

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso  
Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso  
on Tuesday 9 December 2014, at 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Provost John Bassett (Chair), Councillors Harry Tomczyk, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, Peter Cooper and John King and Scottish Borders Councillors Alec Nicol and Tom Weatherston.

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Dean Weatherston, Colin McGrath and Fiona Scott and SBC Councillor Simon Mountford 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 declare a declaration of interest prior to discussion

### **Welcome**

Provost John Bassett welcomed members of the Council to the meeting and confirmed Councillor Bill Cook has resigned from the Kelso Community Council due to work commitments. The Provost asked for the Kelso Community Council's thanks be placed on record for all the years of hard work Councillor Bill Cook had contributed to the town. It was noted a letter of thanks had been sent to Councillor Bill Cook.

Councillor Tom Weatherston advised Alan Hall, a Community Councillor from the Stichill, Ednam and Berry Moss Community Council was planning to move to Kelso and had expressed an interest in being involved with the Kelso Community Council. Councillor T Weatherston undertook to forward contact details to Provost and Secretary.

### **Police Matters**

It was noted PC Suzanne Howgego had tendered her apologies and the November 2014 Police Scotland report had been circulated. The following update had been provided to the Secretary:

- Nominated Neighbour Scheme – details of identified individuals to be forward to PC Howgego.
- The prowler and break-ins are possibly connected. Scottish Borders Proactive Department are hoping to look into all outstanding crimes of this nature in Kelso but no time scale had been given.
- PC Howgego had met with members of Kelso North Church and carried out a crime prevention survey. It was noted there were failings with their security

which they will rectify. It would appear when they last reported the side door having been forced in November they had not fully checked the church and did not realise the sound equipment had been stolen.

- The Butts – PC Howgego advised double yellow lines would help alleviate parking congestion and she would support any recommendation made to SBC.
- Jim Clark Rally investigation – PC Howgego advised it would be best to speak to Inspector Scott at Safer Communities.

It was noted due to work commitments PC Howgego had missed a couple of Council meetings, albeit she had sent updates for circulation prior to the meetings. The Provost acknowledged the good working relationship with PC Howgego but expressed his disappointment with the lack of Police Scotland presence at Community meetings.

Councillor Horsburgh asked whether more Police presence could be made available in Kelso during the day.

### **Chamber of Trade report**

Mr Alan Livingstone advised there would be Christmas Opening on Sunday 14 December between 12.00 and 16.00 with entertainment in the Square. Two thousand leaflets had been printed and distributed.

Alan Livingstone advised 30 traders were members of the Chamber of Trade, mainly located in the Square and Floors Garden Centre had recently joined. He commented he now had email addresses for all traders and therefore would be able to circulate information quickly.

The Provost advised a new ADS interactive screen had been installed by the Black Swan public house and SBC had paid for 350 local businesses to sign up free. Alan Livingstone welcomed this initiative and undertook to circulate details to the traders.

Councillor Dean Weatherston had requested the subject of Traffic wardens be raised at the meeting. He had heard Kelso Chamber of Trade was looking into employing someone and SBC had set up a committee to look into the matter. He wanted to know at what stage were the talks and whether it would materialise into anything. Councillor Tom Weatherston confirmed a working group had been set up and SBC were aware of the issue of parking not only in Kelso but across the Borders region. Various options were being considered and Councillor T Weatherston undertook to report back. Councillor Alec Nicol advised policing parking was a serious issue that needed to be addressed.

Alan Livingstone confirmed the issue of parking had been raised at their recent meeting and would welcome a solution.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 November 2014 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor John King.

### **Matters arising**

a) Memorial Wall

Councillor John King advised little progress had been made but he would continue to work on the project.

b) Gallipoli Memorial

The Provost gave an update on progress with the Gallipoli Memorial Fund. It was noted he is currently in discussion with SBC regarding funding and working closely with the Kelso Laddies Association. Sainsburys had agreed to two weekend bag packs with 50% going to the Fund and 50% going to the Army Cadets who would be providing the bag packs. Sales of the book are available from Seasons coffee shop and all proceeds would go to Kelso High School to help fund a visit to the Battlefield. It was noted a member of the public, David Watson, had made a contribution to the Fund. Any individual wishing to make a contribution can send them c/o the Secretary (Shirley Redgrave) at Kelso Community Hospital.

c) Grant applications for the Community Grant Scheme funded by Sainsburys

The Secretary advised that she had made comprehensive notes on the discussions held on 12 November to consider the grant applications, which had been circulated only to Kelso Community Councillors. Letters had been sent to all applicants confirming the extent of their award. This information would be made available to the public in due course.

The Provost requested thanks be placed on record for the administrative work by George Young and his office and guidance from SBC and the funding provided by Sainsburys. It was noted this was the last year of funding.

d) Window Boxes at Town House

Councillor T Weatherston confirmed SBC had originally provided the window boxes at the Town House. It was suggested the Council consider the use of artificial flowers in the window boxes.

e) Questions from public

Tamsin Thomson raised the issue of cars parking and security at the Parish Church. SBC Councillors confirmed it was in order for the gates to the grounds of the Parish Church be closed to prevent illegal parking.

