



**PRESENT:** Councillors James Boulton, Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh, James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Paul Roberts, Harry Tomczyk, Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Dennis Fortune (KRG), Margaret Gribben, Stuart Hill, Hazel Woodsell and Gemma Douglas (National Parents Forum).

**APOLOGIES** Councillor Ian Brown

- *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 April meeting being held by Zoom.

## **Visit Kelso**

Tina Newton advised Kelso businesses are starting to open up and with today's announcement we should see more people visiting the town. A marketing campaign is ongoing on their social media pages.

Tina advised Visit Kelso were lucky enough to be awarded some funding from the Towns and BIDs Resilience and Recovery Fund and have created a marketing campaign around a giant pair of boots which will be displayed in the Square from mid-June. The campaign is designed to encourage footfall on the Town's Streets. There will be three competitions running during this campaign – best footwear, best photo of the “giant boots” and a competition around the business windows. Visit

Kelso have placed an advert in May's edition in Kelso Life to encourage people to become involved and will also be handing out leaflets to the town's businesses. They are asking both homes and businesses to "decorate" old footwear and display in their windows or gardens which can be entered into a prize draw.

Councillor Horsburgh advised KIB would assist with watering the boots.

Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update on the Spotlight on Kelso meeting. Tina advised this had been organised by the Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce and John Lamont MP and Rachael Hamilton MSP had been in attendance.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021**

The minutes held on Tuesday 9 March 2021 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts.

### **Matters arising**

Councillor Tomczyk raised concerns that the plastic fencing around the old Foundry site were not safe. SBC Councillor Weatherston undertook to chase up and report back.

### **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

### **Police Matters**

The Provost advised Police Scotland were not allowed to join meetings by Zoom and advised the Multi Member Ward Plan for Kelso and District for April 2021 had previously been circulated and if there were any comments or concerns to feedback to ourselves or Police Scotland.

The Provost advised as a result of Councillors Boulton's comments at the last meeting on the behaviour issues of children and adults at the end of the school day in Shedden Park this had been reported to Police Scotland who were aware of this and were monitoring the situation. SBC Councillor Mountford advised Police Scotland were investigating anti-social behaviour issues by young people and had seized a quantity of alcohol and warning letters had been issued to the families.

### **Kelso Resilience Group**

The Provost advised Kelso Resilience Group have stopped shopping and prescription requests at the beginning of the month and all referrals are to go direct to SBC. He commented that as always the group were ready to start back up should the need arise.

The Provost advised all of KRG equipment has been put back into the storage space in Kelso Men's Shed and Dennis Fortune is going to arrange to hand over the keys to Councillor Roberts.

The Provost advised Dennis Fortune and Colin Seccombe will officially step down at the AGM in May from their coordinator roles and Councillors Gavin Horsburgh and Paul Roberts will take their positions. He advised he will remain as a coordinator until the Community Council has its election and then hand over. Dennis, Colin and Dean will remain as general volunteers.

Dennis advised in accordance with Data Protection regulations he will delete and destroy any personal information held on his laptop or on paper.

### **Kelso in Bloom**

Councillor Horsburgh advised the KIB committee had met and the new bedding plants had been ordered and it was anticipated these will arrive late May/early June. He advised he had spoken to Robin Hogg and the Horticultural Society had agreed to assist with the planting. He advised due to Covid restrictions the planned Big Town clean-up and litter pick organised for Sunday 28th March had to be cancelled. He commented that as restrictions are lifted he would organise a community litter pick but wished to place on record his thanks to those individuals and families who had been carrying out regular litter picks. Rotas for maintenance of the beds were currently being drafted. Councillor Horsburgh advised he would speak to Visit Kelso to make arrangements to have access to the water bowser.

### **Railway Committee**

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had attended the Spotlight on Kelso meeting and shared the idea of the Tweed Valley railway which had generated a lot of interest. He advised he had asked for a representative from the Chamber of Commerce to sit on the committee which had been agreed.

Councillor Tomczyk advised the Railway Committee would hold its next meeting in May and he was still looking for someone to minute the meetings. The Provost advised he would mention this in the next Kelso Life issue which would hopefully secure a volunteer.

