

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of Kelso Community Council
held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 14 May 2019, at 7.00pm**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Rob McCulloch-Graham (Chief Officer Scottish Borders Health and Social Care), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso) and members of the public Dennis Fortune, Rhona Hastie, Hazel Woodsell, Jill Mooney and Paul Roberts

APOLOGIES: Councillors Betty Hodges, SBC Councillor Simon Mountford and Police Scotland.

Minute

The minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 1 May 2018 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Gavin Horsburgh and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Provost's Report

My second year as Chairman of Kelso Community Council and town Provost has been a privilege yet again. I won't lie, there is a large workload and at times it can be a stressful position, but knowing that at the end of the day it's making a difference is what keeps you going. After all if the people who are doing stopped doing then what kind of a community would this be to live in.

Although I have been involved in Civic Week my whole life and my family even longer I have really enjoyed working closely with the Kelso Laddies Association. Like all groups in the town without the committee and support of volunteers these events wouldn't happen. It has been an honour yet again to welcome our Border Neighbours and those further afield to our town during Civic Week and last year was proud to be the first Provost in several decades to ride with the Kelso Laddie and his cavalcade to Yetholm. Sean carried out his duties to the highest standards throughout the summer and I was happy to be a part of that by following him at several Border rideouts and events.

I've been fortunate to work with many community groups throughout the year and seen the Community Cinema grow, Kelso Men's Shed officially open and the Resilience Group and Kelso in Bloom recruit some much needed volunteers. On that note I'd like to thank Community Councillor Betty Hodges for all she has done with Kelso in Bloom. When Scottish Borders Council reviewed Neighbourhood Services and implemented so many changes it created a massive challenge for the group and it was clear the scale of it could not be taken on by Kelso in Bloom alone. However, Betty has been at the helm steering the group not to mention being very hands on and fundraising for the cause.

I have been able to support some very worthwhile causes including charities for cancer and veterans. Another which I was very pleased to support was dementia care and support in Kelso. I'm so proud that our town is leading the way on this with the opening of Murray House a specialist dementia care unit and more recently the opening of Alzheimer's Scotland Dementia Resource Centre in Bridge Street.

Springwood Park, now the Borders Events Centre continues to play a big part in the duties of the Chairman/Provost throughout the year. I attended many events run by the Border Union Agricultural Society as well as others including caravan clubs, Country Festival Weekends and Charity Dinners/Balls.

Last year I made mention of the administration side of this role with just shy of 2000 emails, 97 meetings and 86 events. I haven't gone through them like last year but I can assure you it is much the same and I am still putting in as much effort. Although I have learned not to get too involved with some things and delegate more so as not to be spread too thin. This does present a challenge though when all you want to do is the best for your town.

It is very encouraging to see more people coming along to our monthly meetings. At the same time though, for those who don't like to come to meetings, the Facebook page still proves to be very popular and numerous people have been in touch with me by phone after reading my monthly report in Kelso Life. I would like to thank Richard at Kelso Life for providing this page to us and supporting the community council throughout the year. Finally, I would like to thank all the Community Councillors and other volunteers who have supported myself and the Community Council over the year. Special thanks must also go to our Secretary Shirley who does a tremendous job throughout the year handing all our communications. Not only this but she also does the secretarial and treasurer work for Kelso in Bloom as well as being involved with other community groups. Although she has not lived in Kelso for very long she does so much for this town and I thank her for all that she does.

Councillor Horsburgh on behalf of the Kelso Community Councillors gave a vote of thanks to the Provost for all the excellent work he had undertaken in his second year of office. This was unanimously endorsed. SBC Councillor T Weatherston on behalf of the other SBC Councillors thanked the Provost for all his hard work and commented SBC Councillors were lucky to have a good working relationship with the Kelso Community Council

Annual Accounts

The statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2019 had been circulated. The Secretary highlighted the main features of these accounts. The general fund had shown a deficit of £264.18 leaving funds at 31 March 2019 of £465.05.

The Kelso in Bloom had funds at 31 March 2019 of £4,697.17. Income had been generated through personal donations, Charity Begins at Home, calendar sales and donations from the Farmers Market and SBHA.

With regard to the CCTV account no expenditure had been incurred during the year and the funds in this account at 31st March 2019 amounted to £1,374.78.

The Provost suggested the money from the CCTV account be used for alternative crime prevention schemes. SBC Councillor Weatherston asked the KCC to wait as officers had been instructed to produce a report on the region's failing security camera system and offer suggestions for improvement and there may be scope for this money to be used.

With regard to the Kelso Memorial Fund there had been no activity and the balance in the account at 31 March 2019 remained at £4.00.

The Secretary advised the Kelso Heritage Society had been successful in securing a grant from the SBC path grant

The annual accounts were proposed by Councillor Bassett and seconded by Councillor Horsburgh.

The Secretary placed on record the thanks of the Council to Mr George Young who had audited the annual accounts.