

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held
in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 9th April 2019, at
7.00pm**



PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Betty Hodges, James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Dean Weatherston (Provost) and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Police Scotland Susan Howgego, Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Kathryn Wylie (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Paul Roberts, Jill Mooney and Rhona Hastie

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gavin Horsburgh, Harry Tomczyk and Kerry Yule.

- *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.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to our April meeting.

Police Matters

The March 2019 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated and PC Suzanne Howgego was in attendance. There were no comments regarding the report and PC Howgego advised Police Scotland would be busy with the upcoming Borders Common Ridings and Sevens sessions.

The Provost commented he was concerned that there was a small group of people in the town who were causing trouble and blatantly boasting about the incidents on social media. PC Howgego advised Police Scotland were aware of the activities on social media but there was little they could do. PC Howgego acknowledged these incidents were upsetting for the victims and the community and advised specialist intelligence officers monitor social media and compile background reports for the criminal court.

The Provost thanked PC Howgego for attending the meeting.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised Visit Kelso's first AGM was held on the 28 March which had been well attended and received positive feedback. Tina advised a new Treasurer had been appointed.

Tina distributed copies of the new local map which had been launched. It was noted 10,000 copies had been produced. The Provost on behalf of the Community Council congratulated Visit Kelso in producing the excellent map. SBC Councillor Weatherston offered his and his colleagues congratulations for the super leaflet.

Councillor McGrath asked whether the closure of the Tourist Information Centre had had an adverse effect on tourism. Tina advised some local business had become "I Know Centres" which meant they could provide local information to tourists. Tina advised one main disadvantage was that most outlets did not have racks to display information leaflets.

Councillor Hodges suggested a poster be put on display in one of the Town Hall windows alerting the public to the I Know Centres and also a list should be put in Kelso Life.

The Provost advised Midlothian and Borders Tourism Action Group had produced a free app "Scotland Starts Here" which provided a lot of useful local information for visitors and locals.

SBC Councillor Weatherston commented he had attended a meeting in Hawick a few years ago and was advised the majority of visitors do their research before setting off on holiday and plan and book accommodation and tickets for events before they left home.

The Provost thanked Tina for attending the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2019

The minutes held on Tuesday 12 March 2019 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor John Bassett and seconded by Councillor Ian Brown.

Matters arising

Resilience Group

The Provost advised there was no update.

Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised he had been in contact with colleagues from Northumberland Council who were keen to progress matters.

It was agreed the Community Council should write a letter of support to Transport Scotland.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges advised a public meeting had been held the previous day with volunteers and interested stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Scottish Borders Council review of Neighbourhood Services and receive feedback from the public. It was noted SBC had identified land they currently maintain that does not belong to them including The Cobby, Mayfield Riverside Walk and many housing estates. Plans were shared with the public, indicating changes to proposed beds and suggested planting.

The main issues raised were the reduction in grass cutting and the provision of annual bedding plants at the Memorial Garden and The Square.

Councillor Hodges advised Kelso in Bloom was set up four years ago with a vision of improving the entrances into the town. They currently fund the flowers at Bridgend with the Horticultural Society providing the maintenance. They also fund and maintain the entrances on the Coldstream Road, Rose Lane, Jedburgh Road and Springwood Bank. They assist SBC by having volunteers do additional maintenance within our War Memorial, with the current volume of volunteers they cannot take on any more responsibility. Each area takes two/three volunteers one/two hours a week.

The Provost advised changes to provision of bedding plants and grass cutting needed to be a Community Council initiative as it was too big a project for the Kelso in Bloom group. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented he and his colleagues would work with the Council to provide support and assistance to help maintain the town's appearance to visitors and residents. Going forward it was agreed we need to establish how much SBC currently spend on the provision of bedding plants and how much it would cost to maintain the grass at prominent areas.

The Provost advised he would meet with Councillor Hodges and the Secretary to agree an action plan and arrange a meeting with SBC officers.

It was noted KIB had organised a fund raising bag pack at Sainsbury's on Saturday 20 April.

NHS/Social Services integration

The Secretary advised Robert McCulloch-Graham, Chief Officer Scottish Borders Health and Social Care would be attending the May meeting to give an explanation on the role of the Integrated Joint Board and give some examples of the good work that is currently going on and explain how the community can become more involved.

Questions from the public

There were no questions.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised she had placed an advert in Kelso Life to publicise the forthcoming AGM in May. She advised the editor of Kelso Life had advised there would be no charge for this, which was greatly appreciated.

The following correspondence was received:

Invitation to Kelso Laddies Declaration on Friday 19 April at 7.00pm in the Town House.

SBC Community Fund and Area Partnership Review. It was noted for 2019/20 Community Council funding would be at the same level. Jenny Craig had organised a meeting of all Community Councils in the Cheviot Area on Wednesday 5 June at 5.00pm and two representatives were invited to this meeting.

SBC Community Council Scheme – SBC members agreed to review the current Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils. A Working Group would be formed to lead the review consisting of a SBC Elected Member from each Area Partnership, a Community Council representative from each Area Partnership being chaired by Councillor Sandy Aitchison. Regarding the appointment of the Community Council representative it would be preferable if all Community Councils in the Cheviot area could agree their representative. Alternatively individual Community Councils can submit names direct and then Jenny Wilkinson, Clerk to the Council would write out to every Community Council in the Area asking for their preference and the representative with the highest preference would be appointed.

The Bridge annual subscription

The Secretary advised the annual accounts were currently being drafted and would be submitted at the Annual General meeting for approval.

Provost Report

The Provost advised he had been contacted by Prudy Cunningham, great granddaughter of James Smith. In 2009 her late father George Romanes and his niece Elizabeth Robertson donated a silver salver and punch bowl to the town which were originally inherited by them as grandson and great granddaughter respectively of the first Provost of Kelso James Smith. Prudy had visited the Town Hall to view the silver last month and was happy to see the salver and punch bowl so beautifully displayed. She advised her father intended that there should be a brief explanation with the displayed silver items indicating their return to Kelso by the family. The Community Council were happy to include a notice in the cabinet noting their providence.

The Provost advised he had shared details of the proposed new play park for the putting green area in Shedden Park on Facebook. Once complete the current park will see the Nancy Dawson retained with the old equipment removed and the area turned into a Family Picnic Area. The Provost advised he had only received one objection. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he had undertaken a letter drop to nearby houses. Councillors welcomed this development.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the next SBCCN meeting would take place on the 10 April 2019 and the AGM would be held on the 22 May at which the speakers would include a senior civil servant from the Scottish Government who wrote part of the Community Empowerment Act and particularly Participation Requests together with Clementine Hill-O'Connor (Glasgow Caledonian University) who is working on behalf of the Scottish Government to assess Participation Requests from all Scotland.

Councillor McGrath advised there would be a one day seminar on Participation Budgets. He commented SBC were required to allocate 1% of their budget for community activities.

Any Other Business

All business had been covered elsewhere.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

SBC Councillor Mountford advised the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 17 April, 6.30pm at Kelso High School. Agenda items include –

The consumption of alcohol in public places is to be considered – consultation previously circulated.

Draft Cheviot Locality Plans

Update on Localities Bid Fund - the bidding for Round 2 is now closed.

- An assessment panel met to assess the applications submitted and if the application successfully meets the criteria then it will be put to a public vote with the other eligible bids.
- Applicants have been notified as to whether their projects have or have not met the criteria.
- Local residents and communities can vote on which projects should receive funding.
- The public vote will take place between Thursday 16th May 2019 and Thursday 6th June 2019.

Parking /Traffic management

SBC Councillor Robson advised there was no update.

Questions to SBC Councillors

The Provost advised he had received complaints from members of the public regarding the traffic congestion at the Community Recycling Centre at lunchtime and on Mondays since the revised opening times had come into operation. Paul Roberts commented there was no indication of the revised opening times on the entrance gates. The Provost asked whether the revised times were being trialled or permanent and he was advised these were permanent changes.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no license applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

(19/00426/FUL) Installation of DSLAM Telecommunications Broadband cabinet, land south of 4 Edenside Road, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections to the plans and were happy to support this but to suggest the cabinets were sensibly placed further back from the pavement and thus avoiding congestion if engineers were working on them.

(19/00472/FUL) Change of use from hotel/guest house and alterations to form café and apartment for holiday accommodation Border Guest House 12-14 Woodmarket, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections to the plans and were happy to support this.

SBC Councillor Robson expressed an interest and advised there was an application to construct a new road land east of Broomlands (19/00466/FUL Construction of new road Land East Of 12 Broomlands Kelso) and asked whether the Community Council had been consulted. The Secretary advised no and undertook to circulate the information.

Post meeting the Community Council expressed disappointment in not being consulted on the proposal and after consideration decided that they could not support it and would formally object to it as they felt it would lead to an increase of through traffic which would add to road pressure at Broomlands Primary School. The Community Council originally supported the road layout when the houses were built on the understanding that the roads wouldn't link up in the future

The Provost advised he had been approached by some residents at Broomlea who had formed the Woodend Garden Association. The Association wish to adopt and maintain the land between 46 Broomlea and the adjacent sewerage works which is currently grassed over and owned by SBC. The application is for a request to change the use of the land from a grassed area cut by the local council to a community garden area for the provision of growing fruit and vegetables for domestic use only.

The Provost advised the Association had been in discussion with SBC for over three years and they would be required to pay over £400 in planning fees for a change of use. SBC Councillor Mountford confirmed planning permission was required for a change of use and suggested the Kelso Community Council acted on behalf of the group and submit application and be entitled to a reduced fee. SBC Councillor Mountford advised the cost could be claimed back through a community grant scheme.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 May 2019.