Councillor Tomczyk advised a response had been submitted to the UK Government Union Connectivity Review and he had spoken to John Lamont MP who undertook to follow up,

Councillor Tomczyk advised a response had been submitted to the latest SESTran Regional Transport Strategy which had highlighted the railway and the fact that current developments in the town had no requirement to provide electric charging points.

SBC Councillor Robson advised in due time a regional railway organisation would need to be formed and one of the main issues for the next meeting would be to collect facts around populations, etc along the route. Councillor Boulton advised he

was looking into ownership of the line and bridges and would report back at the next railway meeting. Councillor Cooper advised it was important to build a data base of information and interested stakeholders.

Councillor Cooper asked if there was any indication on when a decision would be made to extend the line. SBC Councillor Robson advised the next stage was for the £5m feasibility study to be undertaken, which could take 12 – 18 months and a decision would be based on the outcome of the study. The next stage would be funding issues.

### **Secretary's Report**

- Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and captured and a summary would be attached to the minutes.
- AGM May 2021. This would be held on Tuesday 11 May 2021 via zoom. The secretary advised she had drafted the annual accounts which would go to George Young for auditing.

### **Provost's Report**

The Provost advised he had attended the Spotlight on Kelso event and the Cheviot Area Fund working group.

The Provost advised SBC Executive had decided to suspend all Community Council Elections in the SBC area until no earlier than the end of August and for this reason the current Kelso Community Councillors would stay on until such time as an Election can be held.

The Provost advised as an act of respect with the passing of Prince Phillip the flags at the Town Hall were flying at half mask.

### **Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)**

Councillor McGrath gave the following update –

Implementation of the Community Empowerment Act – a letter was sent to Scottish Ministers, endorsed by the SBCCN Core Group. It addresses the 5 year review of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and in particular those parts which have not yet been enacted (brought into force). The SBCCN response to the SCDC report re Area Partnerships and the Community Fund was sent as an appendix. He advised email acknowledgements were received just before the Scottish Parliament closed for the lead up to the elections; Christine Grahame MSP also emailed a response from the Parliament's Information Centre. Copies have been circulated to Councillors.

Gemma Douglas (National Parents Forum) advised she would be very interested in being involved in future discussions around Community Empowerment.

Councillor McGrath advised information and guidance relating to the UK Government's UK Community Renewal Fund had been issued. The UK Government is providing £220 million for this financial year 2021/22, which ends on the 31 March 2022, to help areas across the UK transition away from the European Union Structural Funds programmes. It aims to support communities by providing funding to pilot new ideas and approaches to better support people and communities in need and pave the way for the introduction of the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It was noted the deadline for applications is Monday 17th May 2021.

### Rosebank Cemetery Wall

The Provost advised he had received a complaint from a resident regarding the poor condition of the fence to the right of the entrance gates at Rosebank Cemetery (opposite the bus stop). This had previously been reported to SBC but as yet nothing has been done about it. The Provost advised it is a small section of fencing using cheap overlapping traditional panels and the wall stops at the other side of the gate and doesn't continue on to the edge of the cemetery which is only a few metres on the other side. A replica wall would be ideal but at the very least a sturdy quality fence should be erected. SBC Councillor Robson advised he was aware and quotes had been received to rectify the fence and he would make enquiries for possible funding pots as this is very important for families concerned. SBC Councillor Robson would also try to contact the families who have headstones in that area.

The Provost advised he had also received complaints about dog fouling in the area and would speak to the SBC Dog Education officer.

### **Scottish Borders Council Report**

#### Parking and traffic management

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had raised the issue of line painting and would chase up.

The Provost advised there was still an issue with vehicles parking in front of the Town Hall and was looking at solutions. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the suggestion of using a chain was a health and safety hazard but a solutions needed to be found.

#### 20mph speed limits

It was noted that some interim amendments to the 20mph speed limit trial had been received and circulated to Councillors for comments.

