

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 11 February 2020, at 7.00pm



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

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) and Tina Newton (Visit Kelso)

APOLOGIES Police Scotland PC Rachel Stark

- *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.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct question through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the February meeting.

Police Matters

The new January 2020 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated and PC Rachel Stark had offered apologies but welcomed feedback.

In her absence PC Stark had advised she had been working with Trading Standards and a representative of the Royal Bank of Scotland to provide information and guidance on scams and how to deal with them. She had advised they are keen to come along to any community events that might be running, whereby they could set up a stall and offer advice and guidance to the community. Some of the smaller villages have invited them along to coffee mornings or village lunches, which are regular events but it might be that we would like to organise an event specifically for this, in order to reach as many people as possible. As Trading Standards and RBS are office hours, they would be keen that these events took place during office hours

but if this was not suitable, they could look at an evening event. PC Stark also plans to invite Victim Support but as yet-she has not approached them.

The Secretary was asked to feedback Councillors comments on venues for attending community events to raise awareness of scams. These are the Wednesday Lunch Club at Tait Hall, Kelso Over 60s Club, local supermarkets, Post Office, Library and Farmers Market.

PC Stark also advised PC Suzanne Howgego has now been replaced by PC Owenson, so we are back to two community officers covering the Kelso & District area.

Councillor Tomczyk welcomed seeing two Police officers patrolling the town and Councillor Robson advised the Police had recently carried out a “stop and pull” exercise in Roxburgh Street.

SBC Councillor Robson commented that Police Scotland were introducing a new form of smart phone in our area that would allow Police officers to do their paperwork on the spot when they attended an incident. This remote working would be a more efficient way of working and would cut down on Station time and therefore would give officers more opportunity to be out and about. This new system would be rolled out across Scotland.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised she was delighted to announce Visit Kelso won two awards from the Great British High Street Awards in the Rising Star category. The Square won ‘Rising Star’ in the Scottish category and then overall UK winner. –The prize money is £15,000 and this will be used to promote Kelso digitally. There hasn’t been any decision made yet but it’s likely the money will be used to develop an app and upgrade their website and social media. Tina said this was particularly welcomed as VisitKelso had been unsuccessful in securing funding from the South of Scotland Enterprise Partnership.

Tina advised VisitKelso would like to offer thanks to the community, their Committee and Kelso Community Council for their support.

The Provost on behalf of the Council offered formal congratulations to VisitKelso.

Tina advised VisitKelso would like to place the two plaques in a prominent place in the town and had written to SBC to suggest these were displayed on the Town Hall. The Council endorsed this suggestion, but the Provost expressed concern about them being mounted on the building and instead would prefer them to be displayed inside one of the lower windows.

Tina advised the next Committee meeting of VisitKelso would be held next week and she would report back to the Council.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2020

The minutes held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor John Bassett.

Matters arising

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Horsburgh advised in order to thank our current volunteers and encourage more Kelso in Bloom would host a Meet and Greet drop in event from 7pm to 8pm on Wednesday 12 February 2020 and he encouraged Councillors to attend.

It was agreed the Community Litter Picks would resume at Easter and following feedback the timings of these would alternate between morning and afternoon to attract more people.

Councillor Horsburgh advised the new committee would arrange a meeting as soon as possible to start making plans.

Kelso USA visit 2020

Councillor Colin McGrath advised he had been in contact with LaDonna Page in Kelso USA and had agreed the visit would take place between 6 and 12 May and she and the President (her father) and two other members of the Council would be visiting.

Councillor McGrath advised accommodation for the visitors would need to be organised and he was working on an itinerary which would include a visit to Kelso Races. The Provost commented the itinerary would include a civic reception and participation in the 75th VE day celebrations.

Councillor McGrath commented it would be useful to obtain information on Peter Crawford from Kelso UK who was the founder of Kelso USA in 1884. Councillor Tomczyk suggested Councillor McGrath contacted the Kelso Heritage Society.

Walking Festival 2023

The Secretary advised she had submitted a registration of interest to host the 2023 Walking Festival. She advised she would arrange to meet Hazel Woodsell to get background information on the 2007 Festival which was last hosted in Kelso. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised a lot of work would be required to host this event which would include a programme of evening entertainment.

