

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at 7:00 pm in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors James Boulton, Shirley Redgrave, Peter Cooper, Paul Roberts, James McCombie, Owen Adams and Gail Watson; Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston, Euan Robson and Simon Mountford; Yvonne Oliver (Secretary); Claire Fletcher (Visit Scotland); Dean Weatherston and Ryan Whellans (Members of the Public)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Toni Oliver, Christine Stewart and Colin McGrath

- *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 meeting. He reported that Councillor Colin McGrath was continuing to make good progress.

Police Matters

The January MMWR was still to be received and circulated. It was noted that there had recently been Mobile Speed Units in place at both Shedden Park and Angraflat Road.

Visit Kelso

Claire Fletcher, representing Visit Kelso, advised members that Visit Kelso had held their first meeting of 2025 in January. It was noted that they had received excellent feedback on the Christmas Market, both regarding the stalls in the Tait Hall and the activities held in Kelso Square. Preparations were now under way for the 2025 event, which would be held on 6 and 7 December 2025 (one week earlier than 2024). Already, the number of requests for stalls was sitting at 25 for Saturday 6 December and 23 for Sunday 7 December.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2025

The Minutes of meeting of Tuesday 14 January 2025 had been circulated and were approved. The Minutes were proposed by Councillor Paul Roberts and seconded by Councillor James Boulton.

Matters arising from the Minute

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Questions From The Public

(i) J Regulski – Berrymoss Court – Trees between Sydenham Court/Berrymoss Court (SBHA)

The Provost advised he had received an email from Ms J Regulski, in 2023, regarding the trees between Sydenham Court/Berrymoss Court, Kelso. He had passed Ms Regulski's concerns on to Scottish Borders Housing Association, as owners of the ground where the trees were situated but had not received a reply. He sent a reminder to SBHA in 2023 and another in April 2024 but has still heard nothing back from them. Councillor Gail Watson reminded members that she and SBC Councillor Euan Robson had walked round the area in question and Councillor Robson had provided a detailed list to SBHA of the trees requiring attention. Councillor Robson agreed to follow this matter up with SBHA.

(ii) W Luke – query re Speeding Signs

Mr Bill Luke, Farrier's Court, Kelso had contacted the Provost to ask if there was any chance of "20mph" signs or "Slow – Children Playing" signs being put up on the housing estate where he lived? SBC Councillor T Weatherston said SBC would not put signs up in a housing settlement – however, SBC Councillor Simon Mountford would investigate road painting and "Slow, Children Playing" signs.

(iii) Query from Mr and Mrs D Jackson

A complaint had been received from Mr and Mrs D Jackson regarding the condition of the pavement running from Hendersyde Park to Broomlands School. SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that this had been noted and was scheduled to be repaired.

(iv) Damage to Lamppost on Rennie Bridge

The Provost said he was dismayed to see that one of the old lamp-posts on the Rennie bridge had lost its lamp and fittings during storm Eowyn. SBC Councillor Euan Robson undertook to follow this up and see if the lamp could be repaired.

Kelso In Bloom

The Provost advised that a few plants needed to be replaced in Kelso Square following Storm Eowyn and also that a tree had been stolen. KIB was always on the lookout for volunteers.

The Provost was delighted to report that Kelso in Bloom had received a donation of £150 from Kelso Ornithological Society for which he wished KIB's thanks to be noted.

It was noted that Kelso Christmas Lights Committee, and the Poppy Group, had also received similar donations and the Provost undertook to pass on their thanks also.

SBCCN

There was no further update at this time.

Provost Report

(i) Opening of Tweed Fishing Ceremony

This had been a very successful event and the Provost thanked everyone who had come along and participated in the ceremony.

(ii) Town Hall Meeting with Property Officer

The Provost had recently met with Lauren Hendry, SBC Property Officer, regarding the current state of the Town Hall. He was very concerned at the lack of cleaning being carried out, particularly on the stairs and outside the Fishing Museum along with the entrance between the front gate and front door. These were areas used on a regular basis, particularly for wedding ceremonies, and it was not good practice for them to look neglected. Also, the windows in the Council Chamber require repair and the front door lock requires replacement / repair – the security of the building is in jeopardy unless something is done in the very near future. The Provost understands there are serious budgetary constraints but these matters are simply general housekeeping. SBC Councillor Simon Mountford asked that the Provost make a list of the outstanding items

requiring attention and email it to him, whereby he would take the matter up with the Estates Department.

(iii) St Andrew's Church Fellowship Group

The Provost advised the meeting that he had recently given a talk to the St Andrew's Church Fellowship Group, which had seemed to be enjoyed by all present.

(iv) 2025/26 Budget

The Provost advised that the proposed 2025/26 Budget had just been received into the Community Council mailbox. It was 800 pages long so had picked out some points. He did notice, however, that the Community Council Grant was not being increased and, more worryingly, the Neighbourhood Support Fund money was being halved. SBC Councillor T Weatherston said this was a pity as the Panel worked very well together and a lot of good initiatives had come out of it.