Councillor Tomczyk said that a member of the public had suggested to him that on the stretch between Heiton and the Sainsbury's roundabout this should be 50mph. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the speed limit was dictated by what is on either side of the road. Reduced from 60mph to 40mph for Sprouston

The Provost recommended the area around the racecourse could benefit from a speed reduction. He advised from the Ednam Road down onto the Edinburgh road and racecourse car park field it is currently 60mph and could potentially be reduced to 30mph. It was noted this is a popular walk area and passes a racecourse, golf course, stables, benches and allotments.

Councillor Tomczyk raised concerns again around potential traffic congestion at the area of the old High School when the rugby season started and the members of St Mary's congregation attending services as there was no longer parking available on the site of the old High School.

Councillor Roberts had raised issues around the entrance to the Cobby at the top of Roxburgh Street. He advised many people were speeding and ignoring the "no entry" signs and asked whether traffic calming measures could be introduced. SBC Councillor Robson advised it was a traffic offence to go against a no entry sign and in his opinion it was locals and not visitors who were the main offenders. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the KCC should write to Phillipa Gilhooly (SBC Traffic and Road Safety officer) and raise with the Police.

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#### Supply of iPads to Schools and access to You Tube

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised access to ipads and pens were available at the schools but there was insufficient funds to give each pupil their own. SBC Councillor Robson advised he had spoken to officers regarding giving primary school children access to You Tube and the technical team were working on a solution to enable appropriate filters to be put in place. He advised he had a meeting with the Children and Young Peoples Director the following day and would feed back any progress when appropriate.

#### Any Other Business

Travellers – The Provost advised a group of travellers had arrived and camped on the playing field at Edenside and had allegedly cut the padlock to gain access. He commented that both SBC and the Police were aware and were monitoring the situation. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the SBC Liaison officer was in discussion with the travellers and bins and a porta loo had been provided. He commented he was confident the travellers would be gone before the return to school the following week. Councillor Robson commented that the section of land needs to be made secure to prevent a reoccurrence and that residents of Forestfield had raised concerns. Councillor Horsburgh asked whether travellers had special exemptions under Covid restrictions.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised he had managed to secure an additional waste bin for the end of the Sprouston path and this was in place.

Councillor McGrath advised he had heard on Borders News that the Border Forest Trust were giving away trees free of charge to organisations. The Provost commented that we had in previous years been offered these but there was little interest. Gemma Douglas commented she welcomed this initiative and would recommend to the Parents Forum that trees were planted in the local schools. Hazel

Woodsell (Heritage Society) advised the trees for the new orchard had been provided by the Border Forest Trust.

### **Consideration of Licenses**

The Secretary advised an application for the Grant of Provisional Premises Licence had been received from James Henderson in respect of the office room in his home at Ferniehill Court, Kelso and the proposal is within the Board's Policy. The Community Councillors supported this application

### **Consideration of Plans**

The following plans were considered.

21/00431/LBC - Mr & Mrs A. Russell - Internal alterations SITE: 6 Broomlands Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7PR. The Community Council looked at this application and considered all of the planning policies relevant to the area of the proposal and were happy to support the plans.

21/00159/FUL - Mr Paul Gaunt – Change of use to form holiday accommodation - (Phase 2) Stormont Darling WS 8 - 9 The Square Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7HQ The Community Council looked at this application and considered all of the planning policies relevant to the area of the proposal and were happy to support the plans.

21/00158/LBC - Mr Paul Gaunt – Alteration to form holiday accommodation (Phase 2) Stormont Darling WS 8 - 9 The Square Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7HQ The Community Council looked at this application and considered all of the planning policies relevant to the area of the proposal and were happy to support the plans.

21/00322/FUL – Lidl UK Gmbh - Extension to provide Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) facilities, installation of trolley shelter and associated alterations to car park. SITE: 31 Shedden Park Road Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AL. The Community Council looked at this application and considered all of the planning policies relevant to the area of the proposal and were happy to support the plans.

21/00490/FUL and 21/0491/FUL – Mr Brian Tow replacement windows – 6 Abbey Court, Kelso TD5 7JA. The Community Council looked at this application and considered all of the planning policies relevant to the area of the proposal and were happy to support the plans.

