

Minute of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 8 October 2024 at 7:00 in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors James Boulton, Shirley Redgrave, Paul Roberts, James McCombie and Toni Oliver; SBC Councillor Simon Mountford, Anna Thomson (Visit Kelso) and member of the public Ryan Whellans.

APOLOGIES: Yvonne Oliver (Secretary), Councillors Christine Hamilton, Owen Adams, Gail Watson, Peter Cooper and Colin McGrath; SBC Councillors Euan Robson and Tom 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.*
- *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.

Police Matters

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

Councillor Oliver advised she had completed the Police Survey consultation as views of the community are important to shaping the future service and urged others to share and complete. It will take a few moments.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2024-2025>

Councillor Oliver asked for an update on the burglaries in the Hendersyde area and the Provost agreed to request this.

Visit Kelso

Anna Thomson, representing Visit Kelso, advised Visit Kelso had held their AGM in September and their main priority was to increase the winter footfall by holding events in December. On the weekend of 14/15 December a Christmas Market would be held

at the Tait Hall with fun activities also taking place in The Square. Visit Kelso members had been given priority to book a table at the Tait Hall and then it had been opened to non-members. Anna was delighted to advise that all 30 tables had been taken up on both days and this event would run between 10.00 and 15.00 with no entry charge. It was noted that Claire Fletcher from Seasons was co-ordinating this event.

The Provost commented he was delighted at this news as last year's even, held in the Town Hall, had attracted 17 stall holders - he wished the event well.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2024

The Minute of meeting of Tuesday 10 September 2024 had been circulated and was approved. The Minute was proposed by Councillor James Boulton and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts.

Matters arising from the Minute

Taxi Rank

The Provost advised he had received an email from a member of the public who uses public transport and struggles to get from the bus stop to the taxi rank and had asked whether the taxi rank could be moved down to the bus stop to make it easier for them. The Provost commented that the member of the public makes a very good point regarding the current location of the Taxi Rank and that this would be better placed further down, closer to the bus stop on Horsemarket. This would enable those that were disabled and have limited mobility issues to be closer to the bus stops and toilets.

The Provost has asked SBC what the process would be for the existing Taxi Rank spaces to be moved to extend the bottom section of the rank which would then likely go from outside Central Baguette down as far as the old Paint Shop (utilising the three spaces). SBC Councillor Weatherston had responded and suggested the Community Council contact Passenger Transport and say they agree with this idea and it would make sense for the Taxi rank to be as close to the bus stop as possible.

Questions From The Public

Ryan Wheelans, a local beekeeper, congratulated Kelso in Bloom on their floral displays throughout the town and the use of plants that attracted bees. He asked whether there was any funding to provide "insect hotels" throughout the town. The Provost advised he would take this to the KIB committee.

Ryan mentioned that ivy pollen was an extremely important source to insects and asked that SBC delay cutting back their hedges and ivy until later in the year. The Provost commented that SBC cut back hedges twice a year and had currently cut back

ivy near the bridge. SBC Simon Mountford suggested the Provost puts Ryan in touch with the SBC Wildlife Officer.

SBC Councillor Mountford suggested Ryan Whellans contacts both the local primary schools as they run projects on insect protection and bug hotels.

The Provost advised he had received an email from a member of the public complaining about the litter at the Skate Park and the length of the grass. The Provost advised Mr Hay was trying to engage a contractor to deal with the grass. Councillor Oliver suggested that the bins be relocated to the top of the Skate Park.

The Provost advised complaints had also been received regarding the amount of litter at the High Croft play park which was generated by students at Kelso High School. He advised he had brought this to the attention of Kelso High School and Neighbourhood Services.

Kelso in Bloom

Greener Gateway Competition - The Provost advised Kelso had been successful in winning a Silver Commendation and Best Town Award. He advised thanks were due to the KIB committee and the many volunteers who helped maintain the beds.

Two framed certificates and a trophy had been presented and these will be put on display in the Town Hall window.