The Provost was also concerned that it looked as if the Community Action Team were being decommissioned, however SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston intimated that the Police will not be reduced, but won't be funded by SBC.

Secretary's Report

Events/Correspondence

Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary was attached to the Minute.

Councillor Christine Stewart wished her thanks to be noted for the Community Council's initial help with the setting up of a new Group called New Parents Kelso.

Consultations

The Provost requested that Councillors submit their responses to the following consultations:

1. "Proposed School Holidays"
2. "New Scottish Borders Council Sport and Physical Activity Strategy"

Scottish Borders Council Report

(i) Storm Eowyn Cleanup

The Provost commented on how quickly things were cleared up following Storm Eowyn and expressed his thanks to all agencies involved.

(ii) Lifebuoys

SBC Councillor Euan Robson reported that, unfortunately, there were two lifebuoys missing. However, the Provost advised that he thought one of them was lying in the field opposite the Roxburghe Castle site. Councillor Robson said the Police had been informed but any missing lifebuoys would be replaced out of the Contingency Fund.

(iii) Shedden Park Toilets/Croft Park Toilets

The Provost reported that he was having a provisional meeting with the Secretary of Kelso Cricket Club on 13 February 2025 to discuss if, and how, the Community Council could support Kelso Cricket Club.

It was also noted that, regarding the proposed takeover of the Public Conveniences at Croft Park by Kelso Rugby Football Club, there will be an eight-week consultation.

(iv) Baptist Church Barriers

Following an enquiry as to why there were barriers outside the Baptist Church on Bowmont Street, members were advised that it was due to falling masonry. Ownership of the building was trying to be established.

(v) Shedden Park Wall

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that the damaged wall would be rebuilt but it was a case of when the Stonemason was available.

(vi) Old Rosebank Cemetery Paths

The Provost advised that he had received a great number of complaints about the state of the footpaths in Rosebank New Cemetery, whereby they were full of craters. SBC Councillor Euan Robson undertook to make enquiries and report back to the Community Council.

(vii) The Square Lighting

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised the meeting that an electrician was going to put together a scheme for the improvement of the lighting in Kelso Square and Councillor Robson was hopeful that something would be done.

(viii) The Square Telephone Box

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised that this matter was in the hands of BT's Heritage Group, and he will keep chasing them for an answer as to whether or not the red telephone box will be replaced.

(ix) Pinnaclehill Woodland

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that the Kelso Common Good Fund had looked at Pinnaclehill Woodland and found there to be no major issues and they would try to ensure its maintenance for the benefit of the public and to encourage biodiversity. It was hoped to involve primary schools, volunteers, etc. The pathways were also requiring attention, and it was suggested that perhaps the Community Payback/Unpaid Work Team could become involved.

(x) Horsemarket Toilets

Members were advised that there had been a small amount of vandalism at the Horsemarket Toilets but this had been picked up on CCTV.

(xi) Graffiti on Gregg's Wall/Cobby Wall

The Provost advised that there was some offensive graffiti on the outside of Gregg's, Bakers, Wall. As this was not SBC property, SBC was not allowed to get rid of it. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston said he would deal with this.

It was also noted that there was graffiti on the Cobby Wall, which wall would be the responsibility of the Floors Estate. SBC Councillor Euan Robson undertook to deal with this.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no new Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

- (i) 25/00124/LBC** – Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, The Hermitage, Hermitage Lane, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7AN – **No objections**
- (ii) 25/00125.FUL** – Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, The Hermitage, Hermitage Lane, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7AN – **No objections**

- (iii) **25/00127/LBC** – Alterations to shop front and installation of retractable sun canopy, 40-41 The Square, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7HL – **No objections**
- (iv) **25/00034/FUL** – Alterations to shop front and installation of retractable sun canopy, 40-41 The Square, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7HL – **No objections**

Any other business

- (i) The Provost advised that he was hoping to bury the Time Capsule in either April or May. He has spoken to the Roads Foreman to see when he will be available.
- (ii) Members were advised that there had been complaints from the public regarding the state of the pavement from the junction of Croft Road to the Public Toilets building. It was feared that the pavement was going to disintegrate into the park. A query had been asked as to whether there were any grants available for this type of remedial work but the general opinion was that there wouldn't be funding available for this until the new financial year.
- (iii) It was noted that the lights at the Shedden Park Skate Park required to be re-set. Unfortunately, the electrician was unable to source a set of keys, but SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that Ali Hay would have a set.
- (iv) SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised that SBC now had all the required information from the Starbucks' agents – a decision was awaited.
- (v) SBC Councillor Euan Robson apologised for the fact that the seats which had been removed from the Tait Hall during its recent upgrade had, unfortunately, been left in a skip and subsequently strewn over Shedden Park. This had now been dealt with.

Date of next meeting

The next Kelso Community Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11 March 2025 at the Town Hall, Kelso.