

Minute of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on
Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 7:00 in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors James Boulton, Shirley Redgrave, Peter Cooper, Paul Roberts, James McCombie, Owen Adams and Toni Oliver; Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston and Simon Mountford; and Yvonne Oliver (Secretary)
Anne Woodcock and Gavin Brown (Tweed Commission), Karen Roberts, Dominic Thomas and Ryan Whellans (Members of the Public)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gail Watson, Christine Stewart and Colin McGrath; SBC Councillor Euan Robson

- *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 questions through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished those present a Happy New Year. He expressed best wishes to Councillor Colin McGrath who is recovering well and is now in Kelso Hospital. Colin would welcome visitors.

Police Matters

The December MMWR had been circulated. There were no comments made on the contents of the report.

Visit Kelso

Visit Kelso sent their report as follows:

Feedback from the Christmas Market, held on 14/15 December 2024 showed that it had been a great success. All 30 stalls had received excellent comments. The entertainment and activities held in The Square had also been well-attended and enjoyed by the public.

The Kelso Agricultural Society held a “Christmas Tractor Run” which had received an outstanding number of entries. The proceeds from this event had been donated to Charity Begins At Home.

There had also been a “Christmas Cracker Trail” which was a new event this year. It was primarily for children and involved finding the shops which had placed a Christmas Cracker amongst their window display. There was a small reward for everyone at the conclusion of the “Trail”.

There had been excellent comments received from both the public and visitors on this year’s Christmas Lights display. The Provost thanked the Kelso Christmas Lights Committee for all their hard work in putting on such a wonderful show for the town.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2024

The Minutes of meeting of Tuesday 10 December 2024 had been circulated and were approved. The Minutes were proposed by Councillor Toni Oliver and seconded by Councillor Owen Adams.

Matters arising from the Minute

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Questions From The Public

Anne Woodcock and Gavin Brown, both of the Tweed Commission, were in attendance and Anne gave an update on preparations so far for the opening of the River Tweed Salmon Fishing Season.

She advised that the local schools, together with the Kelso Men’s Shed, were now involved with the preparations.

Anne also reminded members that the event was coinciding with the inaugural River Tweed Fly-Tying Fair (1st and 2 February 2025) and there were fly-tyers coming from the Netherlands, Ireland and Aberdeen as well as the current world ty-flying champion from Germany.

The Provost thanked Anne and Gavin for their update and said this was a great opportunity to promote both the River Tweed and the town.

Mr Dominic Thomas asked if there was anything happening with regard to the proposed PlacePlans? The Provost replied that, at present, there was no available funding and he had received no further information. He was hoping to get this project started if funding became available.

Ryan Whellans advised the Committee that he was delighted with the outcome of his request for “Bug Hotels”. The Provost said thanks was due to the local Scottish Borders Councillors and the people from the Community Paypack /Unpaid work team.

Kelso In Bloom

Councillor Shirley Redgrave commented on the state of the bedraggled signage on the Coldstream Road and asked if something could be done about it? The Provost advised that this sign would be taken down shortly.

SBCCN

The Provost advised that there was to be a meeting regarding the Review of Non-Financial Support to Community Councils. Kelso Community Council and Oxnam Community Councils were to provide the Lead and Depute for this. He had only just been informed of this development and would hopefully receive an update soon.

Provost Report

The Provost would be attending the opening of the River Tweed Salmon Fishing Season on 1st February 2025 together with other events involved with the Fly-Tying Fair on 1st and 2nd February.

Secretary’s Report

Events/Correspondence

Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary was attached to the Minute.

1. Councillor Redgrave advised that the Paths Maintenance Grant, amounting to £600, had been paid to Kelso Heritage Society, as previously agreed by the Community Council.
2. The Provost would be attending a meeting on 22 January 2025 regarding the Kelso Abbey 900 Celebrations.

Consultations

The Provost requested that Councillors submit their responses to the following consultations:

1. “Setting a new course for Health Services in the Borders”
2. “Budget Consultation”

3. "Proposed School Holidays"

Scottish Borders Council Report

1. Starbucks

SBC Tom Weatherston advised that he was still being told that a decision on the Starbucks application was "imminent".

2. St Mary's Church

There was no further update on St Mary's Church.

3. Union Street

SBC Tom Weatherston said, with regard to the scaffolding still being in place he would follow this matter up and report back.

4. Maxmill, Kelso

Councillor S Redgrave asked what the current position was regarding the properties at Maxmill? SBC Tom Weatherston advised that there were now only 4 properties inhabited and as soon as the last property was empty, the site would be advertised on the open market go.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no new Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

1. 24/01475/FUL – Alterations to shop front at 25 Horsemarket, Kelso – No objections
2. 24/01499/FUL -Change of use of amenity land to garden ground and erection of fence – Land East of 8 Ferniehill Court, Kelso – No objections but will query parking inside fence. It was noted that the Roads Department should also be consulted.
3. 25/00010.FUL – Change of house types to Plots 55 and 56 (amendment to previous permission 06/02027/FUL – No objections
4. 25/00027/FUL – Hislop's Yard, 7F Spylaw Road, Kelso, TD5 8DL – Siting of rental storage containers – No objections

Any other business

1. The Provost advised that he had received a request from SBC Councillor John Greenwell proposing a VE Commemoration event at Floors Castle on 10 May 2025 (this will be the 80th Anniversary). The Provost advised he [Mr Greenwell] was currently waiting to hear from the Regiment of Scotland whether this would be allowed and suggested that there would likely be other events taking place in the town.
2. The Community Council was advised that, as this was their fourth year of Office, there would be Community Council Elections in October.
3. Councillor S Redgrave asked whether there had been any interest shown in the position of Treasurer? She had previously advised the Council that she would be giving up the post at election time.

Date of next meeting

The next Kelso Community Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at the Town Hall, Kelso.