

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



- PRESENT:** Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Peter Cooper, Betty Hodges, James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Kathryn Wylie (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Ian Aitchison, Rhona Hastie and Paul Roberts.
- APOLOGIES:** Police Scotland, Councillors Ian Brown, Gavin Horsburgh and Kerry Yule.

- *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 February meeting. He reminded Councillors and those attending meetings to be respectful and give each other the opportunity to put forward any comments without being interrupted.

Police Matters

The January 2019 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated and PC Suzanne Howgego had tendered apologies but asked for feedback. Councillor Tomczyk raised the issue of illegal parking on Bridge Street and the ensuing chaos it caused and asked whether anything could be done. SBC Councillor Mountford advised he had attended a meeting of the Community Action Team that day and was advised due to Kelso's "generous" two hour free parking period, the team would need to allocate at least three hours to catch offenders and this was a high demand on their limited resources. The Provost acknowledged this and asked that the team instead concentrated on ticketing illegal and dangerous parking which could be done at any time of the day very easily. It was noted that some cars were often parked for days and the Provost reminded everyone they could report any cars parked long term and the police would deal with it. Councillor Tomczyk reiterated he was dissatisfied with parking in Bridge Street and asked the Secretary to feed back to Police Scotland.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised trading before Christmas had been a slow burner but the last two Sundays had been successful and the Kelso Christmas Market had been a great success. Tina advised the subcommittee would now start thinking about Christmas 2019.

Tina advised Visit Kelso had talked to the Rotary Club and Probus group to raise awareness and outline their plans for the town.

Tina advised Visit Kelso were being proactive to market the town and surrounding areas and following their successful application to SBC for grant funding they were currently working on a marketing toolkit which would include a map, leaflets, banners and A6 postcards.

Tina advised the committee were currently reviewing the website with a view to enhancing the functionality for all.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2019

The minutes held on Tuesday 8 January 2019 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor John Bassett and seconded by Councillor Betty Hodges.

Matters arising

Resilience Group

The Provost advised the Kelso Men's Shed had made space available in their premises to store equipment for the Resilience Group and the group would be holding future meetings at the Kelso Men's Shed. The Provost advised the group were currently working on a "call tree" to be used to communicate in an emergency and this would be available shortly.

Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised there was no update.

Kelso in Bloom

As requested the Secretary had written to SBC and Jason Hedley had confirmed the implementation of the redesign of the services had been deferred until the end of the summer 2019 and therefore communities can expect to receive the traditional floral displays that SBC has provided until October 2019, thereafter the Council will implement its changes. SBC have organised a seminar on Thursday 14 March. At this event it is expected that locality based service changes can be shared, allowing stakeholders the opportunity to reflect on how they wish to take their part in services going forward. It was agreed Councillor Hodges and the Secretary would attend as representatives from Kelso in Bloom and the Provost and SBC Councillor Weatherston would attend from the Community Council.

Councillor Hodges advised a bag pack had been organised at Sainsbury's on Saturday 20 April between 10.00am and 4.00pm. The Secretary would remind Councillors nearer the time to draw up a rota.

Councillor Hodges advised she had been contacted by Alnwick in Bloom who were keen to set up a form of twining with Kelso in Bloom and asked for approval from the Community Council. There were no objections.

Men's Shed

Councillor J Bassett advised the electrical work had been undertaken and the next project was to erect the stud walls. Councillor Bassett advised they had received a number of garden tools which would be donated to Kelso in Bloom. The Kelso Stick Makers would be located at the premises. Councillor Bassett advised there were currently 86 members registered.

The Provost commented it was good that local community groups were basing themselves at the Men's Shed and Councillor Hodges commented the Men's Shed was creating a valuable link between community groups.

SBC Councillor Mountford asked whether there would be an official opening and Councillor Bassett advised it was anticipated one would be arranged for May 2019.

It was agreed to take the Men's Shed off the agenda now that they were established and in their premises, but Councillor Bassett was welcome to feed back at any time.

NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised that unfortunately the meeting scheduled for 28 January was not quorate and therefore no decisions could be made. Councillor McGrath advised this was particularly disappointing as he wished to discuss the sale of the St Boswell's Medical Centre.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised GP's, Doctors and other medical professionals sat on the integrated board and often they were called away to address pressing matters and this can result in meetings not being quorate.

Pigeons at Henderson Court

SBC Councillor Weatherston and the Provost declared an interest as they both had relatives living at the complex.

SBC Councillor Robson advised he was working with SBC Councillor Mountford to find a solution to the hundreds of pigeons roosting at Henderson Court. It would appear this situation came about since one neighbouring building was demolished and another renovated.

Property management firm FBR has called in contractors several times to clean paths and gutters and sought advice from specialist companies. It would appear an electric shock deterrent would be the only long term solution but this would be expensive and residents had called on SBC to help tackle the problem. Residents

had suggested using a hawk to scare the pigeons but this would only be temporary solution.

SBC Councillor Robson advised the responsibility lay with the owners and because of the mixed occupancy this caused an issue. Residents claim there is a health risk and the Council needs to act, however SBC Councillor Mountford advised environmental health experts only consider pigeons and their dropping a public health hazard in a confined space. He commented that although it is a nuisance, it is a private problem and not a public health problem and advised if the Council were to intervene they would pass the cost onto the residents and it would be cheaper for them to sort it out with the factors.

SBC Councillor Robson advised the only options would be the use of an electric shock deterrent system, spikes or netting on the roof or a cull. He advised a cull has to be licensed under an Act and the pigeons would need to be trapped first.

It was noted the paths around the property were not adopted by the Council although the development was officially completed six months ago. Councillor Robson advised SBC were investigating the option of adopting the courtyard area and in which case they would have the responsibility of keeping that area clear.

