

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 13 November 2018, at 7.00pm



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

IN ATTENDANCE: Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland) Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso) Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Rhona Hastie and Pat Leonard.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Betty Hodges and Dean Weatherston (Provost) and SBC Councillor T Weatherston.

- *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.*

Vice Provost Gavin Horsburgh opened the meeting by paying tribute to the former Kelso Laddie, Ian Whellans, "Splodge", who was tragically killed in an accident on Sunday morning. The Kelso Community Council recorded their respects and requested that their thoughts and best wishes to be passed onto his family at this very sad time. Councillor Horsburgh said he would be remembered by his big smile and rosy cheeks. RIP.

Welcome

The Vice Provost welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

Police Matters

The October 2018 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated. PC Howgego advised there had been a couple of recent significant incidents worthy of report. She advised the Police were appealing for witnesses after a knifepoint robbery at the Co-op, High Croft on the 12 November 2018. A man wearing a stocking over his face had approached staff at the Co-Op in the late evening threatening them with a knife and demanding money. He had taken a three figure sum of cash from the till before leaving on foot. PC Howgego advised he was dressed in distinctive clothing and asked anyone who may have seen him in the area

before or after the robbery to come forward. PC Howgego advised the CID were following positive lines of inquiry and support had been offered to staff involved.

PC Howgego advised distressing graffiti had appeared in the area of Abbotsford Grove and Mayfield over the weekend. She advised Police Scotland were following up leads to identify the culprits and advised most of the graffiti had been removed.

PC Howgego advised there had been reports of a white van driving around in the early hours picking up scrape metal, garden furniture and items left lying in gardens. She reminded the public to be vigilant and not to invite opportunist thefts by keeping valuable items safely locked away, including locking sheds and out buildings.

PC Howgego reminded Councillors if they had any concerns, she was always available if they wished to contact her.

Visit Kelso

The Vice Provost welcomed Tina Newton to the meeting. Tina advised Visit Kelso were busy making plans for Christmas and they had produced a Christmas Flyer, which was currently being printed to promote activities in the town. Tina advised they would be running a Visit Kelso Advent Calendar with 24 doors on their social media channels during December, posting a photo of the member's door and then detailing any Christmas promotions, seasonal opening hours etc.

Tina advised the big Christmas Light switch on would be held on Saturday 24 November between 5.00pm and 7.30pm with live entertainment. All traders had been encouraged to open their shops each Sunday in December to enable people to shop locally during the festive period.

Tina advised the shops would be decorating their windows for Christmas which would be judged on the 8 December by the Provost. She also advised traders had received positive feedback from the public by decorating their windows to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The Kelso Community Councillors offered their congratulations to the traders on their window displays.

Tina advised Visit Kelso had secured funding to design and produce a map for Kelso and it was hoped this would be available in spring 2019.

Tina advised she would arrange a visit to Langholm to look at their marketing activities in the New Year as suggested by Councillor Tomczyk.

Councillor McGrath asked whether Visit Kelso had a view on the proposed Borders National Park and Tina advised it would be positive news for Kelso and the surrounding area.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2018

The minutes held on Tuesday 9 October 2018 were approved subject to a minor amendment. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor James Boulton.

Matters arising

Resilience Group

There was no update.

Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised he had been updating Council officials and it was important the Community Council raised the issue of extending the Railway in the Main Issues Report which was out to consultation until the 31 January 2019. Councillor Robson reiterated this campaign was at the very early stage and campaigns it could take decades but if the route was safeguarded for the future that was a good starting point. Councillor Robson would be writing to the landowners to let them know he and some Community Councillors wished to walk the route in the future.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges had tendered her apologies but the Secretary advised sales of the Kelso in Bloom calendar were slow. These are available at various outlets throughout Kelso for £6.00 each and all money raised will be used to help purchase bedding plants for the beds at the entrances to the town.

