

Minute of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 7:00 in Kelso Town Hall



- PRESENT:** Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors Peter Cooper, Paul Roberts, Shirley Redgrave, James McCombie; Colin McGrath and Toni Oliver, Scottish Borders Councillors Euan Robson.
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Owen Adams, James Boulton, Gail Watson; SBCs Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston; Yvonne Oliver (Secretary).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Claire Fletcher (Visit Kelso); PC Paul Owenson and member of the public Dr Tebbs.

- *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.*
- *Councillors to make a declaration of interest prior to discussion.*
- *All correspondence to be circulated via the Secretary.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct questions through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the June meeting.

Police Matters

The June MMWR had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Provost highlighted his disappointment in seeing an increase in the number of antisocial behaviours reported and stressed the importance of all incidents being reported to the Police.

Councillor Roberts advised there had been a dramatic decrease in the number of complaints from residents with youths banging on doors in Roxburgh Street and thanked the Police for their interventions. However he went on to advise the number of people driving the wrong way down Roxburgh Street was still ongoing. PC Owenson advised he did patrol the area but had never come across any wrong doers.

Councillor Oliver advised she had witnessed a couple of youths using the Kelso High School car park as a race track.

Councillor Roberts commented most of the speed cameras in both the Borders and Northumberland had been covered up with Camera Not In Use labels on them. PC

Owenson advised he wasn't aware but suggested that the cameras were operated from a central office and there may not be enough resources to administer them.

Councillor McGrath advised there had been an incident at the local dentist and asked for an update. PC Owenson commented he was not aware but would speak to staff about the importance of reporting incidents.

The Provost asked that parking be kept on the agenda and thanked PC Owenson for attending the meeting.

Visit Kelso

Claire Fletcher attended the meeting on behalf of Visit Kelso and gave the following report –

85 hanging baskets and 2 troughs have been put on display and there would be a 12 week programme of watering to prolong their life. Thanks to Philiphaugh Gardens for providing the plants and planting.

Visit Kelso had received an award from Charity Begins at Home and these funds would be used towards the cost of the hanging baskets and the planned Christmas events.

Annual subscriptions are being processed and they are hoping for a good uptake.

Wendy, who has been with Visit Kelso since its inception in May 2015, and latterly a paid employee doing their social media, has decided to retire. They are actively looking for a replacement.

Claire commented that the new planting in the Square was not as colourful as the annuals and the Provost advised this was a trial and anticipated the new shrubs providing a good display in due course.

There were no questions and the Provost thanked Claire for her attendance.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2024

The Minute of meeting of Tuesday 14 May 2024 had been circulated and was approved. The Minute was proposed by Councillor Paul Roberts and seconded by Councillor James McCombie.

Matters arising from the Minute

SBC current position – Councillor McGrath commented that he had given apologies at the previous meeting when this matter was discussed and asked that the minute be amended to reflect this. SBC Councillor Robson gave an update later in the meeting.

Questions From The Public

Dr Tebbs was in attendance and wished to have an update on potential Twinning opportunities. She advised that she had been involved in other twinning exercises and was keen and enthusiastic to get involved in Kelso's future programmes. The Provost advised previous Twinning events had been run through the local schools and he was in the process of reinvigorating twinning with Orchies, France. He had written to the Mayor of Orchies and was awaiting a response.

Councillor McGrath commented that Kelso USA was keen to reconnect with Kelso UK and it was hoped some future Highland Games event could be organised.

SBC Councillor Robson commented that he was in talks with the head of languages at Kelso High School who were organising foreign pen pals exchanges and potential visits. He advised that if future visits were organised to Kelso UK, grants for a civic ceremony could be applied for. He also suggested that as part of the celebration of Kelso Abbey in 2028 there was potential to organise an event with France.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised that the next litter-pick was taking place on Thursday 20 June 2024 at 6pm.

He advised the planting at Bridgend Park was complete and KIB were negotiating with SBC to adopt the middle bed which is currently filled with large conifers, which detract from the other beds. He advised positive feedback had been received on the replacement planting at Bridge End. KIB are working towards changing beds with annual bedding plants to permanent planting which is part of SBC's greener, environmental ethos. As a result this will lead to a reduction in maintenance of the beds.

Community-Led Planning

The Provost advised a meeting had been held on 28 May 2024 and had been well attended and a follow up meeting would be arranged but he hoped that community groups would get involved in joining the steering group.

Scottish Borders Community Council Network

SBC Councillor Robson gave the following update which had been received from Claire Malster, Participation Officer, SBC

There are no office bearers in place.

It is approximately 18 months since the Network last met. Regarding the website the domain name has lapsed as the last payment relating to the website was 2020/21.

