

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council on
Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 7:15pm in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Councillors Owen Adams, James Boulton (Vice Chair), Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Toni Oliver, Gus Russell and Gail Watson and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tommy Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) and members of the public Verity Much and Dean Weatherston.

APOLOGIES: Police Scotland, Visit Kelso and Councillors Christine Hamilton and Paul Roberts.

- *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 question through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost extended a warm welcome to Councillors.

Police Matters

The Provost advised the Multi Member Ward Plan for Kelso and District for April 2022 had previously been circulated. There were no issues raised but Councillor Boulton asked if we could invite Police Scotland to our June meeting for an update.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton had tendered her apologies and the Provost gave the following report on behalf of Visit Kelso.

Visit Kelso have had a very active year. They have been very fortunate to have received funding grants to help market the area.

Currently Visit Kelso are working on updating the Town Map - 10,000 copies will be printed and these will be distributed to various outlets.

Charity Begins At Home have been very generous with their support and have awarded money towards the cost of hanging baskets, hooks and planting.

Visit Kelso applied to Scottish Borders Council for Platinum Jubilee funding and were very fortunate to receive the full amount. This will allow Visit Kelso to market the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the town. Some of our members are working along with others on the joint committee to give a full and varied programme for the day.

The other projects being worked on are:

Visit Scotland announced 2022 is the year of Stories. Two of Kelso's stories have already been aired - Sir Walter Scott and Freddie the Racehorse, the third is being put together at the moment with a fourth to follow. We also have our own image bank with 300 of our own Kelso and surrounding area photographs and drone footage. None of these things would have happened without the generous support from grants.

Finally Visit Kelso are looking for new committee members so if anybody would like to join us you would be very welcome.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2022

The minutes held on Tuesday 12 April 2022 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Russell.

Matters arising from the minutes

Equal Opportunity Policy

The Secretary advised Councillor Hamilton had circulated the finalised document for consideration. This was proposed by Councillor Boulton and seconded by Councillor Oliver and adopted.

Dog Fouling

The Secretary advised she had sent a letter to Ms Rachel Hamilton MSP and Ms Emma Harper MSP. Both had responded positively and will be invited to attend a future meeting of the Kelso Community Council for further discussions.

Defibrillators

The Provost advised he had been in contact with Kelso Heartbeat for a list of public access defibrillators and was awaiting a location list which will be shared. The Provost advised the vandalised defibrillator had been restored.

Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

Presentation by Jill McCoy – Citizens Advice Bureau

Jill McCoy had attended the meeting and advised she had recently joined the Roxburgh and Berwickshire Citizens Advice and was making contact with as many groups in the area as possible to share that the CAB are looking for volunteers.

Jill advised that as a charity, they have 2000 volunteers in the whole country and with the changes with Covid, energy prices, redundancies, etc. the demand for help from CAB has increased greatly.

Jill advised she hoped the Kelso office would be able to re-open in the summer at a new location.

Regarding volunteers Jill advised she was looking for people to commit 4 – 6 hours per week and the training programme took between 6 to 9 months.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee celebration

The Provost advised plans were proceeding and everything seemed to be in place and he was very much looking forward to the weekend. He advised Rosie McDonald had finished the costumes and they all looked extremely smart.

The Provost advised that he needed volunteers to help put out chairs and barriers and to act as Stewards. He commented that if anyone wished to volunteer to contact him direct. The Provost thanked the Kelso Laddies Association for their efforts.

In response to a question the Provost advised there would be no road closures but parking would not be allowed in the carpark outside the Cross Keys which was going to be used for the market and funfair.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised a committee meeting was held on the 29 April 2022 and the following was discussed -

Plants - Robin Hogg has arranged for the plants, via Mayfield Garden Centre, and these will be ready around the beginning of June. However, these will not be planted until after the Jubilee weekend, to allow for the plants currently in place to still be in full bloom. Robin has also been asked to select a few annual shrubs to plant into the two beds on Coldstream Road, which will mean less bedding plants in those beds. It was noted that the beds won't require any additional compost this spring as the soil is very rich but will require a good dig or rotovate - when the time comes.

Watering – the Provost has spoken to Brian Rogers, who does the watering of the hanging baskets and he has agreed to water the Kelso in Bloom areas and will be compensated for his time.

Litter Picks - the cubs have also been in touch and offered their help to do a litter pick on Tuesday 31st May - 6.30 which will tie in nicely with the Jubilee event that

coming weekend. The Provost advised that the litter pick sticks and high viz vests were now stored in the vault in the Town Hall.

Finance – Charity Begins At Home had awarded a very generous grant of £1750 and the Provost will collect the cheque at their presentation on Sunday 15th May

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee

Councillor Boulton advised an update had previously been circulated, which is appended to the minutes and highlighted –

- The website is due to go live in the next week or so.
- A delegation will visit Reston railway station, hosted by Rail Action Group for East Scotland, on 11 May. It is due to open for service on 23 May.
- A delegation will be attending meeting of the North Northumberland Local Area Council meeting on 19 May 2022.
- A delegate will attend the LNER conference in Edinburgh in September

Dean Weatherston recommended the TVRC contact Visit Kelso to promote the new website.

