



**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall,
Kelso on Tuesday 14 February 2017, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett (Chair), Dean Weatherston, Harry Tomczyk, Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh, Betty Hodges, Colin McGrath, and John King and Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston, Alec Nicol and Simon Mountford.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) and Alan Livingston (Chamber of Trade).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Fiona Scott and Alan Hall, Police Scotland and Kathryn Wyle (Southern Reporter)

- 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 members to the meeting and Ross Watson, a member of the public.

Police Matters

The Secretary advised there was no one available from Police Scotland to attend the meeting and the February 2017 Police Scotland report had previously been circulated based on the Kelso and District Multi Member Ward Policing Plan. There were no comments made.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone advised the Chamber of Trade AGM would be held on 6 March at 5.45pm at the Ednam House Hotel and all were welcome. He advised Visit Kelso had been awarded funding to enable them to employ a part time member of staff to assist with marketing activities. It was noted a former Chairman of the Chamber of Trade, Steve Osbourne, had passed away.

Alan advised Visit Kelso had dramatically raised the profile of Kelso and they were looking at funding options to update their web site. He commented 10,000 flyers

aimed at attracting visitors to Kelso had been printed and would be widely distributed.

Alan welcomed the planned reappearance of the Kelpies in May as he saw this as an exciting opportunity to entice visitors into the town. Councillor T Weatherston advised Lindsay Wood of Live Borders was developing exciting plans to publicise the reappearance of the Kelpies.

Councillors asked whether the retail outlet "Fat Face" was taking over the old Dorothy Perkins Shop as rumours suggested Fat Face were advertising for a manager for the shop. No-one was able to clarify.

Councillor Dean Weatherston asked whether the annual footfall survey had been published. Councillor A Nicol advised it was not in the public domain but he was aware the figures for Kelso were significantly up, once it was available he would ensure a copy was circulated.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Gavin Horsburgh and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Matters arising

a) Memorial Garden

Councillor Tomczyk advised the committee had met and were very keen to work with Morrison Construction and would have to work to the timescale of the High School construction. He advised he had submitted a specification which had been acknowledged. Councillor Tomczyk advised the questionnaire had been finalised and it would be published in the March edition of Kelso Life and posted on the Kelso Community Council Facebook page. The questionnaire could be completed in paper form or completed on line via Survey Monkey, there would be a link on the Facebook page. It was noted it cost £26.00 per month to use Survey Monkey and the Community Council had ring fenced funds to pay for this. Browns Newsagents had agreed to accept the completed questionnaires. Councillor John King had agreed to undertake the analysis of the paper responses.

Councillor T Weatherston voiced concern about attracting younger peoples' views and the Provost advised he would be meeting pupils at the High School and would publicise it. Councillor Tomczyk pointed out that the Facebook entry was likely to reach a relatively young audience. It was suggested Kelso USA may wish to participate in the project and Sandy Devers would be asked for his views when he attended a future meeting.

Councillor Tomczyk commented it was important to get the survey into the public domain as quickly as possible as it would give an indication on whether the project was viable.

The Provost asked the Secretary to contact Kathryn Wyllie at the Southern Reporter to ask for her assistance in publicising the project.

b) Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

Councillor Hodges advised she and the Secretary had a successful meeting with SBC Councillors regarding funding and this was currently being pursued. She advised plants for the Bridge End bed had been ordered. Councillor Hodges advised she had submitted a specification to Morrison Construction for the Coldstream and Jedburgh Road entrances which had been acknowledged.

Councillor Hodges advised she was happy to report the proposed project for the Coldstream entrance had been given the go ahead from Scottish Borders Council and she was working closely with Alistair Finney and Stuart Young and she was hopeful of marking out the proposed bed shortly.

c) Mens Shed

The Provost advised he had submitted a specification to Morrison Construction for funding for the Mens Shed and this had been acknowledged and was hopeful funding would be awarded. The Provost advised Councillor McGrath had identified premises within the town centre which would be able to accommodate the Mens Shed and they were currently in discussion with the owners. The Provost commented he was optimistic the project would be up and running by the summer. The Provost advised Coldstream had opened a Mens Shed three weeks ago and 52 members had signed up with an average attendance of between 20 – 25 people.

The Provost advised he was working closely with NHS Borders as community nursing staff would be in attendance to carry out routine blood pressure test and offer general health advice.

The Provost advised they would be applying for charity status and a Committee, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary had been appointed.

Councillor McGrath advised there would be a facility to recycle furniture. Councillor Hodges welcomed the project and hoped members could link into Kelso in Bloom.

d) Feedback from Community Council Network on National Park

Councillor McGrath advised the Community Council Network were meeting on the 22 March and he would asked for feedback and report back to the Community Council.

e) Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

Correspondence

The secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors and a summary schedule had been compiled. In addition the following documents had been received which were tabled

A document from SBC on a Public Consultation Draft Supplementary Guidance: Renewable Energy. The consultation period is from 23 January to 17 April 2017.

Secretary's Report

Secretary's Honorarium

The Provost advised the Honorarium had been agreed at £750 per annum last year and asked for approval for this amount this year. This was proposed by Councillor Bassett and seconded by Councillor King. Councillors asked whether they could increase the Secretary's Honorarium and the Secretary advised there were insufficient funds as the grant from SBC only covered her present Honorarium and Community Council expenses. The Provost asked whether additional funding would be available to cover the additional secretarial workload associated with the Community Empowerment Act. Councillor Mountford advised this may be possible after May with the new administration.

Insurance Renewal

It was noted the Community and Social Organisations Block Policy Renewal was due by 17 February 2017. The Secretary and Councillor Tomczyk had completed the form and circulated it to Councillors for approval. This was proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Provost Bassett.