The latest accounts submitted to SBC was a draft of the 2021/22 accounts. The annual support grant of £1,250 was last paid in October 2021.

There is a Network representative on the Community Planning Partnership Board. This was put in place via a participation request, agreed by Council in August 2022, under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. We are under the process of reviewing the participation request and questioning how the views of the Community Councils are reflected at Board meetings. All Community Councils will be contacted for their views.

Kelso Community Council had received an email from Clare Malster, requesting that two representatives from Kelso be included in the new Working Group to review the current model – The Provost and Councillor James McCombie will be the representatives from Kelso which was agreed by those present.

Comments have been made by Community Councillors that locality networks, as they have in Berwickshire, may be more effective than a Border wide network. The current model of SBCCN doesn't work. The only feedback that ever gets received to Kelso Community Council is the Community Empowerment Act. Some Community Councillors commented that it was a vehicle to allow some Community Councillors to work on their own personal agendas which they are unable to do so at their own Community Council.

The Provost will complete the review, when this becomes available.

Provost Report

The Provost advised:

- 1) The Laying of the Wreath Ceremony at the War Memorial would take place on Sunday 14 July followed by the Church Service which was being held in Kelso Old Parish Church. All Councillors should arrive by 5.45pm at the War Memorial.
- 2) The Bussing Ceremony would take place on Wednesday 17 July at 6.15pm in The Square followed by refreshments in the Tait Hall.
- 3) He wished to introduce a "Provost Award" to a member of the public who had demonstrated outstanding duties to the community. The Community Council supported this.
- 4) He was investigating installing a large TV monitor in one of the Town Hall windows to promote what was happening in Kelso, particularly for visitors. This will be funded from the Kelso Walking Festival surplus.
- 5) He had attended the CBAH annual awards event and had collected a £500 grant which will be used to replace the Town Hall window boxes with more appropriate planting.

6) He was heavily involved with the Kelso Civic Week and would be attending various events.

Secretary's Report

Events/Correspondence

The Secretary had tendered her apologies but all correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary was attached to the Minute.

It was noted that QME Care were hosting a 70th anniversary event on the 28 June and all Councillors were invited.

Consultations

It was noted there were no current consultations.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Patient Access NHS

Councillor Roberts advised there was an issue with accessing the NHS patient access app to order repeat prescriptions and make appointments etc. SBC Councillor Robson advised he would pass this onto SBC Councillor Weatherston who was the health representative.

Grass cutting in cemeteries

It was noted that grass cutting had been carried out but some members of the public had reported that there were occasions when this had been done without respect to the graves.

Hedges along Edinburgh Road

Councillor Oliver asked for an update and SBC Councillor Robson advised this would be done after the birds stopped nesting.

Bus stop at Woodmarket

SBC Councillor Robson advised that there will be a change in the location of the bus stop in Woodmarket. This will move from its current position opposite the Post Office and will run further down in front of the bus stop opposite the crossing. This will be marked for normal parking spaces.

Bus service to Yetholm and Morebattle and surrounding villages

SBC Councillor Robson advised SBC were in negotiation with providers and this would result in a revised bus service to these villages and he will bring an update to the September meeting.

Rosebank Cemetery

SBC Councillor Robson advised improvements had been made to the footpaths.

Live Borders

SBC Councillor Robson advised there was a review of Live Borders who were currently experiencing financial issues and that services may have to shrink to maintain sustainability. There would be a public consultation. He commented that Kelso Library was a Carnegie one and therefore belonged to the community and the Tait Hall was owned by the Kelso Common Good.

Councillor Cooper asked if the pavements on Inch Road by the Kelso Health Centre could be reviewed as they were dangerous.

The Provost advised the toilets in Shedden Park are closed due to continued vandalism and would be for the foreseeable future.

Consideration of Licensing applications

Provisional Premises Licence – Off the Square Kelso to introduce a bistro - Approved

Provisional Premises Licence – The Cream Chimneys, Kelso to introduce a bistro- Approved

Consideration of Plans

24/00622/LBC | Repairs and refurbishment to existing windows | 1 Broomlands House Ednam Road Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7SW – Approved.

24/00024/RREF | Re-orientation of 5no dwellinghouses (revision to planning permission 06/02027/FUL), erection of an additional 12 dwellinghouses and associated roads and infrastructure | Phase 2 Land At East Broomlands Riverside Drive Kelso Scottish Borders – Approved.

Any other business

The Provost advised plans were being developed to celebrate the 900th anniversary of Kelso Abbey in 2028. He advised the Kelso Heritage Society and Lodge Kelso & Tweed 58 were interested in being involved. It was hoped an invitation would be extended to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Councillor McGrath mentioned a new business in Hadden called Flouer Flowers which promote peony roses.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall.