

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 11 December 2018, at 7.00pm**



**PRESENT:** Councillors James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Betty Hodges, Colin McGrath and Harry Tomczyk and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso) Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter), members of the public Rhona Hastie and Pat Leonard and Kelso High School students Fraser Irving, Liberty Barber and Beth Fletcher.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors John Bassett, Gavin Horsburgh, James McCombie and Kerry Yule and Police Scotland Suzanne Howgego.

- *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, members of the public and students from Kelso High School to the meeting.

### **Police Matters**

The November 2018 Police Scotland Report had previously been circulated and it was noted there were no comments to feed back.

### **Presentation on recycling and reuse of plastic waste by students from Kelso High School**

SBC Councillor Euan Robson introduced students Fraser Irving, Liberty Barber and Beth Fletcher and advised he had been working with them on the subject of recycling and the reuse of plastic waste and had invited them to the Community Council to give a presentation on their findings. The purpose was to demonstrate that a lot of young people are both aware of this problem and keen to do something about it.

After an extremely informative presentation Councillor Robson thanked the students for their presentation and for their work which had been done on a voluntary basis and passed thanks to student Eva Dornan who was unable to attend the meeting.

SBC Councillor Mountford commented SBC had done their own analysis on recycling and advised that more than £1m could be saved from the Council's Landfill Tax bill if householders correctly disposed of recycling material. SBC currently pays £3.5m a year in Landfill Tax.

SBC Councillor Weatherston thanked Councillor Robson and the students for their excellent work and advised he had attended a meeting to explain what could be put in the household blue recycling bins and suggested a presentation could be made to the Community Council in the future.

The Provost advised he and Councillors were impressed with the delivery of the presentation and asked the Secretary to write to Jill Lothian to congratulate the students on their work as they were a credit to both the School and our community.

Councillor Robson passed on his thanks to Councillor Hodges for allowing bags of rubbish to be taken from the community Litter Picks for this analyse.

The Provost advised he had attended a meeting with Kirsty Murray from Café U who was looking at making Kelso a Plastic Free Community. He commented Kelso High School used plastic cutlery on a daily basis which was thrown away and reminded Councillors they could take their own tubberware containers to the local Butchers and shops rather than using plastic bags. The Provost advised he would be working with Kirsty Murray and Visit Kelso to educate the public on recycling.

### **Visit Kelso**

Tina Newton advised Visit Kelso had produced a Christmas Flyer to promote activities in the town and they were currently running a Visit Kelso Advent Calendar with 24 doors on their social media channels during December, posting a photo of the member's door and then detailing any Christmas promotions, seasonal opening hours etc.

Tina advised the big Christmas Light switch had been held on Saturday 24 November which had been a successful event. All traders had been encouraged to open their shops each Sunday in December to enable people to shop locally during the festive period.

Tina advised Visit Kelso had secured funding to design and produce a map for Kelso and it was hoped this would be available in spring 2019.

Tina advised there would be an additional Farmers Market to be held on 16 December with Young Enterprise Scotland and a Kelso Show Stoppers on Sunday 23 December with music from various buskers from 11.00 am, followed by music in the Square at 2.30pm from the Kelso Pipe band.

In response to a question on the outcome of Sunday opening Tina advised she had received mixed reviews but hoped the two Sundays leading up to Christmas would be productive for traders.

The Provost advised MBTAG had launched a new tourism app to help visitors discover the rich heritage and history in the Borders. This is a tool for tourism businesses to promote the destination, keep visitors in the area for longer and discover hidden gems. Tina advised this app will be heavily marketed by Visit Scotland and 54 local businesses had already signed up.

Tina on behalf of the Traders thanked the community for their support over the year.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2018**

The minutes held on Tuesday 13 November 2018 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Ian Brown.

### **Matters arising**

#### Resilience Group

The Provost advised Dennis Fortune was acting as co-ordinator for the group. The Provost advised there had been a recruitment drive at the last Farmers Market which had resulted in 8 additional volunteers. There would be a meeting later in the week.

#### Borders Railway

Councillor Robson advised there was no update.

#### Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges advised sales of the calendar were slow and thanked Visit Kelso for publicising it. She commented Kelso North church would be producing a calendar in 2019. Councillor Hodges advised there had been additional theft of plants from Rose Lane. Councillor Hodges advised she would be sending a thank you note to all volunteers for their efforts and a meeting would be held in the New Year.

#### Men's Shed

Councillor J Bassett had tendered his apologies and the Provost advised the lease on the Co-op building had finally been signed off. The Men's shed had put out a plea for donation of paint to decorate the inside.

#### NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised there had been no meetings. Councillor McGrath advised the new dementia unit at Queens House – Murray House – would open on 13 December and 7/8 rooms had been allocated to SBC Social Work Department.

#### Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

## **Former High School Site**

Councillor Tomczyk had attended the recent developers Open Day and had asked for this item to be included on the agenda. While he is fully supportive of the concept put forward for the provision of accommodation for the elderly and the associated housing developments he advised he was very concerned about the lack of provision of public parking, bearing in mind that there is already an issue with parking in that part of Bowmont Street even with parking in the old High School and Wallace's. He highlighted the number of additional cars in the area when matches were played at the Rugby ground and at the Church on Sundays and for weddings and funerals. Councillor Tomczyk advised the developers had expressed no interest in providing additional parking and he felt this would cause issues.

