

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 14 October 2014, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Provost John Bassett (Chair), Councillors Dean Weatherston, Harry Tomczyk, Betty Hodges and John King and Scottish Borders Councillors Alec Nicol, Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade), Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland) and Ally McGilvray (Borders Telegraph).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Colin McGrath, Fiona Scott and Gavin Horsburgh.

- 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 declare a declaration of interest prior to discussion

Welcome

Provost John Bassett welcomed members of the Council and public to the meeting.

The Provost reminded Councillors the Constitution stated they need to declare an interest, particularly financial, on any item on the agenda before discussion.

Notice of Motion

Councillor Colin McGrath proposed and Councillor John Bassett seconded the nomination of Peter Cooper from 6 Sutherland Gardens, Kelso to be co-opted to the current vacancy on the Kelso Community Council.

Peter provided a brief background:

- he was born in Keswick and completed a degree at Manchester University
- his career was spent in the pharmaceutical industry
- he married in St Boswell and has two sons
- he located to the Borders in 1995 and moved to Kelso 3½ years ago
- he served as a Community Councillor in Maxton and Merton
- his main interest is photography.

It was confirmed Peter Cooper appeared on the Electoral Register for Kelso and had signed the Acceptance of Nomination.

Kelso Community Councillors raised no objections and unanimously agreed Peter should be co-opted from next month.

Police Matters

Suzanne Howgego advised the September 2014 Police Scotland report had been circulated. She advised there had been a couple of incidents in the town and urged everyone to be vigilant and ensure their property was securely locked. Property on the industrial estates had been targeted and the police were actively patrolling the area. Travelling criminals had been shoplifting alcohol at both the local Co-operative supermarkets. It was noted 5 vehicles were currently parked by Mayfield and these were due to be moved on in a couple of days.

The replacement road markings had been delayed but once these had been installed illegal parking would be targeted.

Suzanne Howgego commented parking of taxis in the town was causing a nuisance and the taxi rank was due to move across the Square.

Councillor Tom Weatherston commented residents had reported front doors were being tried at night on a regular basis. Suzanne Howgego advised the Police were aware of this and were patrolling the town where resource permitted. Suzanne reminded Councillors suspects could only be arrested if there was proper evidence, not just a suspicion and it required two officers to make an arrest. In response to a question Suzanne advised Police resourcing levels had not changed but geographic boundaries had altered.

Suzanne Howgego advised the Police had received several calls from residents at Riverside Drive as a result of noxious smells from a bonfire. It transpired a resident who had installed a dog waste bin in the area was burning the dog excrement to dispose of it. Councillor Alec Nicol undertook to arrange a regular bin collection from the area to alleviate the situation.

Suzanne Howgego advised she was meeting with The Rotary and would bring back details of the Nominated Neighbour Scheme to the November meeting.

Chamber of Trade report

Mr Alan Livingstone advised an Open meeting had been held the previous night and membership was currently in the mid 30s, which was disappointing. Alan advised the two main issues of discussion were what to do about Christmas Opening, and parking in the town. Alan advised the traders were anxious works in the town were completed. Alan commented communications between SBC and traders had been adequate.

Councillor John King commented he had received feedback from one trader in Roxburgh Street who advised the recent closure of Roxburgh Street had resulted in a 25% drop in footfall.

The Provost commented Floors Castle had employed a new business manager who was keen to promote Kelso as a package and they wished to have a meeting with the Chamber of Trade. One suggestion was the use of "discount" vouchers which could be used for bus tours visiting Floors to encourage visitors to shop in Kelso

before or after their trip to the Castle. Councillor Tom Weatherston commented overall parking within Kelso needs to be addressed to cope with future traffic demands.

Alan Livingstone advised one of the issues with parking was traders taking up space within the town for the whole day. He advised he would be emailing all traders requesting they did not park within the town centre and reminding them there was a two hour restriction on parking. The Provost commented he had counted 43 vehicles recently which belonged to people working in the town.

