

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 10 October 2017, at 7.00pm



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

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), PS Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland), Lennox Blyth (SBC Lead Building Standards Surveyor) and Philippa Gilhooly (SBC Roads User Manager).

Roxburgh Street Traders: John and Sarah Murrell (Gifted), Gillian Latimer and Jill Shearlaw (G&S Hair Design), Tanya Mitchell (Snipz'n'Clipz), Fraser Murray (Café U), Michelle Hirst (Pure Beauty Salon), John King (Pet Shop) and Tracey and Dominic Buckley (Moonstone).

APOLOGIES: Councillors John Bassett, Gavin Horsburgh, Alan Hall and Kerry Yule. Jill Lothian, Aidan Gates and Lucy Angus (Kelso High School), Alan Livingston (Chamber of Trade) and Kathryn Wylie (Southern Reporter).

- 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

It was noted Police Scotland report for October 2017 had previously been circulated. PC Suzanne Howgego was in attendance and she highlighted the importance of taking part in the "Your View Counts" online consultation – having a say in the decision making process of Police Scotland is a vital tool for residents to be able to shape the way their public services should operate.

Under the Ward Priorities – Dishonesty it was noted there had been several thefts from supermarkets which were under investigation. Under Road Safety PC Howgego advised there were minor incidents and reminded Councillors in the event of a road accident if details were exchanged between parties the incident was not recorded on the Police database. Under Drug Dealing there had been a couple of incidents and Police warning issued. Under Antisocial Behaviour several minor incidents after the local pubs/night club had closed.

Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update on Roger Fish antisocial behaviour issue. Suzanne Howgego advised no further incidents had been reported and all appropriate paperwork had been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. PC Howgego advised John Lamont MP had convened a meeting of all interested parties. The Provost commented it was disappointing a local resident and her child had been forced to leave their home in Roger Fish because of antisocial behaviour.

Councillor T Weatherston asked whether it was the same people trying house doors and car doors and was there a connection. Suzanne Howgego advised Police had caught two people trying car doors and she was not aware of any connection. She further commented that during the investigation the police tried a number of car doors and found them unlocked. The public are reminded they should keep their property secure to avoid these opportunistic thief's.

The Provost asked whether there had been an increase in vandalism overall and Suzanne Howgego advised she was not aware and most incidents appeared to be of a low level generally.

Suzanne Howgego advised the local Police were not aware of the Army exercise in the town on the 14th September and when she spoke to officers concerned she was advised they had received permission from the Local Authority. The Provost commented if exercises were to happen in the future it was important this was communicated to the local people to alleviate any unnecessary concern.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Apologies had been received from Alan Livingston and it was noted the Chamber of Trade had not held any meetings.

Roxburgh Street

The Provost welcomed SBC Officers Lennox Blyth and Philippa Gilhooly to the meeting to give an update on the Roxburgh Street road closure. It was noted several traders were in attendance to listen to the update and voice their concerns.

As background the road was closed to traffic and pedestrians on Friday 29 September due to a dangerous building. Pedestrian access was opened a week later. New scaffolding was erected to allow a chimney on the building to be removed and pedestrian access to be restored. The road will continue to be closed to traffic while surveys on the building continue. It was noted the original scaffolding was not suitable and the render on the building would need to be removed to allow Structural Engineers to inspect the stone to ascertain what work was needed.

Lennox Blyth and Philippa Gilhooly advised public safety was paramount and they took on board traders concerns regarding the lack of communications. SBC anticipated to be in a position provide an update on the state of the building by the end of the week and undertook to put letters through each business in Roxburgh Street and update the Community Council. John King commented it was important to receive regular updates.

Traders expressed concern that if the work to the building was to be major and expensive the owners may delay progressing the work. SBC advised once the extent of the work was established, the builders would be commissioned to carry out the work immediately. It was noted the contractors, Laidlaw and Sons, had pulled staff off other jobs to work on Roxburgh Street. If the owners of the building contested the work and try to delay its progress SBC would cover the cost and put a charge against the building.

Many traders advised they had lost valuable business due to closure of the road and pedestrian access. It was noted their shop insurance did not cover loss of business due to road closures. Although the pedestrian access had been reinstated its appearance and signage were not conducive to inviting shoppers into Roxburgh Street.

Philippa Gilhooly undertook to meet traders later in the week to immediately commission new and attractive signage.

The Provost thanked SBC officials and Roxburgh Street traders for attending the meeting and was reassured work would be progressed.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 September 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Betty Hodges.

Matters arising

Memorial Garden

Councillor T Weatherston advised a meeting would be held on 12 October to finalise details. It was agreed the formal name should be "Kelso Community Memorial Garden".

Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

Councillor Hodges advised the winter bedding had been planted at the Bridge End and Coldstream entrance beds and asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to the Kelso Horticultural Society for their assistance.

It was noted the Chamber of Trade owned a bowser which would be made available to Kelso in Bloom.

Councillor Hodges asked the Provost to organise for the salver and certificate to be displayed in a window of the Town Hall.

The Secretary advised a letter of congratulations had been received from John Lamont MP and it was suggested this be displayed in the window as well.

SBC Councillor Simon Mountford offered his congratulations on the standard of the beds, in particular the Coldstream entrance.

