

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 8 January 2019, at 7.00pm**



**PRESENT:** Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk and Kerry Yule and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Police Scotland Rachel Stark, Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter) and member of the public Rhona Hastie.

**APOLOGIES:** Tina Newton (Visit Kelso)

- *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 Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

**Police Matters**

The December 2018 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated and PC Rachel Stark was in attendance. PC Stark highlighted the article on security in the rural environment and keeping safe over the Festive season. PC Stark highlighted the Ward Priorities – Dishonesty, Road Safety, Drug Dealing and Misuse of Drugs and Antisocial Behaviour.

The Provost raised the issue of parking in Bridge Street and the disruption it causes and advised the road has a single yellow line and parking bays. The Provost suggested it might be an idea to get rid of the loading bays and add additional parking spaces. Many couriers just double park outside the businesses they are delivering to and loading bays are abused by other drivers. Councillor Horsburgh asked whether double yellow lines could be implemented in Bridge Street. PC Stark explained that a single yellow line meant parking was illegal during the day under the current system. She explained the reason it is currently single and not double is based on time. In the evening there is not enough traffic drive through to justify a

double line. She explained that a single yellow line is the same as a double yellow line from 8.00am to 6.00pm. PC Stark advised the Police were aware of the issue of parking in Bridge Street and advised she would make it a priority area for the Community Action Team to focus on and an education programme was required to remind the public a single yellow line was the same as a double yellow line during the day.

The Provost advised he had received complaints of children wedging the door open at the Shedden Park toilets.

Member of the public Rhona Hastie raised the issue of the overflowing bottle banks in the Tait Hall car park and the resultant broken glass. She also advised there were two broken windows at the back of Tait Hall. The Provost advised that issues regarding Tait Hall could be reported to Live Borders. It was also noted that if there was an issue with the Tait Hall it could be reported to the staff at the Swimming Pool. It was suggested Live Borders should have an out of hours contact number for the public to report issues.

### **Visit Kelso**

Tina Newton have given apologies and there was no report tabled as they had been no meeting in December. The Provost commented he looked forward to receiving feedback from traders on the outcome of the extended Christmas opening hours.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2018**

Subject to minor amendments the minutes held on Tuesday 11 December 2018 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Ian Brown.

### **Matters arising**

#### **Recycling**

Councillor Mountford advised as a result of the presentation by students of Kelso High School on recycling and the need to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill he had received a request for a dedicated recycling bin to be sited at the school. Councillor Mountford advised he had made enquires to see if there were any spare but they were all accounted for. However, he had been advised by Alistair Finnie the Neighbourhood Services Manager that the recycling bin at Shedden Park was frequently being misused, meaning all of its contents were being sent to landfill and it was suggested this bin be relocated to the high school and monitored. Councillor Mountford advised a general waste bin would be situated at Shedden Park and the Community Councillors were happy with this suggestion.

Councillor Tomczyk advised small electrical items could not be put in the blue bins and these needed to be taken to the Recycling Centre. Councillor Mountford advised SBC were in the process of compiling material explaining what can be recycled in the blue bins.

Councillor Robson advised the new waste transfer station at Easter Langlee would help increase recycling once it was opened later in the year.

#### Resilience Group

The Provost advised Dennis Fortune had hoped to attend tonight's meeting but had been called away to another meeting. The Provost advised the group now had 20 volunteers and had been supplied with emergency equipment. He advised they were in talks with the Mens Shed to find storage space. The Provost asked whether any Councillors would be prepared to join him on the Mens Shed committee and attend their twice yearly meetings, the next being the 17 January 2019. Councillor Horsburgh agreed to be the KCC representative which the Provost thanked him for.

#### Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised there was no update and reminded the Secretary to include safeguarding the railway route in the Main Issues Report.

#### Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges advised sales of the calendar had produced a profit in excess of £660 and thanked Lewis Hamon for producing it. She also advised six community Litter Picks had been organised during 2019 and she would be working with PC Stark to involve youth organisations. The Provost advised he would publicise these events on social media. Councillor Hodges also advised a fund-raising bag pack would be organised at Sainsbury's hopefully over the Easter weekend. The Secretary was asked to circulate the dates to Community Councillors.

Councillor Hodges advised Kelso in Bloom had decided not to take on any additional work once SBC stopped providing and maintaining the floral displays in the town. However, she advised the group were happy to continue with their current programme of work funding, planting and maintaining the beds at Bridge End (funding of plants only as this bed is planted and maintained by Kelso Horticultural Society), Coldstream and Jedburgh entrances and Rose Lane.

The Provost raised concerns regarding the provision of floral displays after the spring and advised that although a meeting had been held in autumn with officers from SBC no additional information had been received and it was unclear what would happen going forward. The Secretary was asked to write to SBC to ask for an update.

#### Men's Shed

Councillor J Bassett was happy to report the lease on the Co-op building had finally been signed off on the 19 December for a period of five and a half years and shortly after grants had been received from SBC community grants and Awards for All which would enable work to be undertaken to erect stud walls and attend to electrical works. Councillor Bassett wished for his thanks to be placed on record for all the work Colin Henderson had done to secure the grants.

Councillor Bassett advised the Rugby Club had undertaken to transport all of the stored equipment to the new premises and Paint Perfect had offered to spray paint all internal walls with donations to purchase the paint.

Councillor Bassett advised the Men's shed would be open to everyone over 18 and initially it would be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 10.00am to 4.00pm. He advised there was no joining fee and to date they had 58 members registered.

