

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council on
Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 7:00pm in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Councillors Owen Adams, James Boulton (Vice Chair), Peter Cooper, Christine Hamilton, Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Toni Oliver, Paul Roberts, Gus Russell and Gail Watson and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tommy Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) and Tina Newton (Visit Kelso).

APOLOGIES: 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.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct question through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost extended a warm welcome to Councillors.

Police Matters

The Provost advised the Multi Member Ward Plan for Kelso and District for February 2022 had previously been circulated and there were no comments on the report. The Provost commented he was pleased to see more Police presence in the town and hopefully this would alleviate traffic issues.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised Visit Kelso in conjunction with the Southern Upland Partnership held its second meeting to showcase Net Zero at the Race Course the 22 February which was well attended. She advised Visit Kelso had put in a grant application to market the events for the Queen's Jubilee and was pleased to say they were successful in this. Tina advised they will be looking at producing printed materials as

well as postings on social media to publicise this event. The Provost thanked Tina for this update.

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022

The minutes held on Tuesday 8 February 2022 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Roberts.

Matters arising from the minutes

Police Specials

The Provost advised he had shared information from Police Scotland on our Facebook pages. Councillor McGrath advised he would invite a senior member from the Police Specials to a future meeting.

Review of Scottish Borders Community Council Scheme

The Secretary advised she had submitted the Kelso Community Council's comments.

Equal Opportunity Policy

The Secretary advised she had contacted SBC and requested a copy of their Equal Opportunity Policy. SBC had sent their Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policy which had been circulated to Councillors. Councillor Hamilton agreed to review the Policy and adapt it for the KCC and recirculate for comments.

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

The Secretary advised Councillor Russell had reviewed and adapted the SBC Environmental Policy for our use and the Secretary asked for approval.

Councillor Adams asked that some wording be included to state that any organisations/businesses wishing to be involved with Kelso Community Council events (e.g. the Jubilee celebrations) must in some way acknowledge this policy to be allowed to take part. He advised he saw this as a way to encouraging adoption of equal opportunities behaviour by those organisations.

The Secretary was asked to recirculate the policy for final comments before sign off.

Questions from the public

There were no questions for the public.

HRH Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee celebration

The Provost advised plans were proceeding for the main celebration of the parade from Tait Hall to the Square with the re-enactment of the Coronation with children acting the parts. The cast for parts had been chosen from the local Scouts and Guides and the Provost placed on record his thanks to Liz Heard for all her hard work and to Visit Kelso for publicising and promoting the event.

The Secretary advised the Community Council had been successful in securing a grant of £2,500 from SBC for this event.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised a committee meeting had taken place and advised Rhona Hastie had stood down as rota secretary - he thanked her for her work and advised Councillor Watson had agreed to arrange the rotas for the coming season.

The Provost advised he would be organising more community litter picks and anticipated the beds to be planted up with summer bedding before the Jubilee celebrations. He would be in contact with Robin Hogg of the Kelso Horticultural Society to discuss planting and hoped to introduce more annual planting to reduce costs and to replace some plants at Rose Lane. The Provost advised KIB would be applying to Charity Begins at Home for grant funding and the Secretary agreed to contact Sainsburys to see if a bag pack could be held later in the year.

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee

Councillor Boulton advised an update had previously been circulated, which is appended to the minutes and highlighted the first press release about the Cheviot Community Fund grant was sent out on 1 March and had received positive feedback. However it was disappointing to note that whilst the Scottish Government had previously committed funding for a feasibility study on the extension of the Borders Railway to Hawick and on to Carlisle, there was no mention of the extension itself in their recent list of priority, strategic projects.

SBC Councillor Mountford reported that there had been a meeting of the Convention of South of Scotland, chaired by the Deputy First Minister, with representatives from Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Transport Scotland. The Convention was told Transport Scotland's response to the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) was inadequate and had not taken on board the need for a further extension to the Borders Railway to Carlisle and they were asked to give consideration to this and report back at the next Convention in September.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised at the next full SBC Council on Thursday they would be considering feedback and to sign off the Local Development Plan which would then go to an independent Reporter for validation. He advised the KCC comments on reopening the railway from St Boswells to Berwick upon Tweed had been included in the plan as an option for consideration. SBC Councillor Mountford commented that once the Local Development Plan was approved it would be in place for the next ten years.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised the feasibility study which had been awarded £10m funding would decide the best route for the proposed Borders railway extension.

