

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 13 March 2108, at 7.00pm**



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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lucy Angus (Kelso High School), Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Paul Roberts (member of the public) and Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter)

**APOLOGIES:** SBC Councillor Simon Mountford, Police Scotland and Chamber of Trade Alan Livingstone.

- *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, Graham Easton and member of the public Paul Roberts to the meeting.

### **Police Matters**

The Secretary advised Police Scotland had tendered their apologies and the March 2018 Police Report had previously been circulated and asked for comments. There were no comments.

### **Presentation by Graham Easton, Learning Community Partnership**

Graham Easton advised he was the Learning Community Partnership Co-ordinator for the Kelso Learning Community based at Kelso High School in his capacity as a Scottish Borders Council Community Learning and Development Worker (Youth Learning). He also advised he was a Community Councillor for Selkirk.

Graham advised there are nine Community Learning Partnerships within Scottish Borders based around the local high schools catchment areas and the aim of the

partnerships is to look at closing the attainment gap as part of the current Scottish Government agenda.

To this end the Learning Community Partnerships (LCP's) look at how they can reduce inequalities through capacity building and partnership working, the main themes being:

- Employment and Income
- Health and Wellbeing
- Keeping people Safe
- Attainment, Achievement and Inclusion
- Capacity building
- Partnership working

Graham advised the identified priorities for 2017/18 were the promotion of Health and Wellbeing throughout the community and the promotion of employability skills development throughout the community. He advised the identified areas of improvement for Kelso were to deliver an alcohol and smoking prevention awareness programme, establishment of an intergenerational café and breakfast club and obtain figures for general unemployment within the Kelso Learning community and establish basic computing skills programmes for all ages. Graham emphasised the importance of pupils getting involved in volunteering activities.

Graham circulated a report containing data on the Scottish index for multiple deprivation (SIMD) which is the official tool for finding the most deprived areas in Scotland - there are 28 indicators across seven domains: employment, income, education, health, access, crime and housing.

He made the point that work is also needed for older people, in their 50s and older where there is an increasing issue of unemployment and retraining is required.

Councillor Yule raised the issue of lack of signage for the Learning Development Department at the High School and Graham undertook to discuss this with the Head Teacher.

Councillor Tomczyk asked for the contact details of the research officer at SBC who had pulled the data together. Graham agreed to send the Secretary a set of the presentations and contact details for circulation to Councillors.

The Provost thanked Graham Easton for attending the meeting.

### **Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso**

Alan Livingstone had tendered his apologies and there was no update from Chamber of Trade or Visit Kelso.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2018**

The minutes held on Tuesday 13 February 2018 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor H Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor James Boulton.

## **Matters arising**

### **Invitation to Housing Associations**

The Secretary advised she had written to SBHA, Eildon and Waverley to invite them to a future meeting of the Council to give a presentation on social housing and how their allocation worked. The Secretary advised she had received a very positive response from SBHA who welcomed the opportunity to attend. Their Chief Executive Julia Mulloy had suggested she contacted both Waverley and Eildon to suggest they attend together. Julia Mulloy had advised they had previously done workshops on allocation to help people understand the dilemmas and how it worked. It was hoped a presentation could be held in May or June. Councillors were reminded individual cases could not be raised at the meeting but if there were any general issues and concerns these should be raised before the meeting so they could come to the meeting with an appropriate answer.

### **Annual General Meeting publicity**

The Secretary had contacted SBC for guidance and had been advised there was no specific requirement to advertise in the Southern Reporter and Kelso Life and Facebook page were very adequate places to advertise as well as notice boards and posters in shops. As a consequence the Secretary had contacted Kelso Life and secured a ¼ page advert in the April edition. Kelso Life had given a discounted price of £27.00 for the advertisement, which represented a significant saving.

### **Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition**

Councillor Hodges advised there was no update.

### **Cinema**

Councillor Cooper advised there was no update.

### **NHS/Social Services integration**

Councillor McGrath advised that there was no update.

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

Councillor McGrath advised he attended a meeting of the Community Councils' Network with representatives of Scottish Borders Council on 26 February 2018 to discuss the implications of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Representatives from SBC included Jenni Craig Service Director Customer and Communities, Nuala McKinlay Chief Legal Officer and Councillor Sandy Aitchison responsible for Communities.

The four issues discussed were Asset Transfer, Area Partnerships, Participation Request Refusal and the Locality Bid Fund. Councillor McGrath advised neither party could agree on the Area Partnership voting powers nor Participation Request Refusal and the next stage would be for him to write to the Scottish Minister in his capacity as Chairman of the SBCCN. The Provost advised copies of the Asset Register were available on the SBC web pages.

Councillor McGrath advised SBCCN were meeting the following night and he and Councillor Cooper would be attending. Councillor Tomczyk raised concerns that any proposals being put forward by the SBCCN should be formally approved by each Community Council and not just by their representatives and representatives should vote as per instructions from their Council and not on a personal basis.

#### Retirement Village

Councillor McGrath advised he had attended a meeting with SBC officers to pursue the project of converting the site of the old High School into a Retirement Village. Councillor McGrath advised his proposal was for independent living units to be built in the grounds of the school and the school building itself would be used for intermediate care beds, nursing home, training school, nursery etc with this development being at a future time. Councillor McGrath advised in the first instance he would need to put in a formal application for an asset transfer and he had asked SBC to support this proposal in principle – they were unable to do this.

