disabled spaces and had passed this onto the Community Action Team to follow up.

A member of the public asked what could be done to stop the traders parking all day in the Square and outside shops rather than using the local carparks and thus preventing shoppers from using the spaces. The Provost advised this issue had been raised many times and the traders had been contacted but there appeared to be no answer. Councillor McGrath commented that Police Special Constables could be used to patrol the town and issue parking tickets.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no license applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

There were no new plans for consideration.

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had attended the planning meeting regarding the development of the former Kelso High School site. Councillor Tomczyk commented he had emphasised concerns regarding public parking and the KCC's letter of observations had been read out. SBC Councillor Mountford advised the plans had been approved subject to a caveat attached and there would be public parking bays around the site and he felt there would be the same amount of spaces available with the new development. Councillor Mountford also advised that allocation of parking spaces for residents was generous.

Councillor Tomczyk asked what provision had been given to residents charging electric cars.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised the design of the 6 houses fronting Bowmont Street did not fully reflect the architecture and the developers have been asked to re-think the design on these houses.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 January 2020.