



**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall,  
Kelso on Tuesday 11 April 2017, at 7.00 pm**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) Chamber of Trade, Alan Livingstone and Sandy Devers. (Twinning USA).

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Betty Hodges, Fiona Scott and John King.

- 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 Sandy Devers who had asked to attend to give an update on Twinning Opportunities.

### **Twinning Opportunity**

Sandy Devers advised he would be visiting Kelso USA to attend the Highland Games in September and asked whether the Community Council wished to be part of the representation. He advised this would be a good opportunity to forge links with the Twinning opportunity. He also advised a drama teacher in Kelso USA was organising a show as part of the Games and this would be an opportunity for the local Kelso UK school to get involved. He advised Kelso USA were enthusiastic and keen for Kelso UK to forge formal Twinning status.

The Provost advised Kelso High School had made contact through Alison Wilson and thanked Sandy for coming to the meeting and asked that he returned in June to give an update.

### **Police Matters**

Apologies had been received from Police Scotland. The report for April 2017 had previously been circulated and there were no comments.

CCTV update – The Secretary advised she had written to Police Scotland to ask what value they placed on the CCTV system. Jacqui Mcguigan had responded to advise the CCTV is one of the many things that they use to gather evidence in relation to crimes committed in Kelso and there had been occasions where it has provided positive lines of enquiry. Jacqui also advised the presence of CCTV gave a feeling of security and a deterrent to some offenders. She had personally been approached by tourists last summer who were delighted to see Kelso had CCTV and cited it as a positive thing that would encourage them to return in the future.

Councillor T Weatherston advised there was no budget available to upgrade the CCTV at Kelso and funding for the provision of CCTV in Hawick had come from the Scottish Government as part of its regeneration project. Councillor A Nicol advised the town of Pebbles had no CCTV provision.

It was agreed the Secretary should write to Alec Young at SBC requesting a senior member of staff attend a future meeting to discuss the possibility of upgrading the system to be made fully functional.

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

Alan Livingstone advised Visit Kelso were currently interviewing candidates for the Marketing post. He advised unfortunately they had been unsuccessful in securing funding from the Fallago Fund to update their web site. However the web site would be updated on a restricted basis. The next committee meeting of Visit Kelso would be held on the 25 April and the next Chamber of Trade committee on the 23 April.

Alan advised Visit Kelso ran a competition in Scottish Field. The prize was for one night B&B at Ednam House and £500 worth of shopping vouchers. The couple who won the prize recently came to Kelso to use their voucher. They had stayed for four nights. As the competition had been so successful they are going to look into doing a similar competition over the Border using the Living North magazine.

Alan advised they were looking for funding opportunities to replace the hanging baskets. It was noted there were 63 hanging baskets last year. Councillor Mountford advised there may be funding opportunities from the SBC Quality of Life fund or community grants and Alan should approach SBC after the May elections.

Councillor Tomczyk advised a response had been received from The Minister for Transport regarding the possible expansion of the Border Railway. The Minister advised a study is being taken forward and will consider how to improve accessibility in the Borders to link communities to key markets through strategic transport routes and identify where improvements to transport links are required. A transport consultant is being appointment and a report is due by the end of 2017. There will be an opportunity for stakeholder engagement as work progresses. Alan asked that a copy of the response be sent to him for circulation to the Traders.

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Gavin Horsburgh and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

### **Matters arising**

#### a) Memorial Garden

Councillor A Nicol advised a successful meeting had been held with Morrison Construction who were co-operating with the development of the project. He advised he was in discussion with colleagues at SBC to agree ongoing maintenance of the site and to draw up a note of understanding on the lease.

#### b) Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

In Councillor Hodges' absence the Secretary advised the following –

- Funding of £720 had been received from SBC and £300 had been promised from Morrison Construction.
- It was agreed two bag packs would be organised at Sainsbury's later in the year.
- Three litter picks are to be arranged
- A calendar would be produced with a theme around either "What's going on in Kelso" or seasonal recipes.
- Floral Gateway entry forms have been received with an invitation to enter the "Champion of Champions" competition.
- Jedburgh Road – SBC had agreed to the area ready for wild flower seeding.

Councillor D Weatherston asked whether the prize of the "bin" had been collected and the Secretary undertook to following up with Councillor Hodges.

#### c) Men's Shed

The Provost confirmed the location of the Men's Shed would be at the used part of the Co-Op building in Roxburgh Street, over two floors. He advised the Co-Op were currently drawing up a lease which would be for five years. The Provost thanked Councillor McGrath for sourcing the venue. The Men's Shed would be open Monday to Friday between 10.00am – 4.00pm.

In response to a question the Provost advised the Co-op had a lease on the building until 2037.

The Provost advised several local businesses had generously donated material and IT equipment. It was noted a retired teacher from Edinburgh would be running IT lessons at the Men's Shed.

The Provost advised he was working with Heather Batch of The Bridge to secure funding. It was anticipated funds would be generated by members making e.g. rabbit hutches, benches, tubs etc. for sale to the public and by selling donated items. The Provost advised he was in touch with the Kelso Recycling Centre to see if discarded material / goods could be obtained for recycling.

The Provost also advised he was in contact with SBC to see whether any of the old equipment from the High School could be donated to the Men's Shed.

Councillor T Weatherston suggested a membership fee be charged to control numbers and the Provost advised the constitution does not allow a membership fee to be levied. It was noted insurance would be through the Scottish Men's Shed Association.