Councillors raised the concern around a pigeon incident at a hospital in Glasgow which had resulted in two deaths. SBC Councillor Robson advised the circumstances were different and undertook to obtain information on the incident and circulate it to Councillors.

The Provost advised he would speak to the factors FBR to see what could be done.

Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised she had submitted comments on the SBC Main Issues report on behalf of the Community Council.

The Secretary advised she had drafted the 2019/2020 insurance forms which had been shared with the Provost and Councillors Hodges and Tomczyk and these would be submitted. It was noted the Kelso Resilience Group are now covered directly by SBC now they are properly established.

Post meeting the Secretary advised she had received an application from the Kelso Heritage Society applying for the SBC path maintenance grant to undertake work on the Glebe path adjacent to the riverside car park at Mayfield and this was being processed.

The Secretary advised Fiona McNeil, Waste Services would give a presentation at the March Community Council meeting

Provost Report

The Provost advised he had attended no official duties since the last meeting. Councillor Tomczyk asked whether the Provost could make the Councillors aware of any official engagements in future and the Provost undertook to do this.

Naming of Roads in Pinnaclehill Park Industrial Estate and approach to naming of roads.

The Provost advised the Community Council had been approached to name three roads at Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate. This had come about as many of the business owners have expressed concern that delivery drivers cannot locate them as there are no street names.

After discussion it was agreed they should be called Lee Forbes Road (after local businessman), Solomon Way (after Georgina Solomon – Kelso born member of the Woman’s Suffrage Movement) and Carlow Road (after ex Town Clerk involved with establishing the Industrial Estate)

The Provost advised he would work with the Kelso Heritage Society, Kelso and District Amenity Society and any other groups wanting to be involved to draw up a list of appropriate names which could be used in the future.

SBC Councillor Weatherston noted that in Kelso we only ever name streets after people when they are dead, but in other towns if someone has done something notable they may do it when they are still alive.

Borders National Park

Councillor McGrath had asked for this item to be included on the agenda as he felt the question of a Borders National Park had not been adequately debated and asked whether there was a SBC view on the matter. The Provost advised that whilst the Community Council were not opposed to the creation of a Borders National Park it was felt there was not enough information or independent evidence to support Kelso being included. SBC Councillors advised that the Council has not yet discussed this or formed a view on the matter and SBC Councillor Weatherston advised there were very few Councillors in favour of a Borders National Park.

Constitution and Code of Conduct

The Provost had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda after an article appeared in the Southern Reporter stating a code of conduct is set to be brought in for Border’s community councillors following a series of complaints. The Provost advised Kelso Community Council had a Code of Conduct which each year the Councillors are required to confirm they adhere to it before the annual grant can be awarded.

The Provost advised it was timely for Kelso Community Council to look at its Constitution as the current one was written by Provost Renton in 1997 and the recent article made him aware that Kelso Community Council other than a dated Constitution didn’t have much in respect of polices. The Provost advised based on

SBC's Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils he had drafted a Constitution, Code of Conduct, Policies – Social Media, Privacy and Equal Opportunity and drawn up lists for sub group members and community council representatives. The Provost advised he would welcome feedback before the March meeting so they can be edited with the intention of circulating them to the public and having a proposal to adopt them at our AGM in May.

Kelso Memorial Garden

Councillor Tomczyk had requested this item was included on the agenda as last year the insurers had confirmed the Community Council policy would extend to cover this garden and that they would expect regular maintenance to be carried out. It was noted that only public liability would be covered and the actual garden itself is not insured. Councillor Tomczyk suggested that a six monthly inspection took place. Councillor Tomczyk advised there was a potential issue with weeds under the Yew tree and leaves on the artificial grass. Councillor Hodges advised she had plants available which could be planted under the Yew tree and she would look at purchasing a special rake to deal with leaves on the artificial grass.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he was waiting for a price to replace the fence around the garden which the Provost was going to chase up.

Kelso Common Good Fund

The Provost asked whether it would be possible for future meetings of the Kelso Common Good fund to be held in Kelso and advertised to the public. At present they currently take place between Kelso, Jedburgh and Newtown St Boswells. SBC Councillor Mountford advised the reason the meetings were held at SBC HQ was because staff from democratic services, finance and legal departments were required to attend. Councillor Mountford took on board the Provost's comments and said he would investigate alternatives.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the SBCCB had met on the 6 February and the main agenda items were the Participation Request and Locality Bid Fund. Councillor McGrath advised the Participation Request had been agreed and submitted to Jenny Craig at SBC.

Councillor McGrath advised secretarial and admin support would in future be provided by Heather Batch at The Bridge.

Councillor McGrath advised the next SBCCN meeting would take place on the 10 April 2019.

Any Other Business

All business had been covered elsewhere.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the last meeting had been poorly attended but once the budget had been agreed there would be money available for community projects.

Parking /Traffic management

There was no update as the report had not gone to the full Council for approval.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor Mountford advised SBC would decide on the budget for next year at a meeting on the 28 February after which a briefing would be available.

Councillor McGrath offered his congratulations to SBC for voting against the introduction of a Tourism tax.

Councillor Tomczyk raised concerns regarding Live Borders and asked whether there was any democratic control. SBC Councillor Mountford advised two SBC Councillors sat on the Board of Trustees of Live Borders and although there was no democratic control SBC scrutinised the work of Live Borders. Councillor Mountford advised SBC were reducing their grant to Live Borders and currently income to Live Borders was from 51% grant from SBC and 49% was earned direct by Live Borders. Councillor Mountford ask Councillor Tomczyk to speak to him outside the meeting with any concerns.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no license applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

There were no plans for consideration.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 March 2019.