Councillor Tomczyk asked where funding would come from and Councillor McGrath advised he did not anticipate a problem as funding would be available from the Scottish Government and the Integrated Joint Fund.

#### Memorial Garden

Councillor Tomczyk advised legal documentation was being drafted and a site meeting is being organised. Completion is anticipated as end of May/early June..

#### Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

### **Secretary's Report**

#### SBC grants

The Secretary advised she had contacted SBC regarding the annual grant and had been advised it was based on population and it had last been reviewed in 2009.

#### Insurance Renewal

The Secretary advised she had submitted the renewal information and advised the insurers Kelso Community Council would be custodians of the new Memorial Garden later in the year. The insurers had asked for more information on the Garden, they wanted photos and asked what it was required for and what the Community Council would do in terms of maintenance. The Secretary advised she was working with Councillor Tomczyk on a response.

The Secretary advised she had written to Neil Hastie, Estates Manager, Assets and Infrastructure, SBC outlining concerns regarding parking in Upper Bowmont Street and congestion at the Church and Rugby Club and asking that this should be taken into consideration when offers of purchased are considered.

The Secretary advised she had also written to Neil Hastie, SBC inviting him to a future Kelso Community Council meeting to give an update on the sale of the site of the old High School when appropriate.

### **Correspondence**

- Letter from SBC proposed traffic regulation order – off street parking. Motor cars, motor cycles and motor vehicles constructed or adapted solely for the carrying of goods but not exceeding 3.5 tonnes – maximum 60 hours at Bowmont Street, East Bowmont Street, Jamiesons Entry, Mayfield and the Knowes and unlimited time at Mill Wynd and Orchard Park. The Secretary was asked to contact SBC for more information.
- The Bridge newsletter.

### **Provost Report**

The Provost advised he had circulated correspondence on the despicable incident of dog fouling in the local cemetery. It was recommended the Community Council write to Councillor Sandy Aitchison outlining their concerns.

It was noted with the promised increase in community policing there would be more resources to monitor this issue.

Councillor McGrath commented Police Specials could undertake this and stated he would like a colleague to come to a future Council meeting to talk about the role of Police Specials.

### **Mens Shed**

Councillor Bassett advised there had been a change of management in the Co-Ops Estates team and as a result real progress was being made to get the Mens Shed open by the summer. He advised all fire regulations were up to date and repairs had been undertaken and the legal paperwork was being drawn up. Councillor Bassett advised SBC Neil Hastie had provided storage facilities at the old high school. In response to a question on funding Councillor Bassett commented once the Mens Shed was set up funding would be applied for.

### **Any Other Business**

The Provost advised he has received complaints from residents of the car wash in East Bowmont Street being used in the early hours of the morning. Councillor T Weatherston advised he was aware of this issue and it appeared it was local taxi drivers using the car wash at the end of their shift. Councillor T Weatherston advised there was nothing in the planning permission to restrict hours of use. The Provost and Councillor Horsburgh undertook to speak to the taxi drivers.

Councillor McGrath advised he had attended a meeting of the Eyemouth Community Council and it was interesting to note most of the Councillors were female and young and a podcast of the Council meeting had been produced.

Councillor Horsburgh asked if the Community Council had received information regarding the Laddies Declaration. The Secretary advised no correspondence had been received but would circulate details once she had it.

Councillor Boulton placed on record his thanks to the community for their snow clearing exercise in the town and asked the Provost to place a note of thanks on the Kelso Community Council Facebook pages to all parties concerned.

### **Scottish Borders Council Report**

#### **Cheviot Area Partnership**

There was no update and it was noted the next meeting would take place on 28 March in Jedburgh.

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

Councillor Robson advised the proposed meeting had been postponed during the adverse weather but it would be meeting sometime in March.

#### **Roxburgh Street**

The Provost advised a letter had been sent from the Community Council outlining concerns around replacing a section of cobble setts in Roxburgh Street with asphalt. It was noted work had started on Roxburgh Street and members agreed a plan needed to be put in place to protect the remaining cobbles. Councillor T Weatherston advised he had asked SBC whether something could be put in the Local Development Plan and this was not possible. It was agreed the Community Council should write formally to Mark Douglas at SBC requesting the remaining cobbles be protected

It was noted a “no entry sign” had been written on the road near Floors Castle entrance at Roxburgh Street.

### **Questions to SBC Councillors**

Councillor Horsburgh asked for an update on the future use of the Visit Scotland office at the Town Hall. Councillor Tomczyk advised plans were in place for the Kelso Heritage Society and Scottish Salmon Museum to take over the space but they were unable to gain access as Visit Scotland had a lease on the space until July 2018 and they would be unable to apply for funding unless they could demonstrate they had a premises that could be leased. Councillor T Weatherston undertook to contact Visit Kelso to see whether the space could be taken over now.

### **Consideration of Licenses**

The Council considered the following variation in licence – Lidl, Shedden Park, Kelso seasonal variation to increase capacity of alcohol display for the period 1 December – 2 January. The Community Council had no objections to this variation.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans –

Erection of detached 27 bed Dementia Care Unit (amendment to previous consent 16/01588/FUL), Queens House Nursing Home, Angraflat Road, Kelso TD5 7NS. The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

Erection of industrial unit with associated access and parking, Plot 19 Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 7.00pm