



PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh, James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Paul Robert, 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) and members of the public Hazel Woodsell, Teresa Dorward, Owen Adams, David Henderson and Gus Russell (Secretary KCC Railway Committee)

APOLOGIES: none recorded.

- *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 May meeting being held by Zoom.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised Visit Kelso has been working hard promoting the town and local businesses this month since the easing of lockdown restrictions and the opening of non-essential retail, accommodation providers and hospitality.

Visit Kelso have been collecting the information and funds for the hanging baskets. Last year they made the decision not to hang floral displays as many businesses were closed. In 2019 they had 78 hanging baskets which included 11 for the Queens Head. This year they have achieved an uptake of 75, excluding the Queens Head who have chosen to hang imitation floral baskets.

Tina advised Visit Kelso have also sent out a notice for the Visit Kelso AGM which will be held on Wednesday 19 May at 6.30pm via Zoom. If you have not received an

invitation but wish to attend please can you email info@visitKelso.com by Monday 17 and we will send the Zoom link out to you on Tuesday 18.

The Provost thanked Tina for her report and was delighted with the response to the hanging baskets and commented people were keen to make an effort to showcase the town.

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2021

The minutes held on Tuesday 13 April 2021 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Colin McGrath and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Matters arising

Fencing around the old Foundry site – SBC Councillor Weatherston advised SBC had spoken to the owners of the site, which was currently up for sale and it was deemed the fence was not dangerous to the public. He commented that if in the future the fence became a health and safety hazard then SBC could take legal actions to have it rectified. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented that if the Community Council were not happy they could make representations to the owners.

Councillors raised concerns that the site was potentially polluted and asked if SBC could take any action. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented that the site had previously been considered for the new supermarket in the town but this was not pursued as there was insufficient parking. He advised that the soil had not be tested for contamination as this would not happen until a planning application for building had been approved.

The Provost advised Kelso Community Council would write to the owners outlining their concerns. SBC Councillor Weatherston undertook to supply details of the owners.

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 May 2021 had previously been circulated and if there were any comments or concerns to feedback to ourselves or Police Scotland.

Councillor Roberts commented that as a result of his concerns raised at the last meeting regarding speeding at the top of Roxburgh Street and illegal access to the Cobby, the Provost had contacted Police Scotland and a Community Police officer had spent time in the area monitoring and observing traffic. The Provost welcomed the Police Scotland's involvement.

The Provost advised there had been several incidents of anti-social behaviour around young people congregating in Bridge End Park and in front of the Town Hall - drinking alcohol at the weekend, being sick, spreading flour and leaving smashed bottles and cans. He advised he had reported this to Police Scotland. The Provost asked if anyone witnessed incidents of anti-social behaviour to report it to the Police.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Horsburgh advised the new bedding plants had been ordered and it was anticipated these will arrive early June. He commented arrangements would need to be made to uplift the old plants and condition the soil. He advised he was hopeful of being able to organise a community litter pick by the end of the month.

Railway Committee

Councillor Tomczyk advised he was delighted the Railway Committee had been fortunate to appoint a Secretary – Gus Russell and a meeting had been held on the 7 May with draft minutes circulated to the Community Councillors.

Councillor Tomczyk summarised the actions from the meeting –

- SBC Councillor Robson had compiled a list of Community and Parish Councils and elected members along the Tweed Valley Line which would be affected both sides of the Border. The purpose is to have a database to allow initial contact to be made to explain the general idea, to seek initial reactions and to broach the possibility of creating a wider group in support of the TVL.
- Ian Aitchison had drafted a letter to notify those on the list of the TVL project and to start a fact-finding process.
- Councillor Tomczyk advised the MSPs were aware of the project through attendance at the Scottish Borders Chambers of Commerce, Spotlight Kelso event. John Lamont MP is aware through the Kelso Community Council's involvement in, and submission to, the Union Connectivity Review.
- Councillor Cooper was researching the catchment area.
- Councillor Tomczyk was looking at the history of the old line to use to promote the line.
- Councillor Boulton was researching the ownership of the track bed and it was noted there were differences between the Scottish and English side.

Councillor Tomczyk advised the next meeting would be held on 7 July. The Provost thanked Councillor Tomczyk and those involved in driving this initiative.

Tina Newton advised ITV Scotland had a programme on the history of the Border railway which would be available on catch up.

Secretary's Report

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

Provost's Report

The Provost advised he had not attended any events.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised there had been no meeting of the SBCCN but the core group had met yesterday. He gave the following update –

As mentioned at the last Community Council meeting the UK Government's Community Renewal Fund had been issued and applications were due in by 17 May 2021. He advised the core group had prepared and would be submitting a list of proposals due to the extremely short timescale. Councillor McGrath advised other partners e.g. Borders College would be submitting applications.

- A community scheme for providing external insulation of solid wall housing
- A community scheme providing Solar array farms to provide green energy
- Community purchase schemes - community share ownership for hospitality venues such as pubs, cafes, hotels, maybe establishing youth hostels or bunkhouses or similar and village shops (e.g. Yetholm)
- Borders railway extension to Berwick-upon-Tweed
- Community tailored broadband and internet schemes
- Community hands-on training courses working with local businesses
- Community owned electric visitor pick up vehicles
- Community owned property: such as The Haining.

Councillor Tomczyk asked whether the proposed Tweed Valley Railway could be included in the submission and SBC Councillor Robson undertook to help with the application.