The Provost advised KIB would be holding a "thank you" event for its volunteers on Friday 15 November at 19.00 in the Town Hall and all volunteers were welcome.

The Provost advised KIB were scheduled to hold a committee meeting the following evening.

The Provost advised the last litter pick of the season would take place on Sunday 27 October at 15.00. As usual meet in front of the Town Hall and equipment would be provided. Litter picks will resume in the spring. Councillor Oliver commented that the previous litter pick had been cancelled at short notice due to adverse weather and not all volunteers had been notified. She suggested that if this happens again a notice should be displayed on the Town Hall door. The Provost agreed this was a good idea.

Scottish Borders Community Council Network

The Provost advised that as Councillor Colin McGrath had tendered his apologies there was no update.

Provost Report

Remembrance Sunday

The Provost advised that Councillors should assemble inside the Memorial Garden by 10.45 on Sunday 10 November and all were welcome to attend refreshments at the British Legion afterwards.

Diary

The Provost has been invited to attend the 60th Border Ice Rink anniversary dinner at the Cross Keys on 19th October.

The Provost had been invited to award prizes at the Young People Achievement Awards event on 14th November at the Tait Hall.

Time Capsule

The Provost advised he was looking at what to include in the time capsule and asked for feedback. He commented that he was also planning on inserting a memory stick in a watertight bag containing local information.

He had suggested inserting a commemorative cup to celebrate the Coronation of the late Queen and present King along with a bag of money containing £1.00, 50p, 20p, 5p, 2p and 1p coins.

He advised he was working on a Royal Visit for 2028 to commemorate the 900th Anniversary of Kelso Abbey. If this went ahead then a gold plaque could be included at the time.

KCC Councillors agreed to the above suggestions and thanked the Provost.

Secretary's Report

Events/Correspondence

Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary was attached to the Minute. There were no comments.

Local Community Paths Maintenance Grant 2024 – 25 (£600)

It was agreed to offer this to the Kelso Heritage Society, which the Secretary will action.

Consultations

There were no consultations for consideration.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Lighting in the Square

SBC Councillor Mountford advised that SBC Councillor Robson had met with the SBC Electrician and the uplighters had been tested. It was noted there was power going to the units but the units were dead. The original installation cost was in the region of £600 per unit and a revised quote would be obtained.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised there was an electric supply in place on either side of the large planters and suggested lanterns could be added to light the corners of the Square. Quotes will be sought and brought back to the KCC.

Tait Hall, Kelso

SBC Councillor Mountford advised that he, together with SBC Councillor T Weatherson, the Provost and representatives from Live Borders had met at the Tait Hall to look at proposed renovations. Live Borders have an allocation of funding to carry out this refurbishment.

The refurbishments for the Tait Hall include either new or the existing balcony seating re-upholstered and the outside, doors and canopy given a facelift.

SBC Councillor Mountford commented that it would be cheaper to replace the seating and the leg room would be looked at being increased if this was possible. The KCC welcomed this.

Resurfacing Ednam Road

SBC Councillor Mountford advised resurfacing of Ednam Road had been included in next year's budget.

Starbuck's Planning Application

SBC Councillor Mountford advised the Planning Department had requested additional reports, including a noise survey and this was ongoing. Ryan Whellans asked for an update on the ownership of this land. The Provost advised this land was owned by the Henderson family and had been included in the Local Development Plan as a development opportunity.

Pinnaclehill Woodland

SBC Councillor Mountford advised this land had been purchased by Kelso Town Council of the time, many years ago and then donated to the Kelso Common Good and the 3 SBC Councillors were Trustees of this. They have commissioned a woodland expert to inspect the trees and report back. He advised that the land was open to the public and if any organisation wished to utilise it they should make an application direct to Kelso Common Good, via SBC.

Union Street

Councillor Oliver asked for an update and SBC Councillor Mountford advised work was due to be completed on the house and it was hoped the street could be opened by the end of the year.

