

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 10 March 2020, at 7.00pm



PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh (part), Jim McCombie, Colin McGrath, Paul Roberts, Harry Tomczyk, Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tommy Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Kevin Janiak (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Jean Douglas, Marie Warner, Jeanie Douglas, Mr V Coulter and Mr Raymond Bothwick residents from Rutherford Square.

APOLOGIES Police Scotland PC Rachel Stark and PC Owenson and Councillor Ian Brown

- *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.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct question through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the March meeting and thanked Rebecca Rogers from Alzheimer's Scotland and John Lafferty from Kelso Rotary Club for attending early to do give training on dementia awareness. This was well received by the Councillors who attended.

Police Matters

Police Scotland had tendered their apologies and the February report had previously been circulated. There was no feedback.

Visit Kelso

Tina advised last month's Visit Kelso meeting concentrated on brainstorming around the Great British High Street win and how best to use the money to promote the town.

Tina advised as part of the application they would create an app to drive people to the website and gain more visitors to the town. Visit Kelso are currently looking at costings for this as this will determine how much they can achieve and if there are any funds left for other projects. There were a number of other ideas so it will be a case of watch this space and mind the pennies. Councillor John Bassett offered to frame the two plaques, Tina thanked him for his offer but advised this was already in hand.

Tina advised Visit Kelso would be holding their AGM on Thursday 26 March, 6.30pm at the Race Course and everyone was welcome.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2020

The minutes held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 were approved subject to some minor amendments by Councillor Tomczyk. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor John Bassett.

Matters arising

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Horsburgh advised a very successful Meet and Greet event had taken place on 12 February. The new KIB committee had met and were currently drawing up plans to ensure there was a suitable floral display in the town.

It was agreed the Community Litter Picks would resume at Easter and following feedback the timings of these would alternate between morning, afternoon and some mid-week evenings. Councillor Horsburgh advised local children's groups would be encouraged to participate in these.

Rhona Hastie urged Community Councillors to participate in the maintenance rotas which would start in April.

Councillor Horsburgh advised the "community" water bowser had been located and Mark Hay was happy for this to be used for the initial watering and then arrangements would need to be put in place to pay for regular watering. Councillor Roberts advised he had a tow bar and would be happy to collect the bowser when it was needed.

Kelso USA visit 2020

Councillor Colin McGrath advised he had been in contact with LaDonna Page in Kelso USA and had confirmed the visit would take place between 5 and 12 May and she and the President (her father) and two other members of the Council with their partners would be visiting.

Councillor McGrath advised accommodation for four of the visitors would need to be organised as one couple would be staying at the Cross Keys Hotel.

Councillor McGrath proposed the following itinerary –

Wednesday 6 May – a VIP visit to Kelso Races
Thursday 7 May – Civic function
Friday 8 May – Attendance at the VE Day celebrations at War Memorial and British Legion
Saturday 9 May – a visit to Floors Castle / historical walking tour of Kelso
Sunday 10 May – VE Day celebration church service in the Square
Monday 11 May – Visit to Edinburgh by train.

Councillor McGrath asked if there was any funding available and the Provost commented he would need to apply for funding as KCC as no available funds.

The Provost advised Margaret Campbell had a supply of the 2020 Kelso calendars which she was happy to donate as a gift to the visitors and Hazel Woodsell from Kelso Connections had offered three books on “We are from Kelso”.

The Provost thanked Councillor McGrath for his work on this visit.

VE Day Celebrations

The Provost advised he had organised a meeting of interested parties and asked the Secretary to circulate the notes. The outline is -

Friday 8th May 2020 – there will be an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed by, in the Square, an address to the community before delivering a Tribute to the Millions and a Cry for Peace around the World. This will be followed by a ringing out for peace. After this there would be entertainment in the British Legion with a 1940s style singer.

Sunday 10th May 2020 - 11am United Church Service in The Square - The Provost advised the Dukes of Roxburgh and Buccleuch would be invited to these events.

The Provost advised the six Americans from Kelso City Council, Washington USA would be invited to these events.

The Provost advised KCC had applied to SBC for funding for these celebrations.