Secretary's Report

- Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and captured and a summary would be attached to the minutes.

Provost Report

The Provost advised he had been invited by the Consul General of Poland, on the occasion of the Polish National Day, to attend a concert and reception at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh on 3 May 2022 and this had been a wonderful experience.

Walking Festival 2023

The Secretary advised she had arrange a meeting of interested parties in early June to start the planning process and would report back.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the chair of SBCCN (James Anderson from Eyemouth) had been successful at the recent SBC Elections in being appointed an Independent Councillor for East Berwickshire.

Councillor McGrath advised that it was agreed that every Community Council should have its own locally agreed Place Plan with every decision being community lead, bottom up.

Scottish Borders Council

Parking /Traffic management

The Provost on behalf of Councillor Hamilton advised that there had been a Pop up Bob in Roxburgh Street at the start of April and this appeared to slow the speed of traffic. In response to a question it was advised that this was a Police initiative.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised there were speeding issues on the approach to the roundabout on Pipewell Brae, near the Fire Station which had been reported to the Police but unfortunately they could not give this priority as it was not deemed an accident blackspot.

Questions to Councillors

Councillor Russell advised he would be attending the Scottish Borders Council EV Study Community Council Cheviot Workshop later in the month and wondered what the SBC Councillors thoughts were on the issues to be discussed.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised it was recommended that all new planning applications for housing should include facilities for electric car charging, however, it was not currently a legal obligation so could not be enforced. The UK government has announced that new EV charging requirements will come into force in England in 2022, as part of an overhaul of the country's Building Regulations. However, at present, no changes have been announced for EV charging requirements for Scotland, although a consultation was ongoing.

Councillor McGrath commented that with the Community Empowerment Act, this was a situation where the members of the public could make decisions on where charging points were placed.

Councillor Oliver raised the issue of visitors using the War Memorial as a picnic / park recently and a member of the public had witnessed families playing with a ball and bouncing it against the war memorial and asked whether a sign could be erected to stop this disrespectful activity. SBC Councillor Robson undertook to address this.

Councillor Oliver advised the new lighting at Shedden Park appeared to be on all night and asked would it be possible to have the lighting on a timer.

Councillor Oliver advised that she had been approached by a member of the public regarding the grass cutting at Rosebank cemetery, as whoever is doing the cutting seems to be damaging flower pots on the graves,

Councillor Oliver advised that there is a tree down in the Rosebank cemetery, hanging over the wall/fence and wondered if that could be removed. SBC Councillor Robson advised SBC were aware of this and damaged trees in other areas in the town, ie the old cemetery and SBC would be employing a specialist contractor to deal with these.

Councillor Oliver raised the issue of cars parking opposite High Croft by the new housing development which was causing an obstruction. SBC Councillor Robson advised that both SBC and the Police were aware of this and consideration was being given to introduce yellow lines in this area.

SBC Councillor Robson advised arrangements were in hand to visit the Waste Water Treatment Works on 19 May and he would circulate details to Councillors.

The Provost advised he had been contacted by a local teacher to see if the toilets at Shedden Park were open as she wished to take a couple of classes there. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the toilets at Shedden Park had been closed since March 2020 and there were no plans to open them, or any of the other currently closed toilets in the Borders. He advised they can't be re-opened, even for specific events, because safety checks have to be undertaken to the electrics and water supply before they are useable. He advised that once the new Administration was embedded the opening of public toilets will be on the agenda. The Provost commented that as a community we should press to have the public toilets in the town re-opened.

The Provost, on behalf of Councillor Hamilton, asked whether the safety fencing around Kelso Abbey related to the whole Abbey as there is a section that is at a much lower height and can be accessed from a separate gate further up Bridge Street, closer to the war memorial and with an untrained eye the stonework looks in better quality than the main Abbey. She asked whether this section is unsafe or could it be opened up while the other section remains closed? SBC Councillor Mountford commented that the Community Council would need to raise this with Historic Scotland.

Councillor McGrath raised the issue of a potential change of use on the old brownfield Foundry site at Station / Sprouston Road and advised this would have an adverse impact on the Big Dog Fabrication Company who currently employ 10 staff and 2 apprentices. The Provost advised we would need to wait for the planning application requesting change of use before we could make comments.

Councillor Russell raised the subject of On-demand buses and asked how as a Council we could progress this and advised he felt it was worth exploring further as one way of reducing the pressure on car parking in Kelso; reducing emissions; helping young people, without cars, to get around; improving public transport into and from Kelso; making better use of the existing bus network assets etc and felt this could be of real benefit for Kelso and the surrounding villages. Councillor Russell advised he would be happy to liaise with Gordon Grant and report back. SBC Councillor Mountford advised PINGO was being trialled in Berwickshire and if it was successful then SBC would be looking to roll it out into the rural areas.

Councillor Cooper advised Kelso Cinema would be screening Downton Abbey at Tait Hall on Friday 27 May 2022.