Alan Livingstone advised traders were thinking of having a Christmas shopping day on Sunday 14 December. The Provost asked whether the traders would consider having a late night opening, say until 7.00pm, on the same day as the Christmas lights switch on. Alan advised the consensus amongst the traders was that this didn't work for them but he would canvas further opinions.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 September 2014 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Dean Weatherston.

Matters arising

a) Stakeholders Briefing

Councillor Harry Tomczyk advised the official opening ceremony would be on Thursday 30 October starting at the Tait Hall at 7.00pm and in the Square from 8.30pm. Invitations had been sent out and it was hoped the new Gap site business centre would be open to the public. Councillor Alec Nicol advised the new business centre would be officially opened on the same day. In response to a question Councillor Nicol advised a deep clean of the town would be undertaken once work were complete.

Councillor Tomczyk advised the next meeting of the Stakeholders group on 22nd October would be the last and it would be used to finalise the details of the official opening ceremony and as a wrap up to raise any issues and concerns that needed to be addressed. Councillor Tomczyk asked for thanks to be placed on record for all the hard work SBC had undertaken carrying out the works in the town.

b) Memorial Wall

Councillor King advised he and Councillors McGrath and Tomczyk had met recently to progress work on a Memorial Wall. Councillor King had received a quote from Bell and Tait who quoted £1,980 plus VAT for repointing and copes work on the wall. A discussion took place on how to fund the project and Councillor Alec Nicol suggested the best way forward would be for Councillor King plus other Community and SBC Councillors to met with John Hedley of SBC. The Provost commented if the project was to be funded by SBC three quotes would be needed. It was agreed this item would remain on the agenda.

c) Gallipoli Memorial

The Provost advised he had met with George Young. The Grants Co-ordinator at SBC thought it was inappropriate to submit an application to the Sainsbury fund as the Community Council were making the award decision. Therefore funding was being pursued via a grant claim from the SBC Community Grant Fund. The Provost said the book was currently on sale.

d) Sainsbury's Fund 2014/15

The Provost reminded members this was the last year for nominations for grants from the Sainsbury's fund and the closing date had been extended to 31 October 2014 to enable groups to submit their applications.

The Provost advised the previous Secretary, George Young had agreed to administer the project for the final year. It was agreed the Kelso Community Councillors would convene an extra meeting in early November to consider the applications. Secretary to arrange.

The Provost commented the Southern Reporter had featured the Fund and this had generated additional interest.

e) Parking in Square

It was noted this subject had been discussed earlier in the agenda.

f) Feedback from SBNCC

Councillor Tomczyk had attended the social media drop in session at the recent Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network meeting. Councillor Tomczyk commented on the importance of using all forms of media including Facebook and web sites. A discussion took place on whether Community Councillors personal information should be made available on web pages. Councillors agreed this would be useful and suggested a similar format to that used by the SBC Councillors. The Secretary undertook to circulate this information to Councillors for their input.

Councillor Tomczyk asked for the Kelso Facebook link to be added to the Visit Kelso and Bordernet web pages.

g) Resilient Communities

The Secretary advised she had passed the Provost's contact details onto Mike Lomas. The Provost commented he felt the way forward would be through the Nominated Neighbourhood Scheme. A discussion took place on whether a Resilient Communities scheme could work for Kelso as it was a town rather than a village community and the Secretary was asked to contact Mike Lomas and ask how such a scheme could work in Kelso.

Councillor Tom Weatherston urged the Council to consider organising a public meeting to see if volunteers could be found.

h) Questions from public

Peter Cooper thanked SBC on the recent hedge cutting exercise in the town. There were no additional questions from the public raised.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised she had written to confirm Kelso Community Council wished to place an order for the installation of a CCTV system to be located in the area of the new public toilets in Market Close, 11 Horsemarket Kelso TD5 7HE. The exact location and fittings will need to be agreed with SBC. She had requested confirmation of installation cost and maintenance charge. Kelso Community Council has the means to fund this project through a dedicated CCTV account

A request had been received from the Kelso Horticultural Society asking whether the Community Council would fund summer planting in 2015. It was noted in 2014 this cost £467.65. The Councillors unanimously agreed to this funding. Secretary to write to the Horticultural Society to advise them of this decision.