In response to a question SBC Councillor Mountford advised the process was for the developers to submit a master plan which would be discussed by the planning department and after consideration they would make recommendations. Councillor Tomczyk asked that due consideration be given to provision of public parking.

The Provost advised the Kelso Amenity Society would be writing to the developer regarding the architecture of the building and surrounding area.

## **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary advised comments were due on the SBC Main Issues report by the end of January. It was agreed the Provost, Councillor Tomczyk and the Secretary would meet to draft a response which would include the provision of additional car parking and the extension to the Borders Railway.

The following correspondence was noted:

- A Christmas card from John Lamont MP and Rachel Hamilton MSP
- The Bridge Newsletter
- Rape Crisis annual report

## **Provost Report**

The Provost advised he had been invited to the Rugby club Christmas lunch which had started with a minute's silence for the late Ian Whellans. The Provost advised he had attended the Advent Ball on a personal basis at the showground which had been an extremely successful evening with proceeds going to Pancreatic Cancer Scotland and local charity The Difference.

## **Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)**

Councillor McGrath advised the SBCCN had met on the 5 December and had received presentations from SBC Councillor Robson on parking, Rachel Campbell on Community Action Team and Alistair Cameron on Special Constables. Councillor McGrath advised there was a need to recruit additional Special Constables and this was open to anyone with a reasonable fitness level and aged over 17. The Provost

suggested the Community Council receive a presentation on Special Constables and Councillor McGrath undertook to supply details to the Secretary.

Councillor McGrath advised that he had received an email from Jenni Craig, Service Director - Customer & Communities SBC regarding the Localities Bid Fund Assessment Panel just prior to the CCN meeting on 5 December which emphatically refused, by underlining the word 'not', the inclusion of community representation as part of the Assessment Panel. Councillor McGrath commented he was disappointed the Assessment Panel was made up exclusively of SBC Councillors with no community involvement which was against the letter and spirit of the Community Empowerment Act. SBC Councillor Mountford advised he was a member of the Assessment Panel and reminded Councillor the main remit of the Assessment Panel was to check the applications met the criteria and if they did and there were enough, then the community / public would be involved by voting for their chosen project.

Councillor McGrath informed the meeting that as a consequence of this refusal the SBCCN unanimously agreed a proposal put by a Core Group Member that 5 Statutory Participation Requests to sit on the Assessment Panel, one for each Area, be submitted. As far as Kelso Community Council is concerned he reported that Cheviot Area, of which they are part, would be one of the requests. However it was noted that at this time Kelso Community Council didn't want to participate in this particular request.

Councillor McGrath said that it must be noted that the Statute requires that all Participation Requests be accepted by the Local Authority or whichever body receiving the application. Only in exceptional circumstances can these be refused, such as in the case of the current application submitted by the Community Councils' Network to sit on all SBC Committees, which is receiving Government consideration. However these Assessment Panel requests do not fall into this category.

SBC Weatherston advised he felt the Community Empowerment Act was maybe being misinterpreted by some people as being a Community Council Act.

### **Any Other Business**

All business had been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### **Scottish Borders Council Report**

#### **Cheviot Area Partnership**

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had attended the Cheviot Area Partnership meeting on 5 December in Kelso which was interested but unfortunately not well attended. The main topics were the Council Budget: Engagement with Communities 2019/20 and the Localities Bid Assessment Panel.

Councillor Tomczyk suggested SBC needed to invest in more project management and stated he was delighted the old Jedburgh Road had been resurfaced but to date no white lines had been repainted.

Councillor Tomczyk commented the Jedburgh Leisure Facilities Trust, which was the old Borders Sports and Leisure Trust could be something that Kelso should look at to deal with other things such as flower beds, grass cutting and other things being stopped by SBC. It was agreed that this is something to be looked into for the future.

#### 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.

#### Commercial Waste

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had met with officials to see whether the collection of commercial waste could be moved to a later time which would hopefully avoid waste being put out the night before and therefore negate the risk of littering the town. Councillor Robson advised the collection of commercial waste would now start at the slightly later time of 8.05/8.10am at Bridge End. Tina Newton advised traders were concerned workers would not pick up rubbish from the footpath if it was spoilt. Councillor Robson advised the situation would need to be monitored.

### **Questions to SBC Councillors**

#### Resilient Schools

The Provost advised he had approached SBC regarding the stopping of Resilient Schools and advised he was disappointed that as a Community Councillor and parent there had been no consultation. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised Resilient schools relied on staff living within 1.5miles and could walk to the school and he read out an email from SBC officers explaining the situation. This would be circulated to Community Councillors.

Councillor McGrath commented he had seen on Border News today an article highlighting the increase in youth unemployment in the Borders and wondered whether the Kelso Men's shed could be used as hub for a Job Centre. Councillor Mountford advised the DWP were responsible for Job Centres and it was out with the remit of SBC. SBC Weatherston commented it would be interesting to see the actual numbers of youth unemployment

### **Consideration of Licenses**

There were no license applications for consideration.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans –

Change of house type on Plot 23 at Phase 2 Land East Broomlands Riverside drive, Kelso. (18/01668/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

Alteration and extension to dwellinghouse Birnie 110 Roxburgh Street, Kelso. (18/01604/FUL). The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 January 2019.