Bulbs - Daffodils have been planted at Rose Lane, Daffodils and Alliums have been planted at Coldstream Road. The Rotary Club have finalised the planting of crocus bulbs in the grass at Coldstream Road and next year plan to plant crocuses at the Jedburgh entrance.

Farmers Market - Saturday 24 November between 10.30 and 12.30 Kelso in Bloom will have a table outside the Town Hall to help raise awareness and promote the sale of the calendar. Councillor Hodges appealed for volunteers to help man the stall.

Tina Newton advised she would promote the Kelso on Bloom calendar through Visit Kelso.

Men's Shed

Councillor J Bassett advised with regret the situation was still the same, although everything has been agreed they were still having trouble getting an accurate lease document from the Solicitors. Councillor Bassett advised it was an extremely frustrating process, which had been going on since May 2017. However, he advised once the lease was agreed the Men's Shed would be in a position to open for business to both men and women. Councillor Bassett reminded Councillors it was imperative a five-year lease was awarded to enable them to apply for funding with charitable status.

NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised NHS Social Services Integration Board had met in October and the results of the Care Inspector Report would be issued in January.

Footfall Survey – Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update and SBC Councillor Mountford advised the latest figures related to 2016 but these would be updated shortly.

Scottish Landfill Communities Fund – Councillor Tomczyk asked whether there was any update and Councillor Mountford advised he had not had any further dealing with Rachel Hamilton MSP.

Commercial Waste – The Secretary apologises that a letter had not been sent to SBC requesting a review of the collection of commercial waste. SBC Councillor Robson advised he was in discussion with officials to see whether the collection could be moved to the later time of 8.00am which would hopefully avoid waste being put out the night before and therefore negate the risk of littering the town. Councillor Robson advised he had requested a meeting and would report back, however, in the meantime it would be helpful if the traders made representations advising they would prefer not to put their waste out the night before. Tina Newton undertook to relay this message to the traders.

Councillor McGrath asked Tina Newton whether she had asked the traders to keep the frontage of their premises clean and tidy and sweep and clean the pavement in front of their premises, Tina apologised for not doing so but undertook to advise them.

Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

Secretary's Report

The following correspondence was noted:

- A letter from SBC Solicitors regarding Traffic Regulation Orders – Disabled Persons' Parking Places and Off Street Parking Places.
- A letter from John Lamont MP regarding Kelso War Graves which included complimentary comments on the efforts made by local businesses to commemorate all those who had died in the war by decorating their shops with poppy displays. It was agreed the comments regarding War Graves should be directed to the British Legion and copy of the letter should be shared with Visit Kelso for the traders.
- Registration under the Data Protection Act is valid until it expires when registration under GDPR takes over. SBC will continue to undertake the administration for the registration renewal, and cover the cost, as for Data Protection in previous years. Registration for 2018/19 has been complete and a certificate received.

Provost Report

The Provost had given apologies and Councillor Tomczyk advised he had recently attended the opening of the new tennis courts at Poynder Place on his behalf.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the SBCCN had met on the 17 October and the main agenda items were the criteria for the Locality Bid Funds and Participation Request.

Councillor McGrath advised the second round of the Localities Bid Fund was launched in July and closed 1 October and a total of 28 applicants were received. The Assessment Panel met mid-October and to assess the applications against the revised criteria and the Panel agreed that there were not enough sustainable bids to enable a public vote to be undertaken. It was agreed a report would be brought back to the Council in November seeking approval to relaunch the scheme and widen the application criteria. Councillor McGrath advised the current criteria was too rigid and it needed to be relaxed to allow more bids to be entertained.

The Secretary advised the letter from Jennie Craig regarding the Localities Bid Fund had been circulated to Community Councillors.

Councillor Mountford advised he was a member of the Assessment Panel and all applicants would be given the opportunity to revise their bids and resubmit. Councillor Mountford commented it was important the community were involved in funding decisions and they could do this by attending the Area Partnership meetings.