As requested the Secretary had written to SBC regarding parking in the Square and vehicles moving from the Square once they had offloaded their goods. Alan Niven, Licensing Officer of SBC had replied advising he hoped the issues could be resolved by having an informal chat with the Kelso Community Events.

As requested the Secretary had written to SBC regarding the future use of the current Kelso High School site. Andrew Drummond-Hunt will attend the November meeting to give an update.

Correspondence

The Secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors and a summary schedule had been compiled which would be attached to the minutes as an Appendix. The Secretary highlighted the following documents:

A request had been received from the Maxwellheugh Trust Fund asking if anyone on the Community Council might like to take up a position as a Trustee of this trust. The Trusts purpose is to "distribute the income of the Trust Fund to such voluntary organisations as shall exist from time to time in the town of Kelso, including Maxwellheugh, particular consideration being given to organisations concerned with youth and organisations. Councillor Betty Hodge will consider this.

A request had been received from Ian Rendall Reid, Manager Cheviot Youth regarding help in putting together a Cheviot Youth Organisation Strategy which would guide the organisation and the Kelso Youth Project over the next three to four years. Cheviot Youth wish to talk to a number of groups within the local community to discover what the community wants from their local voluntary youth work provider. Councillor Tom Weatherston advised this subject had been raised at the recent Area Forum and it was agreed the best way forward would be for individual Community Councils and SBC Councillors to visit the Planet in early December. Councillors Bassett, Weatherston and Hodge agreed to participate and the Secretary was asked to arrange this meeting and circulate the proposed date to all Kelso Councillors.

An email had been received via Facebook from Gary Cleghorn regarding the Streetscape works in and around Kelso Square. Councillors noted the comments

made and asked Councillor Dean Weatherston to acknowledge and thank Gary Cleghorn for this communication.

Councillor Dean Weatherston tabled a schedule of posts made to the Kelso Community Council Facebook page. Councillor Weatherston reminded members that any issues of an urgent nature would be circulated separately rather than wait for the next Community Council meeting.

Councillor Weatherston raised the issue of the Community Council having a nominated Data Protection Officer and the Secretary was asked to contact SBC to clarify if this was necessary and whether the Data Protection Act applied to us as a Council.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Area Forum

Councillor Tom Weatherston advised the next Area Forum would be held on the 26 November in Jedburgh and urged members to submit items for the agenda. He reminded Councillors the Area Forum meetings were open to the public.

New High School

Councillor Simon Mountford advised the plans for the new High School were approved last week. He commented he had received a communication from Councillor McGrath and Richard Landale, Chief Executive Kelso Races raising concerns regarding the access road to the new school which will be used by traffic on race days and other events held at the racecourse. Councillor Mountford advised the racecourse had commissioned a specialist in road planning to give an independent assessment. Councillor Mountford advised race days would coincide with four days of schooling and it was therefore felt the potential for conflict was minimal. In response to a question on what provision for bikes would be provided at the new school, Councillor Mountford advised details would be discussed at a Project Board meeting.

Forrestfield – speed calming measures

Councillor Tom Weatherston advised problems with drivers using Forrestfield as a rat run was an enforcement issue as the street signs clearly indicated “access only”. Anyone driving through it as a short cut will be doing so in this knowledge. Councillor Weatherston stated it would be difficult to justify traffic calming at this location over others where speeding was more of an issue.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Erection of dwelling house (change of house type) land south east of Queens House Angraflat Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) Removal of redundant chimney stack FBR Ltd Abbey Row, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

- c) Alterations and replacement windows and French doors, 4 Winchester Row, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- d) Part change of use from storage to form furniture manufacturing, U-STOR Business Units, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- e) Siting of 5 storage units at U-STOR Business Units. The Council had no objections.
- f) Merlin Veterinary group – installation of vehicle electric charging point. The Council had no objections.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 7.00pm