The Provost advised this would be a good publicity event for the town and recommended working closely with other community groups to host the event and with VisitKelso to market the event.

Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave the following update –

An invitation had been received from Kelso Quest to attend their launch on Thursday 20 February at 7.00pm in the Abbey Row Centre. The Provost advised he would be attending.

SBC had issued a proposed Traffic Regulation Order – Disabled Persons' parking places and advised formal objections are not invited at this consultation stage as a further period will be allowed. However the Council is formally consulted on for views on the proposals and any comments by 28 February 2020. The Secretary was asked to circulate details to Councillors.

An email had been received from the Rotary Club advising they were currently working with Alzheimer's Scotland to raise awareness around the town of what can be done as businesses and organisations to make life a little easier for those who suffer from dementia. Their long term aim is to have Kelso nominated as a Dementia Friendly Town. As part of this they will be running dementia awareness courses. The Provost suggested they be invited to do a training session prior to the next Community Council meeting at 6.00pm on Tuesday 10 March. The Secretary was asked to confirm this.

It was noted Kelso Heritage Society had requested access to the SBC Local Community Path Maintenance Grant 2019/20 and it was agreed this should be offered to them. The Secretary was asked to liaise with the KHS and process the application.

The Secretary advised she had drafted the annual insurance renewal and asked for feedback. Councillor Tomczyk advised the Kelso Community Memorial Garden should be included as the Community Council now had responsibility for maintaining this area. The Secretary undertook to include this in the renewal. Councillor Tomczyk also suggested we notify the insurers of our plans to lead on the 75th VE Day celebrations in May 2020.

The Secretary advised Councillor Tomczyk would be nominating the Kelso Community Memorial Garden in the Scottish Civic Trust "My Place Awards".

Provost's Report

The Provost advised he had attended no official engagements.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the SBCCN had met on the 5 February 2020 and the following items were discussed

The Joint Older People's services review undertaken by the Care Inspectorate and Health Improvement Scotland. Councillor McGrath advised a press release had

been issued by SBC today outlining improvements across all thirteen recommendations identified in their report from 2017. SBC Councillor Weatherston undertook to circulate a copy to the Secretary.

The Participation Request submitted by the Community Council Network on the 12 November 2017 is to be resubmitted.

The Locality Working Group had met last week and new Terms of Reference had been drawn up. This Group which reports to the Strategic Planning Group were concentrating on speeding up Integration. The Provost comment the details for the meeting had been advertised.

Councillor McGrath advised he would be attending the Strategic Planning Group meeting later in the week.

Councillor McGrath commented he had met Danielle Johnstone a member of the Local Area Co-ordination Team (LAC). The LAC is a preventative service supporting people to connect with their communities to build better lives. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented Community Link Workers were part of this team.

Councillor McGrath circulated copies of the Scottish National Park newsletter for information.

Any Other Business

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had previously raised concerns around the lack of electric charging facilities at the old KHS development and asked Rachel Hamilton MSP to raise this at the Scottish Parliament. As a result Rachel Hamilton MSP had raised the following questions –

“What legislation is in place to ensure that new developments incorporate electric vehicle charging points into infrastructure plans”

The answer was - At present there is no specific legislation in place requiring new developments to incorporate electric vehicle charging points into infrastructure plans. However, local authorities in Scotland have a statutory responsibility to prepare Local Development Plans, which are currently expected to be consistent with national policy set out in non-statutory Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). SPP states that electric vehicle charge points should always be considered as part of any new development and provided where appropriate. The Scottish Government is currently taking forward plans to introduce legislation to support the installation of electric vehicle charge points in new developments and intends to consult on options later this year with requirements taking effect from March 2021.

Councillor Tomczyk asked whether SBC had any views on the introduction of legislation to ensure adequate charging points were put in place for future developments. SBC Councillor Mountford commented KCC should include this issue in their response to future consultation on Local Delivery Plans.

It was noted there were 32 electric charging points across the Scottish Borders. Councillor Roberts advised Broughty Ferry in Dundee had a multi electric car charging station and fully electric taxis.