Cinema

Councillor Cooper advised the cinema night held on 29 September had been an evening of two halves with only 32 attendances at the children's film and 153 at the adult's film. With the start-up costs the evening had made a loss, however the film providers had agreed to cover any loss for the first three film evenings. Councillor Cooper advised positive feedback had been received and constructive comments regarding future children's film. Councillor Cooper confirmed the cinema club now had charitable status and therefore would be entitled to reduced rates at Tait Hall.

The Provost commented there had been a good knock on effect with local restaurants and pubs. Councillor T Weatherston suggested the cinema club look at holding its events on a Saturday evening which may make it more attractive and profitable.

NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised he had received a copy of the Care Inspectorate services for older people in Scottish Borders September 2017 - a report of a joint inspection of adult health and social care services. In the report several areas were rated as "below adequate", including involvement of the public and progress of the Integrated Board.

Councillor Mountford advised the report had been based on inspections which took place over a year ago and many of the recommendations had been implemented and improvements made.

Councillor T Weatherston commented he was optimistic progress would be made with the Integrated Board.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised she had made contact with the British Legion regarding volunteers for Kelso in Bloom. They had confirmed they had put a poster up and had agreed to send a donation of £50.00 to the funds.

As requested the Secretary had written a thank you letter to the organisers of the Tour of Britain and received a very positive response from them.

The Secretary has arranged for Neil Hastie, SBC Estates Manager to attend the November meeting to give an update on the disposal of the existing High School site.

The Secretary had circulated the most recent Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.

Post meeting the Secretary was asked to write to the Ministry of Defence to log a complaint regarding armed military personnel walking around Kelso town centre in full uniform and carrying guns on the morning of Thursday 14 September. To date no response has been received.

Correspondence

- Letter of congratulations from John Lamont MP regarding Kelso coming second in the Champion of Champions category at the 2017 Floral Gateway Awards.
- SBC Traffic Regulation Order – Disabled Persons' Parking Places.
- SBC Data Protection renewal

Provost Report

The Provost highlighted there had been a charity calendar produced of Kelso with proceeds going to Kelso North Church. These are available from Browns, Hector Innes and Mayfield Garden Centre.

East Broomlands Development – naming of street

The Community Council was asked to give consideration to naming the street in the East Broomlands development (Phase 5). After consideration it was agreed to recommend William Henry Ogilvie (after the local Poet) but suggested SBC speak to the Kelso Laddies Association or Charlie Robertson about its full title.

Any Other Business

Borders Railway

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had written to John Lamont MP asking him to support extending the railway from Newtown St Boswells to Berwick via Kelso. John Lamont MP said that he would support the extension via Kelso and suggested the best way forward would be to launch a campaign to re-open the railway to Kelso which illustrated public support. Rachel Hamilton MSP had responded that a multi modal feasibility study on Behalf of Transport is expected to be available in November which should provide useful information.

The Provost recommended a letter was sent to the Campaign for Borders Rail to seek their support. Councillor Tomczyk undertook to draft the letter.

Councillor Robson advised it was critical any extension came via Charlesfield/Newtown St Boswells to make it a viable option.

National Park

Councillor Cooper advised an updated report had been issued and would ask the Secretary to circulate a copy to Councillors.

Scottish Borders Council

Locality Committee – Councillor Mountford advised the next Locality meeting would take place on 18 October in Jedburgh. At the meeting there would be an update on the reorganisation of Charitable Trusts.

Councillor Mountford advised the meeting on the 6 December would be held at the new Kelso High School. The new Localities Bid Fund would be launched at the meeting. The fund is designed to support community projects and initiatives that address local priorities and benefit the community. Councillor Mountford advised £84,000 had been allocated to the Cheviot Area. Bids would be considered by the six Ward Councillors and representatives from Community Council Area Partnership.

Parking / Traffic Management – Councillor Mountford advised a SBC working party had been set up to consider parking across the Borders area. Both he and Councillor T Weatherston were lobbying for space to be allocated for parking in Kelso in the Locality Plan. Councillor Mountford advised it would be helpful if the Community Council write to Charles Johnston (Lead officer, Planning, Policy and Parking) requesting they find space for more parking close to the town centre.

Councillor Cooper requested more signage to the location of the long term parking in the town.

Pinnaclehill Woodlands – Councillor H Tomczyk had raised this issue to confirm who was responsible for Pinnaclehill Woodlands. Councillor T Weatherston advised this land was owned by the Kelso Common Good Fund and any maintenance cost would need to be paid out of this fund. If members of the public had issues with maintenance of the woodland they should direct their enquiry to SBC in the first instance.

Jedburgh Road repairs – Councillor Tomczyk advised no allowance had been included in the current programme of planned revenue and capital work 2017/18. Councillor T Weatherston advised funding had been included in the three year cycle.

Borders car stickers – Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update and Councillor T Weatherston to chase.

Bin collection schedule of dates – Councillor Tomczyk advised the calendar on the SBC web site showing collection dates had not been updated. Councillor Mountford undertook to investigate.

Consideration of Licenses

No new applications were received.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plan –

Punch Taverns, (White Swan) 7 Woodmarket, Kelso – installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signage. The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

Punch Taverns, (White Swan) 7 Woodmarket, Kelso – external alterations. The Community Council had no objections to the plan.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 14 November 2017 at 7.00pm