Consideration of Licenses

The Secretary advised there were no applications for consideration. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the Council would be flexible on requests for extension on the weekend of the Jubilee celebrations.

Consideration of Plans

The Secretary advised the following plans had been circulated for comments -

22/00430/FUL – Mr Simon Forsyth, Installation of solar panel array to roof, Springfield, 1 Abbotsford Grove, Kelso TD5 7BN. The Community Council supported this application.

Planning application 22/00679/FUL – Mr Hislop - 100 Abbotseat Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7LP - Erection of boundary fence (retrospective). The Community Council supported this application

Planning application 22/00688/FUL – STELA Ltd – alterations to form dentist (both NHS and private) from former bookmaker – unit 1, ground floor 36 – 40 Horsemarket, Kelso TD5 7HD. The Community Council supported this application

The Provost thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 June 2022

**Tweed Valley Railway Campaign / Railway Committee
Update for Kelso Community Council - 10 May 2022**

- 1) The website is due to go live in the next week or so.
- 2) A delegation will visit Reston railway station, hosted by Rail Action Group for East Scotland, on 11 May. It is due to open for service on 23 May.
- 3) As previously reported the TVRC was invited to present to the North Northumberland Local Area Council meeting on 19 May, we will ask them six things:
 - a. if they can publicly support the idea of the railway;
 - b. to give ideas on how the railway could best serve North Northumberland;
 - c. explore if they may be able to provide some funding for the campaign in 2023;
 - d. if they can support the railway as one of their key transport projects in the next 15+ years;
 - e. to keep the potential railway in mind when considering planning applications;
 - f. and to use their influence to persuade the Borderlands Partners (and those carrying out the feasibility study into extending the Borders Railway to Hawick and on to the West Coast Mainline) that the prospect of the Tweed Valley Railway linking the Borders Railway to the East Coast Mainline, is another major, potential benefit of that extension.
- 4) We will send a delegate to the LNER conference in Edinburgh in June, to widen the presence of the Tweed Valley Railway campaign.
- 5) At our next meeting, on 23 May, we will be working up plans to expand the number of members and supporters and generate corporate sponsorship.

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS – APR 22 – MAY 22		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
12.04.22	Approved minutes Mar 22 posted	For information
	Response to KLA invitation to the Declaration of the 2022 Kelso Laddie	For information
	Environmental Policy adopted	For information
	Comments on planning applications submitted	For information
20.04.22	Mens Shed AGM 10th May 2022	For information
	Update on Planning applications for CMcG after attending SBCCN	For information
	SBCCN AGM presentation by Planning Aid Scotland	For information
	Traffic Regulations - Border Counties Rally 2022 (Jedburgh)	For information
	Citizens Advice - We begin a new project on Windrush	For information
	Traffic regulations - Road Closure - B6400 Nisbet	For information
	Police Scotland table of crime statistics	For information
	BVAC 50th Anniversary Run Historic Programme	For information
	Secretary chased up annual insurance renewal	For information
22.04.22	Scottish Water - Spring stakeholder newsletter	For information
	Looking for Interpreters	For information
	Services from PAS (Planning Aid Scotland) for Community Councils	For information
	Community Council Support Grant 2022/23	For information
	Planning application 22/00679/FUL – Mr Hislop - 100 Abbotseat Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7LP - Erection of boundary fence (retrospective)	For comments
25.04.22	News release: Taxi fares consultation launches	For information
	Special Constable Information Booklet	For information
27.04.22	News release: Council issues open call for venues to take part in Doors Open Day Festival 2022	For information
	News Release: Further details of Tour Series community events revealed	For information
	Traffic regulation - No Waiting - Angraflat Road, Kelso	For information
	Road Closure - C46 Ednam Road, Stichill	For information
	Mens Shed - AGM Agenda	For information

	Planning application 22/00688/FUL – STELA Ltd – alterations to form dentist from former bookmaker – unit 1, ground floor 36 – 40 Horsemarket, Kelso TD5 7HD	For comments
03.05.22	Equal Opportunities Policy Draft	For comments
	Borders Third Sector Interface - May Communication	For information
	Dementia Awareness Week 2022	For information
	News release: Could you become part of our fostering community?	For information
	Scottish Borders Council EV Study - Community Council Cheviot Workshop	For information
	AGM papers distributed 10 May 2022	For information
	May Council meeting papers distributed	For information
07.06.22	Facebook enquiry on why there were no SNP candidates at the recent elections	Responded to
	Facebook enquiry on disabled access to pavements around the Linn, Station Road	SBC to investigate
	Equal Opportunities Policy	For adoption
	Mens Shed Chairman & Treasurer's Reports for AGM 10th May 2022	For information
	Priorities for the Scottish Borders 2022 – consultation closed 15.05.22	For comments
	Police Scotland Report for April 2022	For comments
	Traffic Regulations - Queen's Jubilee Event - Kelso	For information
	Facebook enquiry - why Scottish Borders Council has suspended discretionary pre application advice on building / planning	Responded
	Letter to Rachael Hamilton MSP and Emma Harper MSP regarding changing legislation on dog fouling	For information