

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



PRESENT: Councillors James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, Jim McCombie, Colin McGrath, Paul Roberts, Harry Tomczyk and Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Scottish Borders Councillors Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rose Hogg (Dog Education Officer SBC), Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland), Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Kathryn Wyllie (Southern Reporter) Aly McGillivray (Radio Borders) and members of the public Rhona Hastie and Ray Greaves.

APOLOGIES: Councillors John Basset and Kerry Yule, SBC Councillor Simon Mountford and 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 everyone to the October meeting and our new Councillor Paul Roberts who had been co-opted onto the Kelso Community Council.

Police Matters

The September 2019 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated and PC Suzanne Howgego was in attendance. Councillor McGrath raised the concern of a local farmer who had experienced issues with motorbikes on their property and had tried to contact the local police but it had taken over an hour and half for a response. PC Howgego advised members that they should dial 101 to contact the local police when it was a non-emergency event, rather than using 999 in the event of an emergency. The 101 number had been in existence for many years and it should be used to give the police information about crime. PC Howgego advised that when you call 101 the system will determine your location and connect you to the police force covering that area. Calls to 101 are answered by police officers and staff in the control room of the local police force. This ensures that staff with local knowledge can answer and deal with the calls and respond appropriately.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised in the past he used the 101 number to report incidents on behalf of elderly residents who were anxious about contacting the police direct themselves and he had never experienced excessive delays.

Councillor Tomczyk asked whether local police had been deployed to assist with marches in Glasgow and PC Howgego advised there were several specially trained public order officers in the Borders area who may have been deployed and this was part of their normal duties. In response to a question from Councillor McGrath PC Howgego advised there were 8/10 public order officers based in the Borders.

Councillor Tomczyk commented he had recently experienced excessive noise from motorbikes and asked whether noise levels were monitored. PC Howgego advised the police carry out static checks and will give guidance.

Councillor Bolton asked whether there had been any antisocial behaviour at the new Shedden Park playpark and PC Howgego advised none had been reported to date. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the new playpark was proving to be a great success and asset for the town and activity there would be monitored in the early days of its opening. He advised feedback elsewhere at new parks is that problems occur in the first few weeks and then die down. Councillors asked whether CCTV would be installed and shared concerns about the park being in darkness.

Suzanne advised the Council that she was retiring from Police Scotland and thanked them for their co-operation over her tenure. Suzanne advised PC Rachel Stark would be the main point of contact going forward. The Provost and Councillors thanked PC Howgego for her support over the years and wished her well for her retirement.

Presentation by Rose Hogg, Dog Education Officer, SBC

Rose Hogg advised she had been appointed Dog Education Officer for SBC which is a new post and the aim of her position is to promote responsible dog ownership and safety around dogs. She advised she offered a range of activities e.g. organising dog fouling surveys, visiting schools, offering advice on dog related noise levels, legislation etc. Rose advised she worked closely with the Community Action Team and she urged members of the public to report dog fouling and where appropriate to provide names and addresses of irresponsible owners, which could be followed up and where necessary be issued with a £80 fixed penalty fine.

Rose advised the public could get a supply of poo bags free of charge from the local library and if there were any areas that needed an additional bin for the disposal of poo bags these should be brought to her attention and she would work with fellow SBC officers to provide them. The Provost advised there were over 80 bins in the Kelso area where poo bags could be deposited.

SBC Councillor Weatherston welcomed this new appointment which would help educate the public on the hazards of dog fouling. He advised he was still very concerned about dog fouling on open spaces and in particular sports pitches and play parks. He advised under current law dogs could foul on open spaces, sports pitches

and play parks and the onus was on the owner to pick it up. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he was still working to get current legislation changed.

Rose advised if Councillors needed to contact her to do so through the Secretary and the Provost undertook to publicise links on reporting dog fouling on the KCC Facebook page. The Provost thanked Rose for attending the meeting.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton had tendered her apologies but had reported the voting for the Great British High Street closed on 7 October and an awards ceremony would be held in London in November to announce the winners.

A Christmas subcommittee had been set up who had held their first meeting and plans were well under way. A new leaflet is being designed highlighting the events that are happening throughout December. The group had secured the market stalls again and these have been offered to Visit Kelso members to help promote their wares and so far there had been a good uptake.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2019

The minutes held on Tuesday 10 September 2019 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor James Boulton.