21/00532/FUL - Mr Ronald Paxton - Installation of patio doors - 5 Mayfield Gardens Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7BD. The Community Council looked at this application 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 and AGM will be held on Tuesday 11 May 2021

APPENDIX

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS MARCH 2021		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
10.03.21	Approved minutes posted	For information
	Update from Live Borders	For information
	Community Council Elections – Kelso delayed until after 31.8.21	For information
	AGM notice drafted and sent to Kelso Life	For information
11.03.21	Scottish Borders Community Council Scheme Review WG - 18 March 2021	For information
	Response to Rutherford Square, Kelso. Community Council	For information
	News release: Extended summer opening hours for community recycling centres	For information
12.03.21	Coronavirus Acts and related Regulations - proposed extensions	For information
	News release: Draft financial plans published ahead of budget-setting meeting	For information
	Community Testing in the Borders for distribution to Community Councils	For information
14.03.21	Letter of support to transfer assets to Cheviot Youth	For information
18.03.21	SBCCN letter and addendum sent to Scottish Government 2nd March	For information
	Free Online Training Courses for Community Councils with OU Scotland	For information
	News release: Parents and carers eligible for means tested free school meals to receive £100 payment	For information
	News Release: Scottish Borders to host Tour of Britain in September	For information
	Road Closure - A698 Homebank east of Birgham	For information
	News release: Council launches consultation on draft Anti-Poverty Strategy	For information
	Comments and feedback sent to SBC Councillors on extended opening hours at CRC	For information
19.03.21	Teviot bridge re-opened	For information
	Feedback from SBC on extended hours at CRC	For information
	20mph Community Council Information EMAIL 6, survey 2 and dashboard info	For information
22.03.21	Scottish Borders Council workshop opportunity	For information



	Review of Area Partnerships and the Community Fund - Tweeddale Area	For information and comments
	News release: Full funding for roads, communities, digital developments and COVID-19 recovery agreed in budget	For information
	News release: Young people make Promise to the Planet to help the climate emergency	For information
	News release: Preliminary road traffic data made public ahead of 20mph trial consultation	For information
	Community Council Consultation for application 21/00159/FUL Change of use to form holiday accommodation (Phase 2) SITE: Stormont Darling WS 8 - 9 The Square Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7HQ	For comments at our April meeting
	Community Council Consultation for application 21/00158/LBC	For comments at our April meeting
	Community Council Consultation for application 21/00431/LBC Internal alterations SITE: 6 Broomlands Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7PR	For comments at our April meeting
26.03.21	Comments on planning applications 21/00267 and 21/00128 submitted	For information
	Spotlight on Kelso – Fri 2 April 10.00 – 11.00	For information
	Kelso Men's Shed AGM minutes	For information
	Message from Scottish Water - Tell us what you think	For information
	Information for Community Councils: Clean up events	For information
	Licensing application - James Henderson, 18 Ferniehill Court, Kelso TD5 7LA. Bars4you Gifts Licensed hours applied for – Off Sales – 10.00am to 10.00pm - Monday to Sunday	For comments
	News release: Council launches region's first Community Food Growing Strategy	For information
	CHEVIOT 20mph amendments YETHOLM, KELSO, SMAILHOLM, SPROUSTON and STICHILL	For information
29.03.21	SEStran Regional Transport Strategy	Comments submitted 09.04.21
	News release: Council launches region's first Community Food Growing Strategy	For information
02.04.21	Enquiry about Giovanni Maria Benzoni's marble busts in Hendersyde Park	For information
	Hear from You	
	News Release: Council launches second phase of consultation on draft Anti-Poverty Strategy	
	Scottish Community Council winter newsletter	

	News Release: Candidates announced for upcoming Scottish Parliament election	
	Community Council Consultation for application 21/00322/FUL	For comments
04.04.21	Police Scotland March report	For comments
06.04.21	New role for Kerry Brown – Chief Executive QMC Care	For information
	Papers for April 2021 circulated	For information
13.04.21	Community Renewal Fund - eligibility criteria details	For information
	Implementation of the Community Empowerment Act	For information