

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held
in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 9 October 2018, at
7.00pm**



PRESENT: Councillors Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Alan Hall, James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk, Kerry Yule and Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso) Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter) and members of the public Peter and Sheila Weatherston, Ghislane Johnston, Ian Aitchison and Rhona Hastie.

APOLOGIES: Councillor John Bassett, James Boulton, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, James McCombie and Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland)

- *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.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

Police Matters

The September 2018 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated. PC Howgego had tendered her apologies and asked for any necessary feedback. The Provost advised issues had been raised regarding the behaviour of a small group of pupils at the High School and he commented he would be arranging a meeting with the Headmistress and would bring this back to a future Community Council meeting.

Visit Kelso

The Provost welcomed Tina Newton to the meeting. Tina advised Kelso had been unsuccessful in being shortlisted at the recent Great British High Street Awards but they would enter again in 2019. Tina advised as part of the event Visa were running

a competition – if a customer spent £10 on their visa card they were entered into a draw to win £100 and there had already been two successful winners from participating Kelso businesses. Tina advised a subcommittee had been formed to promote Kelso and the surrounding area for Christmas. Tina also advised Visit Kelso had offered support to the Kelso Laddies Association and British Legion to help mark the 100th year of the end of the First World War. She advised there would be various events involving the Town and Schools. Traders would be encouraged to decorate their windows with a poppy theme in the lead up to Remembrance Day on Sunday 11 November.

Councillor Tomczyk commented the noise level from the recent Oktoberfest event held at the Union Show Ground had been excessive.

Councillor Tomczyk commented Langholm appeared to have a very active Visitor Centre and wondered whether Visit Kelso could learn anything from them. Tina undertook to have a look. Tina reminded Councillors when the Tourism Centre closed in Kelso, several businesses became accredited partners to “I Know” to help fill the gap. They offer information and advice to tourists and act as Ambassadors for the town. The shops participating display an “I” sticker in their window.

Councillor Cooper asked that the Community Cinema feature on the A5 Visit Kelso flyer.

The Provost asked whether the annual Footfall survey had been published and Councillor Mountford undertook to chase up.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2018

The minutes held on Tuesday 11 September 2018 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Ian Brown and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Matters arising

Resilience Group

Councillor Mountford advised this group was now up and running – 18 members of the public had registered an interest and there were 14 active members. It was noted they would be organising CPR training later in the year.

Memorial Garden

Councillor H Tomczyk advised the official opening / dedication of the memorial garden took place on the 28th of September 2018. All main sponsors, Churches Working Together and those involved with the project, including John King had attended. Those participating had been invited back to the Provost’s house for coffee and cake. Councillor Tomczyk advised he had received positive feedback and he was working with Councillor Hodges to provide some perennial ground cover under the large yew tree at the entrance.

Councillor Tomczyk commented that in order to keep the garden at a coherent high standard he asked the Community Council to support the proposal that no floral tributes be left in the memorial garden and any additional benches should be the same standard as the current one. All Community Councillors agreed to this proposal.

SBC Councillor Weatherston commented the existing fence let the project down and should be replaced and suggested funding could be sought from Charity Begins at Home.

The Provost advised Robertson Memorials would be advertising the garden in a future edition of Kelso Life.

Councillor Mountford offered his congratulations to Councillor Tomczyk and his team for bringing this project finally to fruition and Councillor Tomczyk asked for this thanks to be recorded for the work and involvement of SBC Councillor Weatherston.

Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised he had been in discussions with Northumberland County Council who were enthusiastic and would welcome the reinstatement of the railway line, as one of their strategic objectives was to promote tourism in Berwick upon Tweed and in principle they offered agreement subject to more detailed discussion. Councillor Robson advised the main priority would be protecting the existing line and concentrating on an extension to Hawick. Councillor Robson advised the next phase would be to walk the route.

Councillor Mountford concurred as part of the campaign protection of the line should be included in the SBC Development Plan.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges had tendered her apologies but the Secretary advised Kelso had come third in the Floral Gateway competition which she had attended with Councillor Hodges on the 25 September. There was one point between the winner Jedburgh, second Eyemouth and third Kelso.