Matters arising

Decommissioning Play Parks

The Provost advised the public consultation was still open and there was no further update.

Borders Railway

Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update and SBC Councillor Robson advised the proposal is to get the idea of bringing the railway back to Kelso on the radar screen, then we can think about pushing for a feasibility study. The Provost suggested having a discussion with Campaign for Borders Railway whose main itinerary was to extend the line south via Hawick to Carlisle. SBC Councillor Robson advised the Community Council had already requested via the Local Delivery Plan that the line was protected but suggested the KCC write to the South of Scotland Enterprise organisation. Councillor Robson undertook to provide details.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges was delighted to advise Kelso had been awarded first place in the 2019 Floral Gateway competition town entry and thanked all the volunteers who had been involved. Councillor Hodges advised they had received a trophy, certificate and a cheque for £200. The Provost and Councillors applauded Councillor Hodges and the volunteers for this achievement and the Provost undertook to display the trophy and certificate in one of the Town Hall windows.

Councillor Hodges advised her main concern was planting up the War Memorial Garden which was now empty. She advised that unless immediate action was taken the beds would not be planted up in time for Remembrance Sunday. SBC Councillor

Robson advised he had been in discussion with the British Legion who were willing to offer assistance. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he and fellow SBC Councillor would be happy to secure funding for plants for the War Memorial and if necessary, employ a contractor to carry out the work

Councillor Hodges advised she was disappointed no volunteers had come forward to sit on the KIB Committee and advised there were vacancies for a Vice Chair, Rota Secretary and committee member. Councillor Hodges advised that without a full committee it was going to be impossible to move forward. Councillor Hodges asked whether a representative from the British Legion and Visit Kelso would be prepared to sit on the Committee as the town needed a more co-ordinated approach.

The Provost reminded members KIB's original remit was to enhance the entrances to the town but with the reduction in service provision, the workload was too much for the group of volunteers.

The Secretary advised Mayfields would be planting up the planters immediately in front of the Town Hall on the 23 October

Councillor Hodges advised she, the Provost and Secretary would be attending a Blooming Borders network meeting on the 23 October at Lauder and would report back.

Councillor Cooper asked for an update on grass cutting at the Cobby and Mayfields and SBC Councillor Robson advised SBC were still cutting it but once the service stopped it would be possible to hire an operative and the equipment.

The Secretary advised a bag pack at Sainsburys had been arranged for Sunday 29 December between 10.00 and 16.00 and she would contact Councillors closer to the date for assistance.

Public Toilets

It was noted there was no update.

VE Day 75 – 8 May 2020

The Provost advised he had met with Alistair Hutton, Steven Patterson, and SBC Councillor Weatherston to start making arrangements for VE Day 75 and further discussions would take place in the New Year. The Square and British Legion had been booked for the celebrations on Friday 8 May which would consist of an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, colour party parade to Square, a proclamation of peace, a toast to the heroes of WW2 and a ringing out of peace to be followed by entertainment in the British Legion. On Sunday 10 May a Kelso Churches Together service would hopefully be held in the Square.

Councillor Tomczyk asked that the Polish soldiers be remembered and the Provost advised an invitation would be sent to the Polish Consul in Edinburgh

Questions from the Public

Councillor Hodges commented the pavement at the Haven was inaccessible and SBC Weatherston advised the hedge was due to be cut.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised the following –

KIB had received a congratulations card from Margaret Campbell and she had also made a donation to funds.

The Secretary confirmed she had written to the organisers of Tour of Britain and Kelso USA.

The Secretary highlighted the consultation on CCTV which closes on the 31 October and asked for Councillor's comments. The Secretary was asked to recirculate the consultation and co-ordinate responses.