Councillor Hamilton advised she had attended a recent South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE): Engagement Tour and asked about any plans to expand the railways,

including east past Kelso and related settlements. The answer didn't specifically mention the railways, but was told that SOSE spoke to Scottish Government regarding their recent transport strategy and told Scottish Government it needs to better understand the different transport needs and challenges in South of Scotland.

Secretary's Report

- Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and captured and a summary would be attached to the minutes.
- The Secretary advised she had written to SBC to say Kelso Community Council wished to hold its AGM in May and she would prepare the Annual Accounts for submission to the auditor prior to the meeting.
- The Secretary advised Councillors would be receiving an invitation to the Declaration of the 2022 Laddie on Friday 15 April.
- The Secretary advised she would invite a representative from the Citizens Advice Bureau to a future meeting to give an update on their work.

Provost Report

The Provost placed on record his thanks to Sharon Ward and the community of Kelso for the amazing efforts for their donations of aid for the people of Ukraine during the current crisis.

The Provost advised he had been invited to the opening of the Arts Festival to take place on the weekend of 1 April.

The Provost advised he had been invited to attend a lunch for the over 60s on 12 March.

The Provost displayed a hunting crop which would be presented to the Kelso Laddie.

Walking Festival 2023

The Secretary advised she had contacted the SBC Ranger to get background information to plan the 2023 Walking Festival and it was her intention to set up a small working group and invite representations from the local U3A and the local walking groups and would ask a couple of the Community Councillors to help her.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised it was agreed that each of the five Areas should be represented on the Core Group by two councillors, each from a different CC and that Charles Strang (St Boswells Parish CC) had been co-opted on to the Core Group for Cheviot.

Councillor McGrath advised that it was agreed that every Community Council to have its own locally agreed – Place Plan with every decision being community lead, bottom up. Councillor Angus advised he had attended a Borderlands Partnership Board meeting and would share a presentation on Place Plans.

Councillor McGrath advised that training would be organised for all Community Councils.

Councillor McGrath advised that regarding the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 that two sections of the Act – Sections 7 and 10 - remained to be implemented and that there needs to be some form of Appeals Procedure incorporated into the legislation.

Scottish Borders Council

Kelso Ambulance provision

SBC Councillor Robson advised there was no update but asked for this to remain on the agenda.

Parking /Traffic management

The Provost advised that the introduction of cones along Bridge Street had had a good effect on keeping traffic flowing and wondered whether they could be used on a permanent basis but was advised this was not allowed.

SBC Councillor Mountford explained that the difference between a single and a double yellow line was that the single line was within a time frame, eg. 8.00am to 6.00pm and that disabled parking was allowed on a single yellow line providing that the vehicle did not cause an obstruction.

The Provost raised the issue of people and in particular some shop workers openly flaunting the two hour parking limit and suggested that he drafted a notice that could be placed under the car's window wiper if a Councillor noticed that the car has been parked all day or on a yellow line and causing an obstruction. It was agreed the notice should include signage to the long term car parks within the town. The Provost advised that after getting feedback on the text he would send this to Police and SBC for their approval to use their logos.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised he had raised the issue of parking in Kelso again with the CAT team.

The Provost raised the issue of the lack of signs on the loading bays in Roxburgh Street and SBC Councillor Robson agreed to follow up. Councillor Robson advised the loading bay is very long compared with other bays in Kelso and it is something that should be considered when the Kelso Traffic Regulation Order is reviewed.

Speed reduction on A669

The Secretary advised she had written Brian Young at SBC highlighting the request to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. The response had been there is strict

national criteria and guidance on the setting of local speed that roads authorities need to comply with and it was only relatively recently that the speed limit at Springwood was reduced to 40 mph from the previous national speed limit. This was achieved by making a special case for the area because of the special circumstances of regular major events at Springwood and pedestrian movements between Springwood Caravan Park and the town. He also advised he had spoken to Roads Policing colleagues and they advised they would not be able to support a lower limit than the current 40 mph.