Equal Opportunity Policy

The Secretary reminded Councillors we had adopted an Equal Opportunities Policy which needed to be reviewed on an annual basis. The Secretary had circulated last year's copy to Councillors. Councillors agreed this was still relevant and was proposed by Provost J Bassett and seconded by Councillor D Weatherston.

In addition the Secretary advised the following:

- CCTV –The Secretary had contacted SBC and they advised there was conflicting information between them and the contractors as to what is and

isn't functional. They have asked the contractors to carry out a full survey and once they have the engineers report they will forward us the information.

- Correspondence regarding various issues in the town had been received from Richard West which had been circulated and responded to.
- Letters had been sent to John Lamont and Calum Kerr regarding the Borders Railways extension which had been acknowledged.
- A request had been received from the Duns Museum for more information on the cushion gifted from Kelso USA which will be put on display later this year in Kelso. Sandy Devers had provided the information. Sandy would be visiting Kelso USA later in the year and was keen to forge links he had requested he attended a future Community Council meeting for an update.
- A request had been received on behalf of the Rodger Fish Allotments regarding planning permission support, Councillor D Weatherston had responded with an update.
- A request had been received from The Golf Course for contact details of Morrison Constructions – contact details had been provided.
- A request had been received for contact details to book The Square for a function – these had been passed on.
- Our request to hold a stall at the April Farmers Market had been followed up.
- Thank you Letters had been sent to all retailers who had sold copies of the Kelso in Bloom calendar.
- An enquiry had been received regarding parking at the Agra Flat Cycle Flat – this had been circulated to Police Scotland and SBC.

Health and Social Care integration

Councillor McGrath's report on NHS and Social Services Integration had previously been circulated. He advised for years the two services have been run separately, the NHS being free at the point of usage with no means test while Social Services, run by the Local Authorities are means tested. It was agreed with the aging population some type of integration was necessary. The Public Bodies (Joint Working – Scotland) Act 2014 was passed offering solutions to resolve the issue.

Councillor McGrath advised a Strategic Planning Board had been set up but there was no continuity as several members had moved on, and it appeared progress to integrate the services had stalled.

Councillor Tomczyk commented Kelso's elderly population was increasing more rapidly than anywhere else. Kelso has an elderly population of 27% compared with the Scottish average of 18% and a decrease in the working population.

Councillor McGrath highlighted the national problem of "bed blocking" and the lack of suitable places to accommodate patients that needed more rehab. He

recommended the development of a “Retirement Village” to be situated on the site of the current Kelso High School.

Councillor T Weatherston raised concerns that the infrastructure might not be able to cope with this proposal and Councillor McGrath commented there would be no increase demands on the infrastructure.

Councillor A Nicol recommended the Community Council invite Elaine Torrance, Chief Social Work Officer to attend a future meeting to give an update on health and social care.

The Provost thanked Councillor McGrath for his excellent work and asked him to bring an update to a future meeting.

Consultation on the future of the Scottish Planning process.

It was noted there was a drop-in workshop planned for the 7 March at Kelso. Councillors Bassett, Weatherston, Hall, Tomczyk and Cooper agreed to attend at 16.15 to work through a survey on behalf of Kelso Community Council. Councillor Mountford advised the new Local Development Plan would tie into the Scottish Planning system and it would be more efficient and offer flexibility. One of the recommendations was to simplify the planning process. Councillor Mountford advised the Locality Plans needed to be community driven.

The consultation will run until the 4 April 2017.

Scottish Borders Council

The Provost advised statements would be given by SBC Councillors if there was an update. The Provost reminded Councillors that if they wished to raise specific questions with SBC these should be submitted to the Secretary 7 days in advance of the meeting.

Area Forum

Councillor A Nicol advised the Cheviot Area Forum had been held on the 1 February in Jedburgh. In addition to normal business there had been presentations on Business Gateway and Renewable Energy. The next meeting would take place on the 29 March in Kelso.

Parking / Traffic management

Councillor Nicol advised he was extremely disappointed to report SBC Councillors had received an email from their Chief Executive advising Police Scotland will not be enforcing a disc based system for parking. Councillors raised the issue of the poorly painted yellow lines in Kelso and how Police can enforce parking. It was noted the recent report had highlighted Kelso had the worst record for parking issues and despite this Kelso would not be included in the trial. Councillor T Weatherston

undertook to raise this issue at the next SBC meeting on 23 February and report back.

Trinity Church

Councillor A Nicol advised he had no progress to report.

Questions to SBC Councillors

The Provost reported he had received several complaints regarding the state of the bus shelters and the lack of street cleaning. Councillor Nicol undertook to raise this issue and report back.

Councillor D Weatherston voiced concern over the proposed introduction of a 30p charge to use the public toilets in Wood Market. It was noted there had been no consultation on the matter. SBC Councillors advised the Community Council should write to SBC highlighting their concerns.

Councillor McGrath asked for an update on Live Borders cinema club. It was noted a film night had been held recently and another one was planned. Councillors commented about the lack of publicity for these events. SBC Councillors advised the funding for future cinema nights was uncertain. Councillor P Cooper advised there was a small group who would be willing to take over the running of the cinema.

Councillor Horsburgh asked whether there was any funding for resurfacing Jedburgh Road. Councillor Mountford advised SBC were aware of this request and hopefully there would be funding in the next financial year. Councillor Nicol commented the Council has increased next year's funding for roads on receipt of moneys from the recent local government settlement.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

- (a) Martin McColl new front and external decoration. The Council had no objections to the plans.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 7.00pm