



PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh, 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), Fiona Jones (Kelso Heritage Society), Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Dennis Fortune (KRG) and Tony Abbott

APOLOGIES Councillor James McCombie

- *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 March meeting being held by Zoom.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised Visit Kelso have been busy and had sent out a questionnaire last month to ask their members for feedback on various subjects regarding their membership, including the number of times they would like to receive a newsletter, summer hanging baskets, reminding them about the Visit Kelso Facebook page. So far, there has been a 30% response rate and results will be monitored and analysed.

Tina advised in order to encourage their members to be more reactive they have set up a new email address - photos@visitelso.com to help showcase the town. The Kelso community and visitors are also welcome to send in their photos. They have had a great response so far and are sharing photos as and when they are received.

Tina advised not only does this give a different perspective but also reduces the workload of their committee and this is working really well.

The Provost commented Kelso had been receiving favourable national publicity on TV and in the press due to the low rates of Covid infection as well as a feature on care home visiting resuming that featured former Provost Fiona Scott and this was all positive publicity for Kelso.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2021

The minutes held on Tuesday 9 February 2021 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor John Bassett and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts.

Matters arising

Girlguiding Scottish Borders – Thinking Day 2021

The Provost advised it was regretful that despite efforts we were unable to light up any public building in blue on this occasion. However the local guides had participated in activities in the town.

Walking Festival 2023

The Secretary advised she had contacted Keith Robeson SBC Senior Countryside Ranger who advised Kelso are provisional booked to host the Festival in 2023 and is awaiting further information. She advised Hazel Woodsell from the Kelso Heritage Society had offered her assistance which was welcomed as Hazel had been involved in a previous Walking Festival. Councillor Tomczyk advised this subject had been discussed at the Kelso Heritage Society and members of the Long Distance Walking Association (Fiona Jones and Neil Rawlins) had offered to be involved in leading walks and supported the project. The Provost advised the next stage would be to form a sub-committee to take this forward. SBC Councillor T Weatherston commented the last time Kelso hosting the event it was extremely successful and it would be important to secure funding as previously Kelso had laid on entertainment each evening of the Festival.

Offer of help from Unpaid Work Team

The Secretary advised she had emailed this team twice and there was no response, it was agreed not to chase up as KCC had submitted suggestions to the team.

Elections 2021

The Secretary advised she had contacted SBC for guidance on our forthcoming Election and SBC Councillor Robson had shared information advising that all Community Council Elections were deferred until after 31 August 2021. The Provost advised we would plan to hold ours in September after the summer recess. The new four year term would start from September 2021.

Questions from the Public

Mr Tony Abbott raised the issue of an overflowing bin at the cricket ground pavilion in Shedden Park and asked who was responsible for emptying it. SBC would not

empty it if it belonged to the cricket club and it was suggested an additional bin be located in that area of the park. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented under the licencing regulations there was an obligation for the licensee to keep their area tidy and to empty the bin on their property. The Provost asked if SBC would empty it on this occasion which would allow the cricket club to remove the bin until they reopen.

Tony Abbott asked if an additional bin could be placed on the Sprouston Railway walk besides the bench going up to Wooden House. The Provost advised this relatively new path was proving to be extremely popular with dog walkers. SBC Councillor Mountford undertook to make enquiries to see if an additional bin could be located there.

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

The Provost advised he had reported the broken windows in the public toilets at Shedden Park to the Police and SBC and asked whether they had been boarded up. Councillor Boulton advised some of the windows at Tait Hall were broken and the Provost undertook to contact Live Borders.

The Provost advised there had been several incidences of youths being unruly in the Hendersyde, Oakfield and Broomlands areas of town and had asked that the Police increase patrols in this area to give reassurances to residents. SBC Councillor Mountford advised he had received an update from the CAT team who had received 9 separate calls about this and they would be maintaining a regular patrol in the area to keep a presence. However he commented that it was important that if any disturbances were taking place these should be reported immediately so the Police could respond and also record the incident.

Councillor Boulton advised there were regular incidents of threatening behaviour, fighting between youths and parents and foul language occurring in the playpark at Shedden Park between the hours of 1530 and 1700 daily and asked if the Police could patrol that area. The Provost undertook to raise this with the Police.