Councillor Mountford reminded Councillors the SBC Charitable Funds had been reorganised and suggested Kelso in Bloom apply for Community Enhancement Fund.

Councillor McGrath advised the next SBCCN meeting would take place on 5 December and the main themes were Parking and Traffic management and Special Constables.

Any Other Business

All business had been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

Councillor Mountford advised the next Cheviot Area Partnership would take place on the 5 December in Kelso, venue to be agreed. Councillor Mountford advised he had handed over the Chairmanship to Scot Hamilton (Jedburgh). He advised there would be a briefing on the content of the SBC Budget and urged everyone to come to the meeting.

In response to a question on whether SBC pay business rates on public toilets Councillor Mountford confirmed yes and advised the money goes to the Scottish Government but SBC are a beneficiary as a result of the subsequent redistribution.

Parking /Traffic management

Councillor Robson advised his report had been signed off by the members of the SBC's Parking Issues Working Group and this would be submitted to the main Council at a future date. Councillor Robson advised any decisions to take forward would be subjected to funding, including signage to long stay car parks.

Councillor Robson asked the public to avoid parking in the bays at Kerfield Court as these were needed by carers who have a tight schedule and need easy access to elderly residents.

Councillor Robson advised resurfacing work would go ahead on the footpath at the north side of Shedden Park and this would be of great benefit to the elderly people who use it. Councillor Tomczyk asked whether any progress had been made to provide lighting across Shedden Park. Councillor Robson advised he was still in discussion with officials but hoped some form of low level lighting could be provided.

Councillor Bassett asked when the lines in Bridge Street would be repainted and Councillor Robson undertook to follow up.

Vice Provost Horsburgh asked whether any progress had been made to provide an additional car park for Kelso and Councillor Robson advised recommendations had been included in his report and it was important to protect Kelso's historical centre.

Councillor Mountford reiterated the Community Council should make representations in the Main Issues Report that provision for a new car park in Kelso was essential.

Councillor Tomczyk remarked how delighted he was that the resurfacing of Jedburgh Road has been carried out.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Vice Provost Horsburgh asked who monitored the Park and Display car park behind Iceland at Galashiels and Councillor Mountford replied it was Council officers.

Councillor Tomczyk asked what provision of parking had been included in the sale of the former Kelso High School. Councillor Mountford advised Ballantyne's had organised a briefing session on 22 November which would give members of the public an opportunity to review plans which included retaining the original building and refurbishing it to provide extra care housing for Eildon Housing Association..

Tina Newton advised leaves had not been swept from the street since last month. Councillor Mountford advised there was a team but was unaware of their schedule.

Consideration of Licenses

A licence had been received from Chu Kui-Kwan to apply for a licence at Market Kitchen, 52 Horsemarket, Kelso. There were no objections to this application.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

Change of use from Class 4 (light industry) to Class 11 (gymnasium) at Kelso Roads Depot, Spylaw Road, Kelso (18/01436/FUL). Post meeting the Community Council could not at this stage support the plans. The Community Council supported the

change of use but felt there is a lack of detail in the application and before it is approved more details should be made available and conditions set.

Erection of twenty five dwelling houses, Land East Broomlands (Phase 6), James Dickson Place, Kelso (18/01476/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

Part change of use of dwellinghouse, alterations and extension to provide two self-catering apartments, Springfield 1 Abbotsford Grove, Kelso (18/01400/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

Extension to Hilton Mye Chalkheugh Terrace, Kelso. – 18/01500/LBC and 18/01505/FUL. SBC planning clarified the two applications are for the same site but differing legislation. The Community Council looked at this application and considered all of the planning policies relevant to the area of the proposal and could not at this stage support the plans. Appearance – the proposed alterations will change the appearance of the front of building - the new garage would seem to block the historic front of the house. We would much rather something more sympathetic to this fine Georgian property. We are also concerned about the way in which the garage doors open. The footpath narrows at this point of the street and it would open out over it.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 December 2018.