

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held
in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 12 March 2019, at
7.00pm**



PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk, Dean Weatherston (Provost), Kerry Yule and Scottish Borders Councillors Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter), Michael Curren (SBC Day Centre Review), Deborah Berry (SBC Waste Services) Mr and Mrs Hall and members of the public Paul Roberts and William Robertson.

APOLOGIES: SBC Councillor Simon Mountford, Councillor James McCombie 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 our March meeting. The Provost advised Councillor Alan Hall had resigned from the Council due to health reasons and prior to the meeting he had been presented with a gift and photographs had been taken.

The Provost commented Alan Hall had served for many years as a Community Councillor at Ednam, Stichill and Berrymoss before being co-opted to the Kelso Community Council in April 2015. The Provost thanked Alan for his contribution to the Community Council and Alan advised he had had a very enjoyable time serving on the Council.

Police Matters

The February 2019 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated and PC Rachel Stark who had tendered her apologies asked for feedback. The Provost commented he had contact from a resident about anti-social behaviour in Jock the Box Entry at the weekend (this is the vennel beside the dress shop in Bridge Street

into Abbey Row). The resident had phoned the Police but had no response from them to date. The Secretary was asked to highlight this incident to Police Scotland and request feedback.

Presentation by Deborah Berry SBC Waste Services

Deborah Berry explained why we need to recycle and how we can play our part. She circulated leaflets highlighting what plastics can and cannot be recycled in the Scottish Borders and asked everyone to reduce, reuse and recycle. She explained the need to recycle as SBC need to pay £86 per tonne landfill tax and after 2021 there would be no landfill facilities. Deborah reminded Councillors and the public not to place black plastic into recycling as the lasers were unable to detect this on the conveyor belts.

Councillor Hodges asked whether food waste recycling would be expanded as it was noted Kelso residents currently do not have to recycle their food waste. SBC Councillor T Weatherston commented the initiative was introduced by the Scottish Government who drew up a list of post code areas who would need to recycle food waste. SBC Councillor T Weatherston advised the uptake to date had been poor and he anticipated it being rolled out across the whole of the Borders.

Councillor Boulton commented recycling glass was confusing and was advised to place items in the “mixed” container if in doubt.

The Provost commented he had attended a plastic recycling workshop at Café U and reminded members they could take their own containers to any of the food retail outlets in the town to avoid the use of additional plastic bags.

It was noted each local authority had their own criteria for recycling as this depended on the contract they had. Tina Newton commented it would be useful for all local authorities to be consistent on recycling.

A question was asked whether incineration and the introduction of a communal heating system could be considered for e.g. Borders General Hospital. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented this was a valid point but due to the low volume this would not be viable and would only work in cities.

Councillor Tomczyk pointed out that in the leaflet handed out the list of items which cannot be recycled was longer than the list of items which can. He pointed out that this is very confusing for people and makes it very difficult for recycling to be effective and stated a much wider range of things needs to be recycled.

Councillor Boulton asked why Kelso High School used disposable cutlery and Deborah advised SBC were currently looking at an initiative to introduce reusable cutlery.

The Provost thanked Deborah for attending the meeting.

Review of Day Centres

SBC Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC were currently undergoing a review of the provision of day care services to offer more choice to the clients. He advised a new model from Berwickshire was being rolled out and stated there would be no end to the provision of services but an improvement as centres would be replaced by a more individually targeted programme.

Councillor Weatherston introduced Michael Curran, Service Development Manager. Michael Curran advised the Integrated Joint Board had set up a programme to move services to be more community based. Michael advised the number of clients attending day centres had dropped from 250 to less than 50 in four years. Michael advised every person currently attending a day centre would be given a link worker who would discuss with them and their family a range of options and each client would have an agreed activity programme that the link worker would support. Michael advised the five members of the team in the new model could offer support for up to 600 clients. Michael advised SBC value the role of carers and value respite and the service would be delivered in a different way.

The Provost criticised the lack of communications and the manner in which day care users and their family were told of the changes. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised when there were changes to service provision clients were advised first. The Provost also raised an allegation put to him that the service had been deliberately ran down and social work had been told not to make any referrals and this was the real reason for the drop in numbers. This was strenuously denied.

SBC Councillor Weatherston the new model would give clients a choice on what they would like to do and who with and the trial in Berwickshire has resulted in much better outcomes for people. He stated the team in Berwickshire had won an award for their work in transforming the service to a much more client focused service with better outcomes.

Michael Curran advised Self Directed Support puts the person at the centre of support planning process. It enables people, carers and families to make informed choices about what their social care support is and how it is delivered. It ensures that people who are eligible for support are given the choice and control over how their individual budget is arranged and delivered to meet their agreed health and social care outcomes. The Direct Payments scheme gives users money directly to pay for their own care rather than the local authority providing care for them. Michael Curran advised SBC had commissioned Encompass to help support Direct Payments.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised a short meeting had been held this month and plans for producing the local map were progressing and this would be launched next week at the Alnwick Trade Show. Tina advised she would bring copies to the next Council meeting.

Tina advised the AGM would be held on Thursday 28 March at 6.30pm at the Racecourse and everyone was welcome.

The Provost thanked Tina for attending the meeting and there were no questions from Councillors.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2019

The minutes held on Tuesday 12 February 2019 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Betty Hodges and seconded by Councillor Ian Brown.

Matters arising

Resilience Group

The Provost advised there was no update.

Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised a potential extension into Berwick and Carlisle remains on the table following the publication of the Borders transport corridors study pre-appraisal report and consideration will be given to improving the Borders' rail and road infrastructure as part of a wider strategic transport projects review by Transport Scotland. Proposals for extending the 30 mile Borders Railway from Tweedbank both southwest into Cumbria and east into Northumberland have not been ruled out.

Councillor Robson advised he would be having discussions with Northumberland Council officials and report back. Councillor Tomczyk suggested the Community Council write a letter of support to Transport Scotland.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges advised there was no update but she, the Provost and Secretary would be attending a meeting on 14 March to hear about plans to cuts to Neighbourhood Services and would report back.

NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised he had attended a meeting of the Integrated Joint Board on 28 February who had received an update from Jeane Freeman MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health on Integration. Councillor McGrath advised the Government was making a concerted effort to get health and social care integrated as progress to date had been slow.

SBC Councillor Weatherston suggested the Community Council invite Rob McCulloch, Chief Officer Health and Social Care to a future meeting to give an explanation on the role of the Integrated Joint Board and give some examples of the good work that is currently going on and explain how the community can become more involved.

Pigeons at Henderson Court

SBC Councillor Robson advised he was working with colleagues to get the paths and part of the courtyard at Henderson Court adopted and would bring an update to the April meeting.

Questions from the public

Paul Roberts a member of the public advised he is involved in various voluntary activities and he had been advised going forward the reception area at Kelso Community Hospital would no longer have a Social Services presence. SBC Councillor Weatherston undertook to get an update and report back.

Secretary's Report

Secretary's Honorarium

The Provost advised the Honorarium had been agreed at £800 per annum last year and asked for approval for this amount this year.

Councillors asked, in view of the amount of work the Secretary undertook, whether they could increase the Secretary's Honorarium and the Secretary advised there were insufficient funds as the grant from SBC barely covered her present Honorarium and Council expenses, e.g. stationery, advertising.

The Secretary advised she would be placing an advert in Kelso Life to publicise the AGM to be held in May.

Provost Report

The Provost advised he had attended no official duties since the last meeting and had circulated a list of meetings he would be attending.

Kelso Community Council Constitution and Policies

The Provost advised he had received comments from Councillor Tomczyk and asked Councillors to feedback any additional comments. The Provost advised he would be presenting the Constitution and Policies at the AGM for adoption. He advised the Constitution was based on the Scottish Borders Council "Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised there were proposals in the SBC budget to consolidate funds including annual grants for Community Councils and he was concerned some Community Councils would not be in a position to bid for grants. However, it was noted these changes would not take place for another 12 months. Councillor McGrath advised he would be meeting Jenny Craig so further discussions can take place on Community Empowerment and its effect on the Area Partnership and Locality Working groups.

Councillor McGrath advised the next SBCCN meeting would take place on the 10 April 2019 and the AGM would be held on the 22 May at which the speakers would include a senior civil servant from the Scottish Government who wrote part of the Community Empowerment Act and particularly Participation Requests together with Clementine Hill-O'Connor (Glasgow Caledonian University) who is working on behalf of the Scottish Government to assess Participation Requests from all Scotland.

Any Other Business

All business had been covered elsewhere.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised there had been no Area Partnership meetings.

Parking /Traffic management

SBC Councillor Robson advised there was no update but the report had gone to the full Council for approval and it was hoped more information would be available next month. SBC Councillor Robson advised approval had been received for an additional Community Action Team.

Councillor Tomczyk noted that the road between Sprouston and Kelso is being repaired and asked whether there were additional plans to repair the road between Sprouston and the Border which is in a very poor condition. SBC Councillor Robson advised the Sprouston Community Council had been actively petitioning SBC to undertake additional road repairs in the area.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor Bassett raised the issue of SBC's announced plans to provide every child in the Borders with an iPad and asked where the funding had come from and whether this funding could have been used elsewhere. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the investment was part of the SBC 2019/20 financial budget announced in February and this would come from the capital budget. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised there were strict rules around what could be funded from the capital budget. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised SBC were committed to transform teaching and learning in our Schools for the benefit of young people now and into the future and he was very excited about this project which was a major 10-year investment in digital learning in the Borders. He confirmed an Apple iPad would be provided for every P6 to S6 pupil.

Councillor Horsburgh was asked for his view and he advised the School would be able to keep control of the apps downloaded and material available on the iPad and it would be secure and he welcomed the initiative.

Concerns were raised that the iPads could get damaged and lost and SBC Councillor Robson advised the contract drawn up with Apple and CGI included replacement costs.

The Provost commented there had been negative comments on Facebook regarding this project. He stated SBC needed to have better communications and consultation with the public to get factual information across which would reduce negativity. The Provost suggested the School Parent Council took on the initiative of inviting the public to look at a demonstration of the iPad.

Councillor Tomczyk advised a new hammerhead sign had appeared at Springwood Bank stating the turning circle must be left clear and asked why there had been no consultation with residents.

Councillor Tomczyk asked why the Scottish Borders didn't have their own flag like neighbouring Northumberland. The Provost advised there was an SBC flag with the Reiver head on it, but the Northumberland one is a very old flag and our region had several flags but belonged to counties and families.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the Border Hotel had been sold and it was anticipated this would be converted into holiday lets and a café.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no license applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

Internal and external alterations, Ednam House Hotel, Bridge Street, Kelso TD5 7HT (19/00189/LBC). The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

Change of use of shop and alterations to form office accommodation, Border Insurance brokers, 23-25 Bridge Street, Kelso TD5 7HT (19/00302/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to the plans and supported it. It was noted that a change of use from a retail outlet to office accommodation was better than the building remaining empty and the shop had been on the market for over a year.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 April 2019.