Councillor Yule asked for an update on SBC not investing in the replacement of the region's CCTV because it would be too expensive. SBC Councillor Mountford advised only 25% of crimes committed in Kelso were within the range of CCTV. The replacement and maintenance of the CCTV was proving prohibitive and it was noted that Police Scotland were not in a position to provide any funding. SBC Councillor Robson commented he felt there would need to be more discussion on this subject.

Councillor Horsburgh asked whether there had been any progress made to fix the broken locks on the public toilets. SBC Councillor Robson advised he had reported them and would follow up.

Councillor Robson asked when did Live Borders stop charging for overdue library books and was this because to save money by not handling cash. SBC Councillor Mountford replied he did not know.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

SBC Councillor Mountford advised meeting had been held on Wednesday 29 January in Jedburgh. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised this was the forum where Community Empowerment should work as it was an opportunity for members of the public to get involved in local decision making and apply for community funding. The Provost commented it was disappointment that these meetings were always poorly attended and maybe their format needed to be changed.

Parking /Traffic management

SBC Councillor Robson advised he was in discussion with public transport officers regarding the Dial a Bus scheme and hoped to bring an update to the next meeting.

Councillor Robson advised he had submitted a request to have the road markings repainted.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised he was unable to comment on the issue of the Borders Search and Rescue units' issues with Locality funding as this involved organisations out with the Council. However he advised he was aware legal issues were hindering developments but SBC were trying to help resolve them.

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had reported the faulty lights on the benches in front of the town hall after our last meeting but to date these have not been repaired.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no license applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The following plans were considered.

Change of use from retail to estate agents with ancillary office accommodation, 21 Woodmarket, Kelso TD5 7AT (20/00056/FUL). The Community Council recognise peoples changing habits regarding retail outlets and had no objections to the plans and supported it. However, it was noted that a change of use from a retail outlet to estate agents with ancillary office accommodation was better than the building remaining empty.

20/00100/FUL – Erection of warehouse building with associated office space Plots 2 and 3 Pinnaclehill Industrial Park, Kelso TD5

20/00145/LBC and 20/0014/FUL – Change of use of office and alterations to form dwellinghouse and internal and external alterations – Roger Dodd Bridge Street, Kelso TD5 7JD

The Community Council looked at these applications and considered all of the planning Policies relevant to the area of the proposal and were happy to support the plans.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2020.

APPENDIX

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS JAN 2020		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
14.01.20	Submitted expression of interest in organising 2023 Walking festival	For information
	Comments on planning application submitted	For information
	Comments on introduction of electronic speed signs submitted	For information
16.01.20	KIB advertising Meet and Greet event on 12 February	For information
	Secretary requesting information for funding from Common Good Fund for VE celebrations	For information
17.01.20	Road Traffic closure – Union Street	Circulated
19.01.20	Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network - Calling Notice for meeting on 5/2/20	Circulated
	Road Closure - B6436 Kelso to Morebattle Road	Circulated
20.01.20	Secretary emailed KHS re DOE involvement with Library Centenary Garden and Orchard	For information
	Information sent to Councillor McGrath re Kelso USA	For information
	Local Community Path Maintenance grant 2019-20 sent to Kelso Heritage Society	For information
	Planning Community Council Consultation for application 20/00056/FUL - Change of use from retail to estate agents with ancillary office accommodation (ground floor) : 21 Woodmarket Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AT – comments by 17.02.20	Circulated
22.01.20	Locality Working Groups – Meetings – Kelso 7 February 2020 at 6.30 in Tait Hall	Circulated
	Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network - next meeting 5/2/20 at SBC	Circulated
	Traffic regulations - Kelso - No Waiting	Circulated
	Email to Dog Warden regarding increased fouling in Shedden park and Woodside park	For information
	Jim Clark Rally 2020	Circulated
24.01.20	Woodland , people, planting and places questionnaire	Circulated
28.01.20	No Cold Calling Zone - Jedburgh Road – Police Scotland requested new signs made	Circulated
	Rotary Club of Kelso/Alzheimer Scotland project	Circulated
03.02.20	Councillor update: Union Street closure	Circulated
	Community Council Scheme Review WG - next meeting	Circulated

	25 March	
	PUBLIC CONSULTATION: DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS (SUDS)	Circulated
	Blooming Borders Floral Network - January 2020	Circulated
	Papers for Community Council meeting on 11 February 2020	Circulated