Councillor Tomczyk ask that the contribution of the Polish forces should be adequately represented as many Polish soldiers had been stationed in Kelso and that Polish forces were not allowed to participate in the original VE parades so as not to offend the USSR. Councillor Bassett commented representatives from the Polish community should be invited to these events and the Provost advised he would be inviting a representative from the Polish Consulate in Edinburgh.

Walking Festival 2023

The Secretary advised she had submitted a registration of interest to host the 2023 Walking Festival. She advised she would arrange to meet Hazel Woodsell to get background information on the 2007 Festival which was last hosted in Kelso.

Questions from the Public

Residents from Rutherford Square were in attendance to raise concerns around parking there. Mr Bothwick advised there were only 5 spaces for 26 flats and some elderly residents had no option but to park in the Knowes car park. The situation was proving difficult as non-residents were also parking in the area and more importantly blocking the emergency entrance. Mr Bothwick advised he had spoken to both Police Scotland and SBC but was unable to get a solution and asked if the Community Council could help.

The Provost advised Rutherford Square and the surrounding land belonged to SBHA and perhaps better signage was needed including yellow hatching to raise awareness.

SBC Councillors Mountford and Weatherston undertook to have a conversation with SBHA to see if they could find a solution and report back to KCC.

Mr Bothwick also commented there were 5 trees in the area and wondered whether some could be taken away to create an additional parking space.

SBC Councillor Robson commented if any of the residents in Rutherford Square were eligible for a disabled parking space this could be arranged.

It was agreed KCC would give an update to the residents of Rutherford Square.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave the following update –

- Traffic Regulation Order – Disabled Persons' parking places this had been circulated and no objections received.
- SBC Local Community Path Maintenance Grant had been processed and approved enabling the Kelso Heritage Society to be awarded £450.
- Annual insurance renewal – the Secretary had notified the insurers of the ownership of the Kelso Community Memorial Garden and our plans to lead on the 75th VE Day celebrations in May 2020.
- The Kelso Community Memorial Garden had been submitted to the Scottish Civic Trust "My Place Awards" but had sadly been unsuccessful.
- An invitation has been received from the Kelso Laddies Association to attend the Declaration of the Laddie on Friday 17 April.
- An invitation has been received from SBC to attend the official opening of the Kelso – Sprouston multi use path opening event on 23 April. Councillors Cooper McCombie and Tomczyk will be attending.
- An invitation has been received from John Lamont MP to attend a Community Engagement event on 3 April. Councillors McGrath and Tomczyk will be attending.

CCTV account

The Secretary advised the CCTV account had remained dormant since September 2014 and asked Councillors what they wanted to do with this account. The Provost advised the account had been established by Bob Jack in the 1980s with grants and donations from the public and traders. The last time the account was used was to

purchase CCTV equipment for the new toilet area in 2014. The Secretary advised the balance at the account stands at £1377.30.

After discussion Councillor Tomczyk said that current SBC funding for KCC was inadequate and proposed the account was closed and the proceeds be split equally between the KIB and KCC accounts. This was seconded by Councillor Bassett and unanimously accepted.

The Provost advised this would be important for the KCC general account as there currently was no buffer and the account was in danger of going into the red. He advised the annual grant had not increased in six years and asked for an update on the Community Council Review. SBC Councillor Robson advised a long overdue meeting was scheduled to take place at the end of the month.

Provost's Report

The Provost advised he had attended the launch of Kelso Quest on 20 February – this is a safe space for young people. The Provost had also attended the great Borders River Clean up on the 1 March which had attracted 30 volunteers.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised he would be meeting Jenni Craig SBC Director on Friday to discuss Community Empowerment.

Any Other Business

All business had been covered elsewhere.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

SBC Councillor Mountford advised there had been no meetings.

Parking /Traffic management

Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update on the parking review and SBC Councillor Robson explained that the next stage of the Borders wide parking review was the revision of Traffic Regulation Orders in each of the towns in the local authority area. These were being done two at a time and Kelso could be in the next couple to be considered. It was therefore very important that the Community Council came to final conclusions by June as to the revisions to parking which it would like to see including for example, altering yellow lines or parking bays, changing parking bay designations including taxi ranks and loading bays, parking at Rutherford Square and any other relevant changes. The new TRO for Kelso would likely be consulted upon in 2021 and implemented later in that year.