Councillor McGrath asked whether it would be possible to have local statistics to see if incidents were recorded and the Provost advised local information relevant to Kelso was included in the monthly Cheviot report. SBC Councillor Mountford commented the cost to produce individual local reports was not viable and took time away from the Police carrying out patrols. Councillor McGrath asked the Provost to raise the issue again.

Kelso Resilience Group

Dennis Fortune commented things were very quiet and manageable with minimum requests for prescription collection and shopping.

The Provost advised he and Colin Seccombe and a gentleman from Greenlaw had attended a virtual meeting with Rachael Hamilton MSP to feedback on resilience issues and activities in our area.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Horsburgh advised the committee had recently met by zoom and a Big Town clean-up had been organised for Sunday 28th March, this would include a community litter pick and tidying of the beds. Councillor Horsburgh advised it had been agreed to continue with Robin Hogg and the Horticultural Society for ordering and planting of the spring/summer bedding plants. Councillor Horsburgh advised Tony Abbott had approached KIB and had asked if one of the kidney beds at the War Memorial could be used for educational purposes for the Cubs. The next meeting of KIB would be held on Tuesday 6th April at 7.00pm.

Railway Committee

Councillor Tomczyk advised the Railway Committee held its inaugural meeting on 5 March which had been very successful. He advised he would chair the committee and the other members were SBC Councillor Robson, KCC Councillors James Boulton and Peter Cooper, a representative from Visit Kelso and PR expert Ian Aitchison who would act as a consultant and advise on communications and publicity. Other members would be co-opted. Councillor Tomczyk advised the committee would need a secretary/minute taker and asked the Council if anyone would undertake this role or know of someone who could do this. The Provost advised he would mention this in his next Kelso Life report and put a post on Facebook.

Councillor Tomczyk advised it had been agreed to call the line The Tweed Valley Railway and Ian had registered the name for a future website.

Councillor Tomczyk advised there would be a lot of work involved to drive this project forward and the committee would concentrate on meeting the needs of Kelso but many stakeholders on both sides of the Border along the route from Charlesfield to Tweedmouth would need to be involved in a bigger group. He advised the initial objectives would be to gather information on interested stakeholders, demographics, population, length of line, civil engineering issues, ownership of the track bed etc. The next meeting would be held on the 7 May 2021 and he would report back to the Council in May.

SBC Councillor Robson advised the meeting had been very productive and thanked Councillor Tomczyk for chairing the project. He advised this would make a major contribution to sustainable transport in the Borders and develop East / West travel and the line would enhance the business case for an extension from Tweedbank to Carlisle and add to commercial viability.

The Provost thanked Councillor Tomczyk for setting this initiative in motion.

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 contacted George Young at Rennie Welch who had agreed to audit the annual accounts. The secretary asked Councillors to submit any expenses as soon as possible so she could prepare the accounts. The secretary advised Richard from Kelso Life had kindly agreed to place an advert in the April edition free of charge.
- The secretary advised she had immediately prior to the meeting circulated information on a Scottish Government commissioned research project which aims to give a better understanding of the needs and costs experienced by people who live in rural and remote areas of Scotland. The research team are keen to find people who live in Kelso or close by (within 10 miles) who are able to help us with this important research and asked for this to be publicised via the Community Council.

Provost's Report

The Provost advised there had been no official events.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the next meeting of the core group would take place on 16 March 2021. Two issues to note are planning permission being extended to 31 March 2022. Confirmation had been received that in terms of the duration of Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Area Consents, the 'emergency period' covering consent periods will be extended to 30 September 2021 and the 'extended period' will now expire on 31 March 2022. This is from the Scottish Government.

Councillor McGrath advised in his capacity as a member of the Community Centre Management Committee at Abbey Row Centre he had received a letter from Jane Hogg, Director of Commercial Services, Live Borders advising they are delivering Scotland Connectivity programme from their library services to distribute digital devices, data and phone support to help people get digitally connected and asked them to make contact if they knew of anyone who would benefit.

Councillor McGrath advised as discussed with the SBC Leader he had written to the Scottish Government regarding the Community Empowerment Act. This letter had been sent to Aileen Campbell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government and copied into the First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeanne Freeman MSP.