The Secretary advised Councillor Hodges was planning to organise a meeting to get volunteers and interested parties together to discuss how to handle the discontinuation of the provision of annual bedding plants. .

The Secretary advised the Kelso in Bloom calendar was now on sale at various outlets in the town.

The Secretary advised a successful Community Litter pick had taken place on Sunday 30 September and it was planned to organise and publish in advance the dates of the litter picks for 2019.

Men's Shed

Councillor J Bassett had tendered his apologies so there was no update. Councillor McGrath advised the Selkirk Mens Shed were holding an Open Day on the 17 October.

NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised the Healthy Living Week had been launched at the Galashiels Interchange on 1 October. Councillor McGrath advised the next meeting of the NHS Social Services Integration would be held on the 22 October 2018.

Questions from the public

The Provost and SBC Councillor Weatherston declared an interest when Mr and Mrs Weatherston raised the issue of pigeons roosting at Henderson Court. Mr and Mrs Weatherston advised hundreds of pigeon were roosting at the entrance to Henderson Court and they were causing an awful mess and creating a health issue. They advised they were unable to keep on top of tidying the mess. They advised they had written to SBC but had no response and asked whether the Community Council could do anything. It was agreed the Community Council would write to SBC and SBC Councillors offered to chase a response.

Mr and Mrs Weatherston also mentioned in previous times the local traders used to keep the frontage of their premises clean and tidy and sweep and clean the pavement in front of their premises and asked whether Visit Kelso could write to their members about this.

Mr Aitchison endorsed the discussion on the extension of the railway line and advised it had significant strategic importance.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised several consultation documents were received by the Community Council and sometimes it was difficult getting a consensus on the response. It was agreed a sub group should be set up to deal with these and this would consist of the Provost, Councillor Tomczyk and the Secretary. When necessary they would draft a response and bring it back to the Council for agreement.

The Secretary advised following the submission of the annual accounts and the minute whereby Councillors agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct, the annual SBC grant had been received.

The following correspondence was noted:

- A letter of congratulations from John Lamont MP regarding the Floral Gateway award
- A letter from Royal Mail raising awareness of scam mail in local community.
- The Bridge newsletter.

Provost Report

The Provost advised he had been very happy to host the opening of the Memorial Garden which had been a very enjoyable afternoon.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised the next SBCCN meeting would be held at 7.00pm on the 17 October at SBC HQ. Subjects on the agenda were the criteria for the Locality Bid Funds and Participation Request. Councillor McGrath advised all Councillors were welcome to attend.

Any Other Business

All business had been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Cheviot Area Partnership

Councillor Mountford advised the next Cheviot Area Partnership would take place on the 5 December in Kelso, venue to be agreed.

Parking /Traffic management

Councillor Robson advised his report had been signed off by the members of the SBC's Parking Issues Working Group and this would be submitted to the main Council at a future date. Councillor Robson advised any decisions to take forward would be subjected to funding, including signage to long stay car parks.

Councillor Mountford advised the Community Action Team had been in Kelso on Saturday 6 October and had issued 15 parking tickets, he reminded Councillors there was a zero tolerance policy. In response to a question on who received the money from parking tickets, Councillor Mountford advised these were paid to Police Scotland who forwarded them to the Scottish Government.

Councillor Tomczyk commented he was delighted work was about to start on the resurfacing of Jedburgh Road and asked about residents access. The Secretary undertook to contact SBC Roads for clarity.

Kelso War Memorial

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised work had been completed and work would be done to prevent moss.

Questions to SBC Councillors

SBC Councillor E Robson asked whether the Community Council had any thoughts/observations regarding changes to the collection of commercial refuse. Tina Newton advised the collection of commercial waste had changed to being collected at 7.00am which meant the waste had to be put out the night before and this had caused concern to the Traders. It was suggested the Community Council write to SBC highlighting this concern.

Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update on the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund and Councillor Mountford undertook to follow up with Rachel Hamilton MSP.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no licenses for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

Replacement windows and door 4 Victoria Place, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

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The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 November 2018.