

Minute of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 7:00 in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors James Boulton, Peter Cooper, Paul Roberts, Shirley Redgrave and James McCombie; Scottish Borders Councillors Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston and Yvonne Oliver (Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Colin McGrath, Christine Hamilton, Gail Watson, Toni Oliver and Owen Adam; SBC Councillor Simon Mountford

IN ATTENDANCE: Norman Burr and Lesley Muter (both representing ASSET)

- *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.*
- *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 questions through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He introduced Norman Burr and Lesley Muter, both of whom wished to address the Community Council regarding ASSET (Association of South Scotland Entertainment Tent). Lesley advised the meeting that ASSET had been formed in July 2023, when a marquee had been gifted by Yetholm Community Council. The aim was to help the local community to run events by offering the use of the marquee at a fee of £250 per event, which includes erection and dismantling). Norman handed round photographs and said the marquee was 10 x 20 metres. ASSET simply wanted to break even – they were not wishing to profit from the hire.

The Provost thanked Norman and Lesley for coming along to the meeting.

Police Matters

The April MMWR had been circulated. There was no Police Scotland representative in attendance.

SBC Councillor T Weatherston advised the meeting that he had raised several issues with the Police.

The Provost told members that a lady who had been receiving abuse from a group of teenagers reported the matter to Police Scotland. The School Liaison Officer detected the culprit(s) and they had subsequently been charged with verbal abuse. He stressed that this was a good example of reporting incidents such as this to Police Scotland.

Visit Kelso

The Provost advised members that Adrian Clarkson, of Visit Kelso, was unable to attend the meeting due to ill-health. He had, however, emailed a report and the Provost read this out as follows:

“The hanging basket uptake for the coming year has been very good with 85 baskets being prepared (will be put up 6th June).

Membership invoices have been sent out and it is hoped that renewals will be strong. Work is always on-going to attract new members.

The current social media and Instagram contractors are resigning at the end of May and work is in progress to replace them.

Work is on-going to review the Visit Kelso website to make it more user-friendly and easier to locate pages.”

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024

The Minute of meeting of Tuesday 9 April 2024 had been circulated and was approved. The Minute was proposed by Councillor James Boulton and seconded by Councillor Peter Cooper.

Matters arising from the Minute

There were no matters arising from the Minute.

Questions From The Public

There were no questions from the public.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised that the next litter-pick was taking place on Thursday 23 May 2024 at 6pm. The planting at Bridgend Park was almost complete. An application had been submitted to this year's Greener Gateway Competition, organised by SBC and a grant of £500 had been awarded from Charity Begins At Home.

Community-Led Planning

The Provost advised the meeting that Beth Landon was giving a talk on Tuesday 28 May 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall on Community-Led Planning. This had been advertised in Kelso Life and on social media. It was hoped that as many community groups as possible would attend and become involved.

Scottish Borders Community Council Network

The Provost requested the SBC Councillors to enquire whether the SBCCN is still active and what is the state of their finances? SBC Councillors Weatherston and Robson agreed to this course of action.

It was noted that Councillor McGrath, who is the SBCCN representative, had tendered his apologies and was not at the meeting and therefore unable to answer any questions the Community Council had.

An email had subsequently been received from Scottish Borders Council advising that a Working Group would be drawn up from existing Community Councils to carry out a review of non-financial groups, including the SBCCN. The Provost, together with Councillor J McCombie, would be the representatives from Kelso Community Council on the Working Group.

Provost Report

- Members were advised that 2 Polish flags had recently been flown from Kelso Town Hall. The Provost and his wife Lorna, were invited every year to the Polish Embassy in Edinburgh to an Ambassador's Dinner – this year, the dinner was being held on 14 May 2024 and the Provost had given his tickets to Mr and Mrs Harry Tomczek (It was noted that American flags had been displayed to commemorate American Independence Day last year).
- The Provost said he was still very keen to have a digital display in the Town Hall window. He said that a 47" TV screen and a basic computer would cost approximately £500 and he felt this would be an excellent way to display tourist information. Councillor S Redgrave requested that the Provost get the exact figures and ask the Community Council for approval at a future meeting. It was noted that this funding would come from the surplus of the 2023 Walking Festival.

Secretary's Report

Events/Correspondence

Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary was attached to the Minute.

An email from Scottish Borders Council had been received inviting applications for the annual Community Paths Maintenance Grant. It was noted that the grant amount had been increased to £600 for 2024-25 and the deadline for submission is

13 December 2024. Members were advised that it was usually the Heritage Society who received this grant but if there were any other groups who would benefit from a share of the total, please let the Community Council know.

The annual Charity Begins At Home Awards ceremony was taking place on Sunday 2 June 2024 at 2.30 in the Cross Keys Hotel, Kelso. Councillor Paul Roberts kindly offered to attend and accept the cheque on behalf of Kelso Community Council.

Consultations

Members were advised that there was 1 ongoing consultation and that was the Decriminalisation of Parking in the Borders. There was a link on the SBC website for comments and he urged members to give their views.

There had been a consultation by Boundaries Scotland on revised constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament. It was noted that this had been received by Councillor Redgrave on 13 May 2024 and the closing date for submissions was 15 May 2024. SBC T Weatherston said this was probably because there were no proposed changes for the Scottish Borders Council area but the Secretary was asked to write to Boundaries Scotland to complain about the short notice and request that this did not happen in the future.