The Secretary advised she had ordered a wreath from Kelso Royal British Legion

Provost's Report

The Provost advised he had recently attended the official opening of Murray House and Evanthea House the new dementia care units based at Queens House. The Provost advised he attended various community group meetings and would be attending the public forum on the Community Fund Review at Galashiels the following evening.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised that Scottish Government were reviewing Local Governance in light of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as "Local Democracy Matters". In the Scottish Borders this had manifested itself by –

- 1) The five year review of the Community Council Scheme – the first meeting of the working party took place on the 19 September. The representative for Cheviot is Matthew Ladds with substitute Stuart Turner. Councillor McGrath and the Provost had attended as observers. No substantive details were discussed and the next meeting is scheduled to take place in two months' time. It was suggested it could take two years to complete the review but members were confident it could be done within one year. It has been agreed the minutes will be circulated to all Community Councils. Jenny Wilkinson, Clerk to the Council is co-ordinating matters.
- 2) SBC have engaged the Scottish Community Development Centre on the subject of "strengthening local participation" to produce a report on the five Area Partnership and the Community Fund Review 2019. They are carrying out similar exercise in other parts of Scotland. A response has been completed by the Provost on behalf of KCC.
- 3) Councillor McGrath advised a summit took place on the 30 September on the reinstatement of Local Working Groups under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act 2014 as part of the structure reporting to the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) through the Strategic Planning Board, with the objective of integrating most of the NHS with SBC. These deal mainly with the wellbeing of the community. They have been dormant for over 12 months due to lack of funding through the IJB and it was thought they could be combined with the Area Partnerships. It was pointed out that the 2014 and 2015 Community Empowerment Acts which covered the Area Partnerships could not be merged

as they were two different pieces of primary legislation and reporting structures. Funding has now been provided and the reinstated meetings will commence shortly. Councillor McGrath and Cooper will continue as members on the Cheviot Locality Working Group.

Any Other Business

It was noted all other business had been discussed elsewhere in the minutes.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the last meeting had been held on Wednesday 25 September at 6.30pm at Kelso High School. He advised one of the topics discussed was Transport Planning for 2020. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised additional savings needed to be made on bus transportation which was problematic as the service was poorly used but it was important for those members of public who had no alternative form of transport, particularly getting to work. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised there would be some changes to service provision.

Councillor Tomczyk commented he found the process at Area Partnership meetings odd as, at the September meeting which he attended everyone present was allowed to vote including CC members and members of the public. This meant that decision on grant applications could be biased... SBC Councillor Weatherston advised all Councils had a certain amount of their budget allocated for community projects which the public voted on.

Parking /Traffic management

SBC Councillor Robson advised the review of parking issues had been considered by the Council's Executive Committee and there would be no change to the traffic warden system and there was no funding for the introduction of decriminalising parking. However there would be limited funding available for additional car parking signage, updating single and double yellow lining, parking bays and dropped kerbs. SBC Councillor Robson advised there would be an introduction to a common form of waiting times across all Border towns.

SBC Councillor Robson commented he would welcome the Community Council's views on how improvements could be made to parking, e.g. additional parking bays, disabled parking etc and suggested time was spent at the November meeting looking at how improvements could be made with the limited funds available. SBC Councillor Robson will bring along copies of town street maps to the next meeting.

Councillor McGrath commented that even with the introduction of the Community Action Team, additional policing was necessary to enforce parking regulations and suggested Special Constables could be used.

Councillor Tomczyk suggested a wider range of stakeholders needed to be involved in any decision on parking.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised funding had been received from Churches Together which would be used to replace the fence at the Kelso Community Memorial Garden.

The Provost asked for an update on replacing the damaged lamp on the old Bridge and SBC Councillor Weatherston undertook to chase this up.

Consideration of Licenses

An application for premises licence from Scott Hunter, Hunter's Butchers, 44 Bridge Street, Kelso to sell alcohol on the premises from Sunday to Thursday 11.00 am to 12 midnight and on a Friday and Saturday 11.00am to 1.00 am. Councillor Tomczyk commented he had concerns that the hours were excessive and wondered why alcohol should be served until this time. The Provost and SBC Councillor Weatherston advised that the extended hours would only happen on an ad hoc basis eg Xmas NY Civic Week private function and this application would cover this eventuality but normally the premises would only serve alcohol until the last client left which would be earlier and this would negate Hunters having to go through the process and cost to apply for an additional licence. The Community Council supported this application.

Consideration of Plans

Erection of garden shed, greenhouse and redecoration to external doors and gates, St Leonards, Maxwell Lane, Kelso TD5 7BB (19/01421/FUL). (18/01400/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

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