Councillor A Nicol passed on details of Dennis Fisher from Home Basics as a useful contact.

d) NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised he had attended a Joint Board meeting and it was commented there was little support from the hospital doctors for integration. However, Councillor McGrath advised the local Kelso GP on the Locality Group was very enthusiastic. He advised there would be a report shortly on "bed blocking". Councillor McGrath asked for integration to remain on the agenda which was agreed.

e) Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public, however, Councillor McGrath wished to raise several points:

- National Park – Councillor McGrath advised the Community Council Network had received a presentation from Malcom Dixon and Malcolm Gregor to advise a feasibility study was currently underway which would report back to the Scottish Government. It was noted that the Borders region was bottom of the league for visitors into Scotland but those that visited returned, so it was important to get the Borders onto the tourist agenda.
- Borders Community Broadband – Councillor McGrath advised SBCCN had received a presentation from Callum Hay (former Technical Director of SBC). The organisation were working to increase broadband coverage in the Borders and in particular the eastern side of the regional. They are price comparable with other providers and Councillor McGrath suggested it would be beneficial to invite him to attend a future meeting.

## Correspondence

The secretary advised there had been no correspondence.

### **Secretary's Report**

Kelso Community Elections 2017 – The Secretary reminded Councillors about the elections and advised nominations forms needed to be submitted to Rennie Welch by 27 April and any withdrawal by 4 May 2017 and in the event of more than 12 nominees an election will be held on Thursday, 25 May 2017.

AGM 2017 – this would be held on Tuesday 9 May 2017 and an advertisement had been placed in the Southern Reporter on the 13 April 2017. It was noted George Young had agreed to act as Auditor.

The Secretary reminded Councillors it was agreed some of them would attend the Farmers Market on Saturday 22 April between 11.30 and 1.30 to drum up support for Councillors.

### **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.

There was no update given.

The Provost advised SBC Councillor A Nicol was standing down from office in May and asked for the Council's thanks and gratitude be placed on record for all the hard work he had done over the years on behalf of the Community Council. Councillor Nicol thanked the Provost and Community Council and advised he would always be available for advice and guidance in the future.

### **Consideration of Licenses**

An application for variation of premises licence had been received from The Contended Vine Restaurant. Councillor voiced no objections as the times were in line with other premises selling alcohol within the town.

An application had been received from Magnums and More Limited to operate a business as a distribution centre for online and telephone orders and alcohol to be sold on an Off-Sales basis only from Station Yard, Sprouston Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans – Erection of 206 dwelling houses, Wallaceneuk.

The Kelso Community Council gave careful consideration to this application cognizant of the fact it is included in the Local Development Plan and this site has been identified for housing for some time and outline planning permission was granted last year. However we have strong reservations about this going ahead without a number of matters being resolved prior to permission being given for the development. The main points are listed below.

We appreciate the need for additional housing to continue development of Kelso however our main concerns are -

Traffic - The plan shows the entrance to be off the Jedburgh road. This would considerable increase in traffic on that road which is already quite busy, not to say in a poor state of repair, and has a difficult roundabout outside the Maxwell Motors filling station - turning right up Station Road is particularly hazardous as the visibility for drivers coming up the hill from Kelso is poor and many drivers just race up. Also looking at the plan there would appear to be a road leading through from the existing development. If this is in fact the case we think that it would be bad for those residents and should not be allowed. In addition we are not keen on the pedestrian and cycle access to the existing development.

For a development of this size we think that a single access to the Jedburgh road is inadequate. There should be a direct access or possibly more than one to the main Heiton road.

It goes without saying that the entire length of Jedburgh Road needs to be addressed. The road needs resurfaced, signage needs to be improved so only residents use this road and not visitors to the town centre, they need to stay on the bypass.

Parking in the town centre by residents from a new development - although the building of the houses will be gradual over a number of years as we know there is no space for parking now at peak times even now so provision needs to be made for increased parking prior to the building of extra housing. Borders Regional Council's Department of Physical Planning and Development identified this problem in the Local Plan back in the early 1980s and since then the only extra parking that was created has been since the town went one way and parking has been removed in Roxburgh and Union streets with the new developments there.

Schools - The designated Primary School is Edenside. This is a considerable distance from the development and will give rise to a considerable volume of traffic twice a day as it is too far for walking. Similarly it is too far to walk to the new High School, also resulting in more traffic. That suggests that a new primary school would be needed on this side of the town. Really the housing should be on the other side of town. Are the school provisions adequate for the number of children likely to be connected with the new housing?

Sewage works - the extra waste generated in the last 10 years must be massive and the existing sewage plant is already overloaded so with this and further housing development at Nethershot and Hendersyde surely a new facility needs to be built before further housing development is permitted.

NHS - many local residents have to go to Jedburgh or Galashiels neighbouring towns to visit a dentist. It is proving difficult to get a doctor's appointment - it can take a week to get an appointment unless you wait for an emergency appointment and if you want to see a specific doctor you can wait up to two weeks. Adequate facilities need to be provided before there is further development

The Provost placed on record his thanks to the Community Councillors for their support over the last four years and wished them well in the forthcoming Elections and SBC Councillor S Mountford and T Weatherston.

Councillors placed on record their best wishes to the Provost for a speedy recovery for his forthcoming operation.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 9 May 2017 at 7.15pm following the AGM.