It was noted the Act was due to be reviewed in 2021. He commented there were two parts of the Act which were not in place, which were particularly important from a community empowerment point of view – Part 7 Football supporters have the

opportunity to be involved in the decision-making and running of their clubs and *Part 10 - Participation in Public Decision Making: enables Ministers to require Scottish public authorities to promote and facilitate the participation of the members of the public in the decisions and activities of the authority including allocation of its resources. Councillor McGrath commented that as neither of these two points had been put in place he was challenging the Scottish Parliament. Councillor McGrath undertook to share a copy of the letter after the meeting on the 16 March

Scottish Borders Council Report

Parking and traffic management

SBC Councillor Robson advised he would raise the issue of line painting but suspected this would have to wait until the Council had addressed the current workload of filling in pot holes and damage to the edges of roads.

Supply of iPads to Schools

Councillor Horsburgh congratulated SBC on having the foresight to provide iPads to schools several years ago despite the public outcry and advised they had been essential for children's education. He advised he was disappointed that pupils didn't have access to YouTube on the devices and Apple pens were not available. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised at the time of the demonstration the Apple pens cost £100 each and the cost was prohibitive. It was noted that a much cheaper version was now available and SBC Councillor Robson undertook to investigate this and access to YouTube and report back.

The Provost commented the return to school had been a great success for all concerned and advised he was aware that work was currently being done to give relevant You Tube access to pupils.

Any Other Business

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised since the last meeting a temporary fence had been installed around the former Foundry site at the top of Station Road and attempts were being made to contact the owners – the Henderson family. He advised there was no risk to the public.

Consideration of Licenses

The Secretary advised there were no plans for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The following plans were considered.

21/00267/LBC – Installation of non-illuminated signage (retrospective) – Star Pubs and Bars, 11 Woodmarket, Kelso TD5 7AT. 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.

21/00128/FUL – Replacement windows 10 East Bowmont Street, Kelso TD5 7DA. The Community Council looked at this application and considered all of the planning policies relevant to the area of the proposal and while they supportive of replacing the windows they felt the windows to the front of the property should be replaced like for like with wood. The rear windows aren't visible and there was no concerns with them using PVC there.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 April 2021

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS FEB 2021

Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
10.02.21	News release: Executive agrees to proposals to support individuals facing financial hardship	For information
	Scottish Water Works - Various closures	For information
	Road Closure - Shedden Park Road, Kelso	For information
11.02.21	Border Union Show 30th and 31st July 2021 Cancellation	For information
13.02.21	Community Council Scheme Review WG	For information
17.02.21	Kelso Men's Shed update	For information
19.02.21	News Release: Council apologises for data breach affecting 600 customers	For information
	News Release: Proposed council tax freeze to be discussed	For information
	Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2)	For information
	The Circular Economy & the Planning System - Free events for Community Councils in Scotland	For information
	South of Scotland partners join forces to urge everyone to play their part in developing first ever Regional Economic Strategy	For information
25.02.21	News release: Consultation to be held on Council's draft Anti-Poverty Strategy	For information
	Comments from residents in Riverside Drive regarding speeding traffic on the Kelso to Coldstream A698. Provost forwarded comments to SBC and Police Scotland	For information
	KMS - Shedding Light on Prostate Cancer Live Event!	For information
	SBC Council Meeting today 25-2-21 at 10am	For information
	Road Closure - A699 Teviot Bridge	For information
	No Waiting - Roxburgh Street, Kelso	For information
	Approval given to place additional 20mph electronic sign	For information
01.03.21	Road Closure - A698 Homebank - East of Birgham	For information
	News release: Final reminder for Borderers to play their part in developing the first ever Regional Economic Strategy	For information
02.03.21	Alzheimer Scotland - Online Activity Groups - Borders	For information
	Planning application – installation of non-illuminated signage (retrospective) Star Pubs and Bars – 11 Woodmarket, Kelso	For comments

	Kelso Men's Shed AGM – 22.03.21	For information
	Living Streets Out and About partnership survey	For information
	Papers for meeting on 09.03.21	For information
04.03.21	Planning application – replacement windows – 10 East Bowmont Street	For comments
	20mph Community Council Information EMAIL 5, general update	For information
	Public complaint regarding Dog fouling sent to Rose Hogg SBC	For information
	Media Release from NHS Borders COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update	For information
09.03.21	MIS Remote & Rural Scotland Research – Kelso	For comments