

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 10 April 2108, at 7.00pm



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

IN ATTENDANCE: Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade), Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Di Baxter, Dominic Brooks, Dennis Fortune, Erica Nesbit and Colin and Lisa Seccombe.

APOLOGIES: Provost Councillor Dean Weatherston and Police Scotland.

- *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 Vice Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

Police Matters

The Secretary advised Police Scotland had tendered their apologies and the April 2018 Police Report had previously been circulated and asked for comments.

Councillor McGrath raised concerns that he had been advised there was a potential issue of drug use at the Kelso High School and Councillor Yule stated she had heard similar stories and requested the Secretary write to Police Scotland to see if they were aware of this and if so what action they were taking.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone advised the Chamber of Trade had met recently and the AGM would be held on Wednesday 9 May at 5.30 in the Town Hall. Alan confirmed the Chamber of Trade and Visit Kelso would be formally merging and a new constitution would be drawn up. Alan advised he would be retiring as Chairman of the Chamber

of Trade and new officers would be elected at the AGM for the new organisation, name to be confirmed.

Alan Livingstone advised the Chamber of Trade were currently considering subscriptions for the coming year and grant applications had been made for funding for additional hanging baskets. Alan advised he anticipated the hanging baskets being on display in the town in June. Alan advised Leader funding from last year, which helped with employing a marketing consultant would come to an end in May.

With the recent closure of the Visit Kelso Information Centre, Councillor Peter Cooper asked for clarity on the notice displayed in the Town Hall window that information points were available in Kelso. Alan Livingstone advised most traders would act as information points but there was no formal structure on "Local Knowledge".

Proposed Kelso Resilience Group

The Secretary advised she had been contacted by two members of the public Dennis Fortune and Ron Park who were keen to set up a Kelso Resilience Group. This had come about as a result of the recent bad weather promoting volunteers to come forward. Dennis Fortune advised the group were in the planning stages of forming a Resilience Group and a meeting of volunteers and SBC emergency planning team would be held on Sunday 15 April. Dennis advised enough people had volunteered to meet the Council's requirements to form a Resilience Group.

SBC Councillors Mountford and Weatherston commented they welcomed the formation of this group and wished them good luck for the future. Kelso Community Councillors formally expressed support for this group. Councillor Mountford suggested once the Resilience group was up and running they came back to a future Community Council meeting to give an update.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2018

The minutes held on Tuesday 14 March 2018 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Ian Brown and seconded by Councillor John Bassett.

Matters arising

Memorial Garden

Councillor T Weatherston advised progress was being made and work would commence shortly. Councillor Weatherston advised SBC legal department were drawing up paperwork to hand over the maintenance of the garden to the Community Council. Councillor Weatherston anticipated the garden being open early summer and an official opening would be organised.

Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised he had met with officers at SBC and decided the best way forward would be to apply to safeguard the stretch of the old Waverley route rail line near Kelso. He advised the old stretch of line at Charlesfield, St Boswells, through Roxburgh to Kelso was not currently protected. Councillor Robson advised

by safeguarding the line it meant if planning applications were put forward to build where the line runs, it can be used as a reason for refusal. Councillor Robson confirmed that although there are no current plans to bring that part of the line back into use, it would be worth doing so, so the option is there in the future. Councillor Robson suggested he and interested Councillors take a walk along the line to see what is actually there. Councillors Tomczyk and Boulton welcomed this development and agreed to walk along the line with Councillor Robson sometime over the summer.

It was also agreed, on Councillor Tomczyk's suggestion, that the Community Council should write to SBC to see if safeguarding could be applied to the line. Councillor Robson agreed to draft a letter for comment and submission.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges gave the following update:

- Coldstream entrance - the new mirror bed had been cut out and dug over by SBC. Compost had been purchased delivered and spread. Plants have been purchased and are ready for planting as soon as the weather permits.
- Jedburgh Entrance – bed to be widened and site still to be prepared when weather permits and replanted with wildflower seeds.
- 2019 Calendar – progress being made and this would be based on flora and fauna around Kelso.
- Publicity – agreed to use Kelso Life as a way of raising awareness and seek volunteers.
- Rose Lane – due to its prominent position it was agreed that the work at Rose Lane would need to be accelerated.
- Summer Bedding for Bridgend and Coldstream Road in hand and rotas for maintenance to be drawn up.
- Litter Pick Dates - Sunday 22 April and Sunday 27 May 2018.

Councillor Hodges will contact the Provost regarding the whereabouts of the bowser.

Councillor T Weatherston advised he had attended a meeting the Farmers Market last night and was advised they would be making a donation of £500 to both Kelso in Bloom and Kelso Horticultural Society to put towards the use of planting in the town. It was noted that Kelso in Bloom paid for the plants at the Bridge End beds which were planted by the Kelso Horticultural Society. The Secretary undertook to contact Steven Jack to acknowledge this on behalf of Kelso in Bloom.

Cinema

Councillor Cooper advised the last film night was not as well attended as previous ones and the next film night would be held on Friday 27 April with the films Peter Rabbit and Finding your Feet. Councillor Cooper advised the Kelso Community Cinema now have a Facebook page up and running. Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update on the financial status of the group and Councillor Cooper replied the group were investigating grants and the majority of attendees were concessions. Councillor Cooper advised there would be no film nights over the summer months.

NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised a meeting of the Integrated Joint Board had been held on the 19 March at which funding had been discussed. Councillor McGrath advised funding for co-ordinators had not been approved. Councillor McGrath advised the Locality Group would be held on the 11 April and the Joint Board on the 23 April. Councillor T Weatherston advised the question of funding had been delayed.

Questions from the public

Dennis Fortune asked for an update on funding for additional Police. Councillor Mountford advised SBC had allocated additional spending for a community policing team which would include a Sergeant and six Constables who would be allocated to SBC to do community policing. Councillor Mountford advised the funding would be for a 12 month period and these additional police personnel would be responsible to the Police Inspector.

Secretary's Report

Arrangements for Annual General Meeting

The Secretary advised the Annual General Meeting would take place on Tuesday 8 May at 7.00pm in the Town Hall. The annual accounts had been drafted and would be submitted to the Auditor prior to the meeting.

The Secretary advised an advert had been placed in the Kelso Life. It was agreed posters should be displayed at prominent positions in the town.

The Secretary advised she had received contact from members of the public Ron Park and Dennis Fortune expressing interest in being involved in a local community resilience group. Several members of the public who were involved in the group were in attendance at tonight's meeting and a report had been given earlier in the meeting.

The Secretary highlight some of the consultation documents recently circulated and asked Councillors to review them and if a response was required on behalf of the Community Council to advise her.

Correspondence

- Letter from Kelso Laddies Association inviting Councillors to the Declaration of the Laddie on Friday 20 April 2018 at 7.00pm.
- Email from SBC answering queries on the proposed Off Street Parking Place Order.
- Borders Diabetic Support Group list of dates of meetings taking place at Abbey Row, Kelso.

Provost Report

With the Provost's absence there was no report.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised he and the Provost had attended a meeting of the Community Councils' Network on 14 March and the Annual General Meeting would be held on the 30 May at SBC headquarters. Councillor McGrath advised the main issue was around voting powers on the Area Partnership but he was currently working with SBC who were being co-operative to resolve this. Councillor McGrath advised he would be writing to the Scottish Minister in his capacity as Chairman of SBCCN to gain a view.

Any Other Business

Councillor Bassett on behalf of the Men's Shed formally thanked SBC for donating furniture and fixings. Councillor Bassett advised progress was being made and the Men's Shed hoped to take up residence in the Co-op building shortly.

Councillor Mountford advised the South of Scotland Economic Partnership are holding a series of stakeholder events to consider the future activities of the Partnership, the Scottish Government consultation on the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency and the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. The Stakeholder event will take place in Kelso on 23 May at 7.30 in Abbey Row and Councillor Mountford urged Councillors to attend.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

Councillor Mountford advised a meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership had taken place on 28 March in Jedburgh at which there had been a good discussion on Enterprise and Skills where problems and barriers had been identified with possible solutions. It was noted the next meeting of the Area Partnership would take place on 6 June in Kelso.

Parking /Traffic management

Councillor Robson advised the working group had met and it was apparent parking problems in Kelso were also experienced in the other Border towns. He advised the working group were looking at whether waiting times should be standardised across the Borders. Councillor Robson advised the Community Council would be consulted on areas to be addressed and asked Councillors to give this some consideration e.g. identifying land for additional parking, paint used on cobbles, signage, etc.

Broomlands School

Councillor Robson advised he had attended a meeting with SBC officers to see how parking could be improved at the School. Councillor Robson advised five different departments from SBC were involved. It had been agreed the current drop off circle area would be retained and expanded and developed to allow a co-ordinated drop off area with pedestrian access, footpaths and better signage. Councillor Robson advised he would monitor the situation and would welcome any feedback from users.

Shedden Park footpath

Councillor Robson advised plans were in hand to rectify damage to the footpath in Shedden Park to bring it up to a more acceptable condition as several complaints had been received from members of the public.

Name for road area east of East Broomlands

Councillor T Weatherston advised a road name was needed for an area east of East Broomlands and asked whether the Community Council would support the name Washington Avenue in respect of the ties with Kelso and Washington State. The Provost had approved this prior to his absence and the Community Councillors supported this name.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor Brown asked if there were any plans for an additional Play Park in Kelso. Councillor T Weatherston advised funding was available in the budget but no plans had been made.

Councillor Boulton asked for an update on the future use of the of the Visit Scotland office at the Town Hall. Councillor T Weatherston advised he had been in contact with Riddell Graham who advised they would be prepared to hand over the keys despite holding the lease until the end of July 2018.

Councillor T Weatherston advised there had been a lot of interest regarding the resurfacing of Roxburgh Street and the protection of the cobbles. Councillor Weatherston advised the Community Council and SBC were exploring ways to protect the remaining cobbles in Roxburgh Street after some had been removed from a section and replaced with tar. However, Councillor T Weatherston advised he had received many comments from the public saying they preferred the new tar surface. Councillor Weatherston commented he thought the majority of people want to see the cobbles protected but a decision needs to be made on how far out the cobbles go from the Square. After discussion it was agreed the best way forward would be to have a public consultation and seek views.

Councillor Horsburgh raised the issue of three camper vans parking in front of the Town Hall on Easter Sunday and asked why the bollards had been removed. Councillor T Weatherston undertook to investigate and report back.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no licenses for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

Replacement windows 147B Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

Replacement windows in 2 dormers, Tweedbank, Shedden Park Road, 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 8 May 2018 at 7.15pm following the Annual General Meeting.