Scottish Borders Council Report

a) Town Hall Flags

The Provost commented on the poor repair of the existing flags on the Town Hall and said it was a very poor reflection of the town. SBC T Weatherston said he had no idea who was responsible for the maintenance of the Town Hall but he would email SBC Property again and ask that the flags be replaced as soon as possible.

The Provost advised that there were 2 flagpoles outside the Tait Hall and would it be possible to obtain flags for these for the summer?

b) Town Twinning

SBC Councillor E Robson raised the subject of Town Twinning, saying that Kelso used to be twinned with Orchies in France and should the Community Council be looking to revive this Group? The Provost said that the Twinning with Orchies had been wound up and any funds left had been donated to Charity Begins At Home. He himself had been involved with a school visit to Orchies and he felt that the Group had been wound up due to the expense. Councillor Robson asked if a post could be put on the Community Council Facebook Page to ask if there was any interest in starting it up again.

c) Vandalism to Lifebuoys

SBC Councillor E Robson said he was sorry to have to relay to the meeting that there had been some vandalism to the lifebuoys at The Cobby – he was not sure at

this time how much it would cost to repair/replace them but he knew there was a small amount of money left in the Water Safety Fund which could perhaps be used. The Provost advised that there had been a dead sheep lying in The Cobby for some time, this was being arranged to be removed.

d) CamperVan Overnight Parking

The Provost advised that it would be really good to get somewhere for campervans to park overnight in Kelso. It was noted that there were no signs at Mayfield saying they couldn't park overnight. SBC Councillor T Weatherston said it had been noted that there was definitely a requirement for overnight parking for the campervans.

e) CCTV

The Provost asked SBC Councillor E Robson if he would check whether the CCTV camera at the public toilets was working.

f) Maxmill Park

SBC Councillor E Robson advised members that they would be delighted to know that Scottish Borders Council had approved the demolition and sale of the site at Maxmill Park. The process was now underway.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no new Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

24/00387/FUL – Kelso Racecourse – **Approved**

24/00478/FUL- White Swan, Kelso – Change of Colour – **Approved**

24/00392/LBC – 38 Woodmarket, Kelso – redecoration (retrospective) - **Object**

Any other business

The Provost produced a copy of the official portrait of King Charles and said he would ask SBC to hang it up in the Chambers. He also asked if it would be possible to get new blinds on the windows.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS – APR/MAY 24		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
09.04.24	Community-led planning peer support network	For information
10.04.24	Community Council Consultation – 24/00387/FUL – Kelso Racecourse	Comments by 7 May 2024
	[OFFICIAL] road closure - D42/4 Bettyfield, South of Smailholm - 17th June 2024	For information
11.04.24	March – Police Report	For Information
15.04.24	[OFFICIAL] News release: Highest level of positive destinations for school leavers in five years	For information
	[OFFICIAL] FW: News release: Multiply workshop fund to improve adult numeracy skills opens for applications	For information
16.04.24	[OFFICIAL] News Release: New grass management pilot set to commence across Scottish Borders	For information
	Engaging Young Minds: Tweed Foundation Celebrates Success of Fish in the Classroom	For information
	[OFFICIAL] SBC Food Consultation for Borders residents	For information
19.04.24	Abundant Borders BIG Volunteer Event	For Information
22.04.24	Community-led planning update - Border Community Action	For Information
23.04.24	Road closures - B6436 Kelso to Morebattle Road - 13th May 2024	For Information
	Kelso Sevens - 4th May 2024 - TTRO	For Information
	Note to Kelso Community Council - Ednam Primary School Spring Fair	For Information
24.04.24	BBC Scotland political TV Show is filming in Galashiels	For Information
	Local Community Paths Maintenance Grant 2024/25	For Information / Application
	Road Closure - B6461 Kelso to Ednam - 7th May 2024	For Information
25.04.24	Community Council Consultation for application 24/00478/FUL - White Swan Change of Colour	Comments by May Meeting
	Entries open for expanded 2024 Greener Gateway Awards	For information
29.04.24	CBAH Awards 2024	For information
30.04.24	Visit Kelso - Newsletter April 2024	For Information
	Introducing ASSET	For information
08.05.24	Community-led planning update	For information

	Revised Proposals for Scottish Parliament Constituencies	For Information
10.05.24	April MMWR - April Police Report	For Information
13.05.24	News release: Could you become part of our fostering community?	For Information
	Council's plea - don't miss out - remember you need photo ID to vote	For Information



KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Kelso, TD5 7LW

Email: kelsocommunitycouncil@gmail.com

9 April 2024

Planning Office
Scottish Borders Council
Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells
Melrose TD6 0SA

Dear Sirs

24/00392/LBC - Community Council Consultation for application– 38 Woodmarket

24/00442/FUL | External re-decoration (retrospective) | Shop 38 Woodmarket Kelso
Scottish Borders TD5 7AX

Kelso Community Council has met and discussed this application and has concern of the new colour of the exterior of the premises, after recently being changed. The row of premises on this side of Woodmarket is all of light colour, cream and beige and the original colour of the shop was in fitting with the rest of the street.

The premises are set within the conservation area and the setting of such should be protected from retrospective alteration that is not in keeping with the surrounding premises.

Quote section 6.3 on the Supplementary Planning Guidance on Shop Fronts and Shop Signs, “the use of brash colours will rarely be successful”.

We would gratefully ask that this building is put back to its original colour before painting.

Yours sincerely

Yvonne Oliver
Secretary
Kelso Community Council