The Provost commented he was delighted the Mens Shed would finally be opening and advised it would be an asset for the people of Kelso and thanked Councillor Bassett for all his work over the years as well as all the other volunteers who have worked on the project.

#### NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised there had been no meetings. Councillor McGrath advised there had been a proposal to merge the five Locality Working Groups with the five Area Partnership which he was opposed to on statutory and principle grounds. However, he had received an email from the Chief Officer Health & Social Care on 3 January advising this was not now feasible and the Locality Working Groups would continue and there is a meeting of all members of the Locality Working Groups on Tuesday 29 January from 2pm to 5pm.

Councillor McGrath advised the Integration Joint Board commissions' health and social care services in the Scottish Borders and the Health and Social Care Partnership is tasked with delivering the services the IJB commissions in line with the Strategic Plan for Health and Social Care.

Councillor McGrath stated there was a need to get the Third Sector and independent sector involved in the decision making of the Integration Joint Board.

Councillor Tomczyk asked what actual progress had been made on Integration as this had been discussed for a long time and Councillor McGrath advised there would be an IJB Development Session on the 28 January. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented Jeane Freeman MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health was keen to drive through health and social care integration and he felt progress was being made in the Scottish Borders.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised Integration Joint Boards in Scotland are laid down in statute. *(For information the IJB is a requirement in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 that states that health boards and local authorities must integrate their adult health and social care services. The IJB replaced the Community Health Partnerships.)*

#### Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

## **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary advised comments were due on the SBC Main Issues report by the end of January. She advised the Provost, Councillor Tomczyk and herself had met to review the report and tabled a suggested response. She advised feedback would include the provision of an additional public car park convenient to the Core Activity area in Kelso, adequate car parking needs to be included in any proposed housing development and the safeguarding of the former railway line.

There was no correspondence to note.

The Secretary advised she had written a thank you email to Jill Lothian Kelso High School regarding the presentation by the students on recycling and the reduction of landfill waste.

The Secretary would write to Fiona McNeil asking her to attend a future Council meeting to give a presentation on recycling.

## **Provost Report**

The Provost advised he had attended the Over 60s Christmas lunch at Ednam House and had been invited to play Joseph at St Andrew's Church nativity play. The Provost advised he had been invited to open the new Alzheimer's centre in Bridge Street on 11 January.

## **Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)**

Councillor McGrath stated that Participation Requests were at the heart of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and they could not be refused. The Act states:- *"The authority must agree to the request unless there are reasonable grounds for refusing it"*. Councillor McGrath said the words *"must agree"* are significant and mean that only in exceptional circumstances can a Participation Request be refused. Councillor McGrath acknowledged Kelso Community Council did not want to participate in the Cheviot Area Participation Request to sit on the SBC Assessment Panel of the Locality Bid Fund and would feed that back to the SBCCN. He advised the draft Participation Request for the five areas would be circulated to all 69 community councils before submission.

Councillor McGrath advised the Scottish Government had commissioned a Professor from Glasgow Caledonian University to undertake an evaluation of all Scotland wide Participation Requests that had been submitted.

The Provost ask whether there were any examples of Participation Requests being accepted and Councillor McGrath advised that in the Borders it had been agreed that Eyemouth Community Council participate with SBC in the Eyemouth & East Berwickshire Economic Regeneration Group (EEBERG). He went on to say there are other requests in the pipe line and Kelso Community Council should use this as an opportunity to become involved in issues which affect Kelso.

Responding to a comment by SBC Councillor Weatherston in the minutes of the previous meeting that the Community Empowerment Act had become a 'Community Council Act' Councillor McGrath agreed stating that only a community-controlled body can submit a Participation Request and various definitions are given but the only specifically identified body in the Act is "*a community council established in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973*" and suggested that Kelso Community Council should take this opportunity to participate in all government activities that relate to Kelso. Councillor Tomczyk thought this may lead to hundreds of applications country wide at an enormous administrative cost. Councillor McGrath responded that this is the law and when communities are involved and engaged directly through these participation requests significant savings can be made.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised any proposal by the community to take over a project needed to be supported by a robust business case and there were examples where this worked prior to this Act and without a participation request as in the case of the Jedburgh Swimming Pool.

The Provost asked whether it would be a good idea to get the Communities Minister to attend a Question and Answer session and Councillor McGrath agreed it was a good idea to get the Minister or Senior Civil Servant and would put this to the next meeting of SBCCN on the 6 February. Councillor McGrath also undertook to circulate the draft Cheviot Area Participation Request while understanding that Kelso Community Council did not support this request to sit on the assessment panel of the Community Bid Fund.

### **Any Other Business**

Councillor McGrath advised he had met the owner of the Trinity Church who was currently securing the building. The owner had advised his plans were to develop this into a Wedding and Conference Centre.

### **Scottish Borders Council Report**

#### **Cheviot Area Partnership**

There was no update.

#### **Parking /Traffic management**

There was no update.

Councillor Mountford advised there would be a consultation shortly to introduce alcohol free streets. It was noted Kelso had previously felt this was not necessary.

### **Questions to SBC Councillors**

There were no questions to SBC Councillors

### **Consideration of Licenses**

There were no license applications for consideration.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans –

Change of use from retail and alterations to form hotel staff accommodation, Café 13 Bridge Street, Kelso TD5 7HT (18/01543/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

Change of use from former office building and alterations to form 5 dwelling flats, Scottish Borders Council, Rose Lane, Kelso TD5 7AP (18/01752/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to the plans and supported it.

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