Salmon Fishing Museum

Councillor Oliver asked for an update on the Museum and was advised that the museum closed due to ongoing investigations regarding tenancy agreements with SBC. It was hoped it would reopen in Spring 2025. Discussions were ongoing with the Tweed Foundation and the Trustee of the Museum.

Councillor Oliver commented that if the museum closed could the space be used for a Kelso Museum. The Provost commented that discussions were ongoing to potentially use the Abbey Row Community Centre as an Abbey Heritage Hub to celebrate the 900th anniversary of Kelso Museum.

Consideration of Licensing applications

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

Consideration of Plans

There were no new Planning Applications to be considered at this time. However, the Provost commented that there had recently been an application for change of use to the old toilet block in the Knowes Car Park to a picture framing workshop, from an educational centre, which had been approved and didn't require official response from the Community Council.

Any other business

Councillor Roberts advised he was concerned about the new rules around disposing of upholstered items. It was noted that new legislation introduced by SEPA means that local authorities need to store these items separately. A question was asked on whether there would be an increase in cost to have these items collected and SBC Councillor Mountford undertook to investigate and report back.

The Provost asked if Councillors were interested in attending a Christmas meal which was well received – details to follow.

Councillor Oliver advised the Christmas Light switch on would take place on 30 November. Entertainment would commence from 16:00 with the lights switch-on at 18:00.

The Provost advised he was trying to arrange to hang the portrait of His Majesty The King and the original Town Charter in the Town Hall.

The Provost reminded Councillors that, next month prior to the meeting at 7.00pm, we will have a visit by the local Kelso Brownies who wish to attend to speak to Councillors about the work they do for the community. This will commence at 6.00pm.

Date of next meeting

The next Kelso Community Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at the Town Hall, Kelso.

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS – Sept – Oct 24

Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
11.09.24	Electric Bike hire	For information
	[OFFICIAL] FW: News release: Education Scotland's report on Channelkirk Primary School published	For information
17.09.24	Volunteering Opportunities Kelso	For information
18.09.24	[OFFICIAL] News Release: Scottish Borders Council celebrate Scottish Housing Day 2024	For information
	Communication PPC Kelso Application	For information
	[OFFICIAL] Road Closure - B6437 Chirnside - Causewaybank - Monday 30th September	For information
20.09.24	[OFFICIAL] Owl Hybrid Meeting System	For information
	FW: Free SQA Digital skills course Tuesday 24th September	For information
23.09.24	Latest News from Tweed Forum	For information
	The National Fraud Initiative in Scotland 2024 Report taken to Council Audit Committee	For Information
25.09.24	Border Ice Rink - Skating club	For information
26.09.24	[OFFICIAL] Road closure - D103/4 Over Roxburgh, Kelso - 4/11/24	For information
	[OFFICIAL] Road Closure - C68 Stockstruther, Kelso - 6th Nov 2024	For information
	[OFFICIAL] News release: Winners recognised at 2024 Greener Gateway Community Awards ceremony	For information
27.09.24	[OFFICIAL] News Release: Trading Standards 'Scam Van' returns to Scottish Borders	For information
30.09.24	[OFFICIAL] News Release: Nominations invited for Jedburgh Community Council election	For information
	Lands End to John o groats	For information
	[OFFICIAL] FW: A68 Earlston Bridge Refurbishment Works	For information
01.10.24	[OFFICIAL] FW: A1 Resurfacing Works - October/November	For information
	Your October newsletter from Citizens Rights Project!	For information
	R&B CAB AGM 2024	For information
02.10.24	Kelso Abbey 900 Years	For Information
	Border Union Showground - Fireworks - 5th November 2024	For Information

03.10.24	Kelso & District MMWR – Police Report	For Information
07.10.24	Council to mark Challenge Poverty Week by raising awareness of available support	For information
	Place and Space Information Session QME	For information
	Private water supply research	For information
08.10.24	Borders residents urged to be aware of new rules around disposing of upholstered items	For Information
	Funding available to support active travel in the Borders	For Information
	Road Closure Information - Woodmarket/Horsemarket Crossings, Kelso	For information