Councillor McGrath advised the Open University were offering fully funded courses which they wished to offer to the community and he would submit the information to the Secretary for circulation.

Councillor McGrath asked for an update on the Build Back Better Borders Recovery Fund and SBC Councillor Mountford advised this would be discussed at the full Council meeting later in the week and he would circulate details.

The Provost thanked Councillor McGrath for his update.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Rosebank Cemetery Wall/Fence

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had spoken to officers who had inspected the gateway and fence and plans were being drawn up to replace the fence and fix the loose stones on the gateway. He advised he would need to investigate funding and

planning permission for a wall to replace the fence and asked that this subject be kept on the agenda.

Parking and traffic management

White lines - SBC Councillor Robson advised he would circulate a list of areas that needed attention and anticipated this would be done in the next month – he undertook to keep the Community Council advised. Councillor Roberts commented that some line painting had taken place at the disabled spaces in front of the Cross Keys Hotel in The Square last month but it was of a poor standard.

Bike Loops – SBC Councillor Robson advised he had further discussions about the bike loops. It would appear there were concerns about how much they will be used in the proposed locations. Many cyclist said that they did not realise that there were loops in place at present. Some cyclist advised the best place for cycle loops would be in The Square itself - that would make them easy to find and also they would be able to see their bikes as they sit in The Square. Councillor Robson suggested that one or two loops behind the benches on either side of the stone should be trailed. The Community Council welcomed and supported this. However concerns were raised regarding HGV's coming out of Mill Wynd that use this space to turn right.

Councillor Robson raised concerns around the number of cyclist in the town without helmets or lights. This will be highlighted to Police Scotland and the local schools to raise awareness. The Provost advised Visit Kelso had introduced new cycling/walking maps for the area on their webpage.

Parking in front of the Town Hall – SBC Councillor Weatherston advised he was making progress to find a solution and would report back. Temporary plastic bollards had been put in place for the short term.

20mph Consultation – The Provost advised this was now online and urged all to complete this as individuals and queried how people who don't have access to the internet take part. SBC Councillor Robson advised he would circulate a PDF copy that could be printed out for anyone in this situation. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented that responses needed to be done either on the online form or by paper and not by email.

Any Other Business

Councillor McGrath asked for an update on the use of two parking spaces in front of the Micropub. The Provost advised Paul Mitchell (owner of the Micropub) had approached the Community Council in December 2020 to ask for their support in his request to use two of the outside parking spaces in front of the Micropub to enable the business to be viable and meet Covid restrictions. The Councillors fully agreed to support the proposal but to review the situation after a six month period.

The Provost raised his concern around illegal parking in Bridge Street and the effect this was having on traffic movement throughout the town centre. He advised on several occasions the whole area had become gridlocked. SBC Councillor Robson advised Police were out patrolling and would ticket any illegally parked cars.

Consideration of Licenses

It was noted there were no licenses for consideration.

SBC Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC had agreed to give delegated authority to officers of the licensing board to enable a more flexible approach to requests.

Consideration of Plans

The following plans were considered.

21/00621/LBC - Dr Amber Aplin - Internal and external alterations to ground and first floor. The Community Council looked at this application and considered all the planning policies relevant to the area of the proposal and were happy to support the plans.

21/00586/FUL and 21/00585/LBC - Mr Fraser Thomson - External redecoration - Shop 22 Horsemarket Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7HD. The Community Council looked at this application and considered all the planning policies relevant to the area of the proposal and were happy to support the plans.

21/00673/FUL and 21/00683/LBC - Vault Square Properties Ltd - Change of use of public house and alterations and extension to form 14 flats - Public House 5 Vault Square Kelso Scottish Borders - TD5 7JU. The Provost declared an interest as he was employed by Hogarth's Mill who were in discussion with the owners. The Community Council were unable to support this application and the Provost asked for time to be given to draft a response. This will be reported back at our next meeting.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 June 2021

APPENDIX

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS APRIL 2021		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
13.04.21	Approved minutes posted	For information
	Support confirmed for licencing application	For information
	Planning applications submitted	For information
16.04.21	Consultation Letter - A68 Resurfacing Works	For information
	Community Testing Programme - Asymptomatic Locations for information April	For information
	News Release: Dates for reopening of further local facilities and services announced	For information
	Men's Shed re-opening	For information
	Community Renewal Fund	For comments
22.04.21	Buffer zones – TTRO	For information
	Visitor Management	For information
	Community Council Consultation for application 21/00621/LBC - Dental surgery Corn Exchange	For comments
	Community Council Consultation for application 21/00586/FUL and 21/00585/LBC - Shop 22 Horsemarket	For comments
26.04.21	Men's Shed reopening	For information
	Traffic regulations	For information
28.04.21	A698 Kelso to Bonjedward - Road Closures	For information
	Scottish Youth Parliament Elections registration phase - Can you help?	For information
	Community Council Consultation for application 21/00673/FUL	For comments
	Community Council Consultation for application 21/00683/LBC	For comments
02/05/21	Covid-19 - update for volunteers	For information

	Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh - 230th anniversary of the 3rd of May Constitution Day	For information
	Kelso MMW Police Report- April 2021	For information and comments
04/05/21	Papers for KCC meeting and AGM	Circulated
10.05.21	Letter - A1 Brockholes	For information
	News release: Public consultation launched for Scottish Borders 20mph trial	For information
	Road Closure - B6401 Morebattle to Caverton Mill	For information
	News Release: Rachael Hamilton elected as MSP for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	For information
	Tesco Community Grants now open!	For information