### **Correspondence**

The Secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors and a summary schedule had been compiled which would be attached to the minutes as an Appendix. Other correspondence received:

Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 22 October 2014 for examination.

Proposed Traffic regulation order – various streets, Kelso – copy of Notice.

A schedule of posts made to the Kelso Community Council Facebook page had been previously circulated. It was noted over 800 people follow the page and it had been very useful in sharing information and overall it has been very positively received. The Provost asked for his thanks to be placed on record for all the work Councillor Dean Weatherston undertook updating the Council Facebook pages.

### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reminded members a meeting had been organised on Wednesday 10 December at the Planet to receive a presentation from Ian Rendall Reid, Manager Cheviot Youth regarding the Youth Organisational Strategy which will guide the organisation over the next three to four years.

The Secretary advised the account for the installation of the CCTV had been settled and SBC had agreed to pay the annual maintenance cost for the new CCTV installed in Horsemarket / Woodmarket.

### **Friends of Kelso Museum**

The Provost advised he was working hard with the Friends of Kelso Museum but had expressed disappointment Kelso did not have its own dedicated Museum. The Provost advised he was working with Friends of Kelso Museum to commemorate the one hundred anniversary of Gallipoli. The anniversary date is Sunday 12 July 2015 which coincides with the Kirkin of the Kelso Laddie, which would be held during an outside service. It was noted Ednam House had kindly offered the use of one of their rooms during Civic Week to put on a display of memorabilia.

Councillor H Tomczyk asked SBC for an update on the future use of Bowmont Hall. Councillor Alec Nicol advised no organisation within Kelso had been prepared to take over the running of the Hall and therefore at an appropriate time the property would be marketed and sold off.

### **Scottish Borders Council Report**

#### **Area Forum**

Councillor Tom Weatherston advised an Area Forum meeting had been held on the 26 November in Jedburgh but unfortunately it was poorly attended. At the meeting local grant schemes had been discussed and it was noted funding had been awarded to Kelso for updated bus shelters and a new bench. Councillor Tom Weatherston reminded members the Area Forum meetings were open to the public and it was an opportunity for them to bring issues to the attention of the Scottish Borders Council.

It was noted these meetings would now be held quarterly and the next meeting was scheduled to take place in Kelso in Feb/March 2015.

#### **Disability access evaluation**

Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC had agreed to undertake a review of Disability access across the whole of Kelso, not just the Square area and this would be undertaken hopefully next year. It was noted access in Kelso had improved with the provision of additional disabled parking spaces, now 8 spaces compared with 4 originally and the provision of dropped kerbs. It was noted more dropped kerbs needed to be provided.

#### Signage for public toilets

Councillor T Weatherston advised additional signage was due to be put in place including signage above the actual public toilets.

#### Road markings

It was noted SBC were working hard with the contractors to complete the line markings in Kelso.

Councillor J King advised he had spoken with the local taxi drivers to see what improvements they would like included and it had been suggested parking on the Square outside the Cross Keys be made a one way system.

#### Kelso Community Hospital

Councillors noted the recent publicity regarding the possibility of Kelso Community Hospital closing. It was noted SBC and NHS jointly fund the provision of buildings at the hospital site. It was noted Kelso was a model site with a community hospital and adult social services working out of the same site. SBC Councillors commented they felt the recent adverse publicity had been as a result of comments taken out of context.

#### Traffic Wardens

It was noted this subject had been addressed earlier in the meeting.

#### Parking

The issue of parking within the town was raised and how important it was for visitors to have a good experience. Councillors discussed the use of Disc Parking and how to enforce it. It was suggested perhaps the use of one disc for use in all Border towns. Councillor A Nicol recommended Kelso undertake some research and as mentioned earlier in the meeting SBC is aware of parking issues in Border towns and had set up a working group to look at options. This subject will remain on the agenda.

#### Public toilets

Councillor A Nicol thanked the Community Council for funding the installation of the CCTV and advised mirrors for the public conveniences were on order.

#### Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor J King asked for an update on drainage on Ednam Road and he was advised this had been addressed.

Councillor G Horsburgh asked for an update on resurfacing Roxburgh Street. Councillor T Weatherston advised funding was limited and updating the street would be a major project. Councillors agreed the preferred option would be for the street to

cobbled up the old Forge and then tarmaced. It was agreed SBC should consider addressing the two worst areas as a temporary measure.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Formation of external ramp to comply with DDA at Lloyds TSB, 21 The Square. The Council approved subject to the material being used was in keeping with the Square and concrete was not used.
- b) Replacement windows and doors, 4 Hermitage Lane, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- c) Change of use from woodland plantation to form off road cycle at land South of Queens House, Angraflat Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 13 January 2015 at 7.00pm