The Provost advised that he had received a request for white lines to be reinstated on the road when coming over the Teviot Bridge and the swooping left hand bend.

Dog Fouling

The Provost raised the issue of dog fouling in the town and particular at Woodside Park and wondered how to address this. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised that legislation needed to be changed as dogs were allowed to exercise on any open space and their owners were expected to pick up after them. He recommended the Community Council wrote to local MSPs to raise concerns.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised there were plenty of bins in the town and SBC were not in a position to provide additional ones but individual bins could be relocated if requested. The Provost asked if the bin on the Edinburgh Road / Angraflat road roundabout could be moved to the Croft park side. Councillor Roberts placed on record his thanks to the SBC team for keeping the bins serviceable.

Wall from Maxwellheugh cottage

SBC Councillor Mountford advised SBC had written to the owners to ask what remedial action they were taking to repair the wall.

Open Water Safety

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had purchased two additional life lines.

Smells from the Waste Water Treatment Plan on Broomlea

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had spoken to Scottish Water and it transpired the smell and increased traffic had been as a result of 14 tonnes of gravel being removed from the inlet tank. He advised that he was happy to arrange a visit to the treatment plant in April.

Grass cutting

SBC Councillor Robson advised that a certain percentage of open space needed to be turned into a biodiversity area and currently this was being trialled on the Cobby.

The Provost advised SBC are reviewing maintenance operations with the aim of making greenspaces better for wildlife through less intensive maintenance and through the introduction of pollinator friendly planting. Last year they trialled

wildflower cultivation within amenity grass areas and are proposing to developed additional wildflower areas.

Questions to Councillors

The Provost advised the out of order sign at the defunct charging point in Kelso Square had disappeared and asked for it to be replaced as visitors are still plugging in their cars and asked to add additional information about using the alternative charger in the Knowes Car Park.

Councillor Russell commented he liked the new electronic signs at some of the bus shelters.

Councillor McGrath asked whether the Ukraine national flag could be flown as an act of solidarity and was advised this was not possible as SBC had a strict flag policy. SBC Councillor Mountford advised there were plans to light up the SBC HQ in the Ukrainian colours.

Councillor Oliver commented a fence near the corner of Oakfield had been damaged by the storm and was dangerous.

Councillor Watson advised the drain outside the Fish and Chip shop and Border Blooms in Woodmarket in Kelso appears to be blocked or partially blocked. She advised that her basement in Border Blooms has flooded twice and on one occasion the water backed up into a sink and had what appeared to be fat floating on the surface. There may be an issue with a fat accumulation in the drain. SBC Councillor Robson undertook to pass this to officers.

Consideration of Licenses

The Secretary advised there were no applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Secretary advised there were no plans for consideration. The Provost advised he had seen several planning applications on the public portal that had not been sent to the Community Council for comment. The Secretary advised that on a number of occasions when she had submitted comments on plans there had never been an acknowledgement. SBC Councillor Mountford undertook to make enquiries.

The Provost thanked everyone for attending the meeting

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 April 2022

**Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee
Update for Kelso Community Council of 8 March 2022**

- 1) The Campaign has now received the £2,500 of funding from the Cheviot Community Fund.
- 2) The first press release about the Cheviot Community Fund grant was sent out on 1 March to Radio Borders, BBC local media, the Southern Reporter, Northumberland Gazette, Border Telegraph and rail-UK to generate some wider, initial interest in the Tweed Valley Railway.
- 3) The Campaign's detailed communications and engagement plan will be reviewed and approved at our next meeting on 28 March.
- 4) The Chair has written to the Scottish Government's Minister for Transport and the Campaign has submitted responses to the consultations on South-East Scotland Transport's regional strategy and on Transport Scotland's Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2). In all of them, the Campaign is promoting the extension of Borders Rail south to Hawick and on to the West Coast Mainline as well as the Tweed Valley Railway, namely the further extension of Borders Rail eastwards to the East Coast Mainline, via Kelso and other settlements.
- 5) The Campaign's website and social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) will be up and running by Easter.
- 6) Also this month, the Campaign will write to all the councils along the original route with a view to meeting them all this year. The Campaign wants Management Committee members from places along the planned route.
- 7) There will be regular updates on the website and on social media and a quarterly newsletter for members. The first newsletter will be out in March/April.
- 8) At the end of the month, the Management Committee will meet with the Rail Action Group for East of Scotland (RAGES), who successfully campaigned to re-open Reston station. Following recent testing, they expect Reston station to be open this spring.
- 9) The Management Committee is keen to hear the views of the candidates in the upcoming local elections about how they would support the building of the Tweed Valley Railway.
- 10) An early goal is to appoint a patron who supports the Campaign's objectives and has the necessary connections to open the doors of key decision makers.

**KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS FEB 22 – MAR 22**

Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
08.02.22	Approved minutes Jan 22 posted	For information
	Planning applications 21/01849/FUL and 21/01850/LBC – Mr and Mrs Hancox, change of use from office to dwellinghouse – FRB Ltd Abbey Row, Kelso TD5 7JF	Approved
	Planning Mrs Sorcha Ramsay22/00061/FUL - Change of use of garage and alterations to form holiday let - Garage North Of 51 Roxburgh Street Kelso Scottish	Approved
	Planning application - 22/00093/PPP - James Hewitt: Erection of dwellinghouse and associated works : Land East Of 16 Hendersyde Avenue Kelso Scottish Borders	Approved
	Background to the provision of the Kelso Laddies crop	For information
16.02.22	News Release: Amber weather warning for wind now in place as Storm Dudley hits region	For information
	Queen's Green Canopy	For information
	News release: Residents invited to Area Partnership meetings to find out more about funding and other community benefits	For information
18.02.22	Confirmation KCC has received £2.5k grant from SBC for Jubilee celebrations	For information
	Borders Vintage Automobile Club 50th Anniversary – request to stop at Kelso on Sunday 5 June	For information
	Road Closure - C40 Cessford - west of Morebattle	For information
	Review of the Scottish Borders Community Council scheme amendments- comments from CCN	For information
	News release: New Council Plan sets out immediate priorities and ambitions for 2022-23	For information
22.02.22	News release: Council gives special vote of thanks to social care staff and volunteers	For information
	SBCCN Meeting on Wed 23 Feb 2022 at 7pm - papers attached	For information

	Media statement: Council to meet to discuss recommendations of Independent Inquiry and next steps	For information
	Solar Panel & Cavity Wall Insulation Scheme	For information
25.02.22	News Release: Council to light headquarters building in support of Ukraine residents	For information
	News Release: Council accepts Independent Inquiry recommendations and instructs action plan to be developed	For information
	Chambers Institution in Peebles	For information
	Census Field Enumerator Vacancies	For information
	News release: Winners of Scottish Borders Design Awards announced	For information
	A message from SBCCN Chair re CC Training	For information
	News Release: Councillor Scott Hamilton takes on new Executive role	For information
	News release: Budget for recovery	For information
	Shed Re-opening Tuesday 1st March	For information
26.02.22	Response to STRR2 consultation submitted	For information
	Secretary contacted SBC Ranger to request background information on previous walking festival	For information
27.02.22	Secretary contacted B Young at SBC asking whether it would be possible to have a speed reduction on A669.	For information
	Road Closure - C50 Bowmont Forest	For information
	Citizens Advice – do we want a presentation?	For comment
01.03.22	Papers for Council meeting circulated	For information
	Secretary approached SBC for advice on date of AGM	For information
	SBC's Equalities Policy / Statement	For information
	Railway Committee update	For information
	Wildflower Planting Proposals	For information
	Feedback comments on CC Review	For information
07.03.22	Police Scotland Feb 2022 report	For comment
	Environmental Policy	For comments and adoption

	Road Closure - Crawford Street, Kelso	For information
	News Release: Nomination packs available for prospective local election candidates	For information
	Response from SBC regarding enquiry from member of the public regarding a possible speed reduction on the A669	For information
	The draft Scheme is not yet approved so your 4 year term at the moment complies with the current Scheme. It will only be if the draft Scheme is approved (with that 3 year term of office included) that you would need to seek approval for a 4 year term.	For information