

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of Kelso Community Council
held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 8 May 2018, at 7.00pm**

PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett, Peter Cooper, Betty Hodges, James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk, Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Kerry Yule and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland) Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Dennis Fortune, Jane Harrison, Rhona Hastie, Verity Mutch, Richard Sloan and Alastair Summerhill.

APOLOGIES: Councillors James Boulton, Ian Brown, Gavin Horsburgh and SBC Councillor Euan Robson.

Minute

The minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 9 May 2017 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Colin McGrath and seconded by Councillor Tomczyk.

Provost's Report

It hardly seems like any time since I made the decision to put my name forward to stand as Chairman of Kelso Community Council. It was never something I imagined I would ever do, however I am so glad I stepped up to the challenge. There is nothing more satisfying than championing Kelso at every opportunity.

Kelso Civic Week was my first big event and I have to say I think I was as excited as the Kelso Laddie. It was great to experience my first year as Honorary Provost with Craig Logan as the Laddie having known him and his family for many years. That was followed by the Tour of Britain in September. I was able to work very closely with VisitKelso on this and it was amazing to see the town centre transformed for the event. The day was a complete blur for me, but so much fun. From setting up, taking part in the bike off, and doing interviews with numerous media companies. That really put Kelso on the map and the Live TV coverage showed Kelso in all its glory.

Something I never gave much consideration to when taking on the role was all the invites I get from groups who hold events at Springwood. It is a privilege to be invited over to represent the town. Recently, I attended the Scottish National Caravan Rally and was asked to give a speech about Kelso. It was very difficult as I was only allowed to talk for three or four minutes and in reality it would take hours to talk of all the great things we have to offer. Another very special event I went to was the NHS Borders Excellence Awards. I was so honoured to be there and hear all the amazing stories as to why people had been nominated.

The sub groups of the Community Council have been working very hard throughout the year. Kelso is Bloom is drawing much attention from people in the town as well as visitors for the magnificent floral displays at the entrances. The Community Litter Picks

have been a great success and are attracting different people each time. The only thing we need to look into is some more volunteers to help with maintenance of the flower beds. The cinema group has branched out on their own to create Kelso Community Cinema with their own constitution and bank account and has been a great success and is proving popular. The Memorial Garden Project is underway and is expected to be completed within the next couple of months.

The administration side of the role is made so much easier by modern communications. If it wasn't for email I can't imagine how many meetings I would need to attend and how long they would last. Since I was elected last May I have had 1063 emails relating directly to the community council and 856 emails from other Community Groups where I represent the Community Council. In the last year I have attended 97 meetings and 86 events and community activities.

It is very encouraging to see more people coming along to our monthly meetings. At the same time though, for those who don't like to come to meetings, the Facebook page still proves to be very popular and numerous people have been in touch with me by phone after reading my monthly report in Kelso Life.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Community Councillors and other volunteers who have supported myself and the Community Council over the year. Special thanks must also go to our Secretary Shirley who does a tremendous job throughout the year handing all our communications.

Councillor Tomczyk on behalf of the Kelso Community Councillors gave a vote of thanks to the Provost for all the excellent work he had undertaken in his first year of office. This was unanimously endorsed.

Annual Accounts

The statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2018 had been circulated. The Secretary highlighted the main features of these accounts. The general fund had shown a deficit of £943.77 leaving funds at 31 March 2018 of £729.23.

The Kelso in Bloom had funds at 31 March 2018 of £4,916.79. Income had been generated through donations, SBC grant, Charity Begins at Home and Sainsbury's Bag Packs. Councillor Hodges commented it was good to have a healthy balance and reminded members this was a five year rolling project and invoices would be presented for the planting of Bridge End bed, wild seeds for Jedburgh entrance, regeneration of the Rose Lane site and the planting of the new border at Coldstream entrance.

With regard to the CCTV account no expenditure had been incurred during the year and the funds in this account at 31st March 2018 amounted to £1,373.09.

The Provost suggested a discussion took place with Police Scotland and SBC to see if the money from the CCTV account could be used to upgrade the CCTV in Kelso. SBC Councillor Mountford suggested the money could be used to upgrade some of the cameras or cabling.

With regard to the Kelso Memorial Fund there had been no activity and the balance in the account at 31 March 2018 remained at £4.00.

Councillor Mountford advised the money paid to the Roxburgh Street Traders had been provided by the Common Good Fund and asked that the annual accounts report be amended to reflect this. He advised the Common Good Fund is administered by SBC.

The annual accounts were proposed by Councillor Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor J Bassett.

The Secretary placed on record the thanks of the Council to Mr George Young who had audited the annual accounts.