Councillor Cooper suggested a 30 minute waiting time be introduced in certain areas of the town for those members of the public that just needed to pop into one shop. SBC Robson advised he would include this in the plan and commented from a Police

Scotland point of view this would be easier to implement rather than a two hour waiting time.

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had reported the faulty lights on the benches in front of the town hall after our last meeting but to date these have not been repaired. Councillor Robson advised due to the recent flooding in the area resources had to be concentrated on Newcastle and Hawick. However post meeting Councillor Robson advised that materials to either carry out repairs or replace some of the fittings would need to be ordered. Due to the delivery timescales involved in procuring the required materials they were unable to place the orders until our new financial year in April and we will then be able to programme the necessary works.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no license applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The following plan was considered.

20/00225/FUL – Replacement windows, 21 Shedden Park, Kelso TD5 7AJ. The Community Council looked at these applications and considered all of the planning Policies relevant to the area of the proposal and were happy to support the plans.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 April 2020.

APPENDIX

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS FEB 2020		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
11.02.20	KCC approved minutes submitted to the KCC and Visit Kelso FB pages for posting.	For information
	Email to Rotary Club/Alzheimer's Scotland inviting them to attend the next KCC meeting on 10 March to give presentation. This has been accepted.	For information
	Secretary requested electronic copy of SBC TRO on Disabled Persons' Parking Places. This has been received and circulated for comments	For information
12.02.20	Traffic Regulation - Road Closure –Resurfacing - A699 Teviot Bridge, Kelso	Circulated
	Traffic Regulation - Road Closure – Resurfacing - A699 Rutherford Lodge	Circulated
	Scottish Government National Planning Framework – meeting Hawick on 25 February between 1 – 4	Circulated
	You're invited - South of Scotland heritage, culture & built environment networking event – 19 February – Dumfries	Circulated
	SBC News release: Joint Older People's services review report highlights positive progress and improvement in all areas	Circulated
	Traffic Regulation - Road Closure – Patching work B6401 Morebattle to Primside Farm	Circulated
	KCC annual insurance renewal documentation submitted	For information
16.02.20	News release: Severe flood warnings result in three rivers reaching record high levels	Circulated
	Councillor Tomczyk submitted Kelso Memorial Wall Garden to My Place Awards – Scottish Civic Trust	For information
	SCOTTISH COMMUNITY COUNCILS & VE DAY 75 - 8TH MAY 2020	Circulated
	Webinar - How Can Place Best Support Scotland's Health and Wellbeing?" - Tuesday 25 Feb 2020 - 10:30am-11:30am	Circulated
	Public Consultation - Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for the Scottish Borders required under the Community Justice Scotland Act 2016	Circulated
	SBC Budget Briefing – Tuesday 18 February 2020	Circulated
	Friends of Kelso Library - Events Listing - March - July 2020	For information
	KIB agenda for meeting on 28 February circulated	For information
	Additional insurance cover for VE Day celebrations in May 2020 drafted	For information
19.02.20	Do you live with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME)? CRM:0051435	Circulated

	Kelso- Sprouston multi use path opening event 23 April 2020	Circulated
	News release: Applications now open to join new partnership body to help influence direction of Regional Economy	Circulated
	EU & Citizens Rights - Briefing Sessions for Local Government and the Third sector – Galashiels – 16 March	Circulated
25.02.20	PUBLIC CONSULTATION: DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE ON TWEEDBANK – VISION FOR GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY, A COMMUNITY FOR THE FUTURE	Circulated
	VE Celebration Fund	Circulated
26.02.20	Call to join new partnership body for South of Scotland	Circulated
	Confirmation SBC have awarded £450 for KHS path maintenance fund	For information
01.03.20	Applied for VE Celebration application form and guidance	For information
03.03.20	John Lamont MP Community Council Engagement Meeting - 3rd April 2020 4pm	2 reps to be nominated
05.03.20	KLA invitation to Laddie Declaration on 17 April	Circulated
	Shed Meeting & Rugby Club Assistance	Circulated
	Views sought on potential public places alcohol ban in four Borders towns	Circulated
	News release: Your Bus Matters events come to Teviot and Liddesdale	Circulated
	Police Scotland February report	Circulated
	Planning application	Circulated