

**MINUTE of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town
Hall, Kelso, on Tuesday 13th May 2014,
at 7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT Provost Bassett (in the Chair), Councillors Betty Hodges, Fiona Scott, Dean Weatherston, John King, Harry Tomczyk and Colin McGrath. Scottish Borders Councillors T Weatherston and Alec Nicol.

IN ATTENDANCE George Young, acting Secretary and PC Howgego.

APOLOGIES Councillors Gavin Horsburgh, Scottish Borders Councillor Mountford and Shirley Redgrave (Secretary)

Welcome

Provost Bassett welcomed members of the Council to the meeting.

Update on Kelso Town works

David Johnston was unable to attend the meeting but he provided an update of progress on the street works which is attached to these Minutes.

Police Matters

PC Howgego was in attendance and had circulated a monthly report. PC Howgego did highlight the Anti Social Behaviour process which is followed and she was of the opinion that the system is working. She also stated that with a nightclub in Kelso there was a certain amount of street drinking which could result in some offending and did point out that there was a bigger police presence in the town at weekends.

PC Howgego stated that the traffic warden system had ceased She did point out that parking in the town would be difficult to police until road markings were renewed. She was disappointed with the taxi drivers parking on bends.

With regard to initiatives she stated that she is currently investigating along with the Rotary Club how a 'Nominated Neighbour Scheme' could work. This would involve giving cards to the elderly and vulnerable which they could hand out to any unknown caller which would direct the caller to a neighbour. The first task would be to build up a bank of people who would be considered vulnerable. PC Howgego would send further details of a proposed scheme to the Secretary. She was unsure whether a scheme would work until the elderly and vulnerable were visited. She understood a similar scheme had been piloted in Peebles a number of years ago. Provost Bassett suggested that the Community Council Facebook page could be used to ask people to identify vulnerable people who could benefit from the scheme. PC Howgego stated that she would be issuing copies of 'The New Ward Plan' which identified three areas of concern i.e. young drivers, youth antisocial behaviour and drug use. She stated that the next months report will identify these issues. She intended having another session of 'Have a cuppa with a Copper' at Sainsburys. It was suggested that such sessions would be useful in the evening rather than during the day Councillor Tom Weatherston stated that there was still a major problem with parking on double yellow lines outside Ladbrokes. PC Howgego stated that she had notified the manager of our concerns with the problem. It was suggested that flyers be distributed to all shopkeepers in the area highlighting the problem. Councillor Tomczyk stated that there was also a similar problem in Bridge Street. It/

It was however felt that parking problems may quieten down once the work in Kelso Square is completed. It was however pointed out that there were plenty car parking spaces behind the Co-op shop in Roxburgh Street.

Provost Bassett thanked PC Howgego for her attendance and input into the meeting.

Chamber of Trade Report

There was no representative from the Chamber of Trade in attendance.

Minute

The Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday the 8th April 2014 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Tomczyk, seconded by Councillor McGrath subject to three adjustments.

Matters Arising

a) Resilient Community

The date for the meeting to discuss resilient communities at Scottish Borders Council had been changed to the 10th June which coincides with the next meeting of Kelso Community Council. The Council will therefore have no representatives at the meeting. It was hoped that a further meeting with Council Officials can be organised at a later date.

b) Stakeholder

Council Tomczyk stated that the next meeting to discuss public art would be on the 14th May. He stated that he understood from Councillor Nicol that work would be concentrated on the central part of the Square to ensure that it was completed by Civic Week.

There was discussion on signage in the central area. It was noted that there were six signs on one lamppost. It was stated that it was expected that this will be replaced by a proper information sign to indicate directions to various services etc. Councillor Scott stated that she understood that once the street furniture was in place street signage would be reduced in size. Councillor King stated that some laminated street signs were not working. Provost Bassett stated that in such circumstances it was best to approach the foreman to see if he could organise a repair but if this failed it should be referred to David Johnston. Councillors felt that there was a need for more signage both outside and inside the town and Councillor Tomczyk was asked to raise this issue at the next Stakeholders meeting. Councillor T Weatherston stated that it was hoped that if there was some money available at the end of the project this could be diverted towards signage. It was hoped that signage would take a similar form that to that used in Melrose Square. Councillor Scott felt strongly that the quality of signage should not be prejudiced by any over spending in other directions.

Correspondence

A list of correspondence which had been received since the last meeting of the Council had been circulated to Councillors and is attached to this Minute.

Newsletters had also been received from Elder Voice and Connections – Border Railway. Advertising material had also been received in relation to the Tweed Valley walking weekend.

A letter had also been received from Mrs Hird inviting Councillors to take part in the St James' Fair in September. Provost Bassett, Councillors Scott and Dean Weatherston indicated their willingness to participate and Councillors Tomczyk and McGrath would check their availability.

Secretary's Report

a) The Secretary pointed out that the Newcastle Building Society had indicated that they wanted to close all voluntary organisation accounts. As the Community Council did have two small accounts with the Newcastle Building Society steps would be taken to redeem these. It was however noted that the cheque signatory was out of date. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tomczyk seconded by Councillor Dean Weatherston that Provost Bassett be a cheque signatory for this account.

b) The Secretary stated that each year Councillors should agree to accept 'Code of Conduct'. As all Councillors have copies of the 'Code of Conduct' they unanimously agreed that the code be accepted.

Area Forum Report

Councillor T Weatherston stated that there had been no further meetings since the last Community Council meeting. The next meeting of the Area Forum would be held on the 4th June at the Tait Hall. It was hoped that final plans for the Kelso High School would be available for the meeting. He also asked if there were any other issues which Councillors would wish to raise at the Area Forum they should be notified to him.

Scottish Borders Council Report/

a) Kelso High School

Councillor Tom Weatherston stated that the outline plans were available but he expected the design team should have final plans for public exhibition shortly.

b) Memorial Garden

Councillor King reported that he is hoping to get the churches and Messrs Kyles involved in the steering group. Councillor King stated that he understood that the number of burials had dropped by 80% since the crematorium had opened. It is understood that there is on only one burial per week in Kelso. The Council felt that it would be good to have a memorial garden and it was felt reasonable that a charge could be imposed to put up a plaque which would be a way of funding the project. Councillor Tom Weatherston stated that burials would still be undertaken at the old cemetery for the next 35-40 years as there were still a large number of vacant plots which had been pre-purchased by people in the past. He stated that he understood at the new cemetery pre-purchase of plots was not permitted.

Councillor McGrath will ask for a representative of Kelso Churches Together to join the committee. Councillor Nicol felt that it may be possible to get some grant assistance for the project from Lottery Community Grants or the Robertson Trust.

c) Interim Arrangements for Garden Waste Collection

The Scottish Borders Councillors had tried hard to get interim arrangements put in place but they had failed to get agreement despite identifying a budget which could be used. Councillor Nicol went on to say he understood that a private contractor is having difficulty obtaining a license for the short term from SEPA. Scottish/

Scottish Borders Councillors stated that Rob Dickson did agree to provide a process for interim arrangements but this was defeated by Councillors from other towns.

Rob Dickson had identified that there would be 690 tons of garden waste to be collected in the interim period. It was also pointed out that Kelso is the only major settlement of population in the Borders which does not have a recycling centre. Community Councillors stated that people are taking out hedgerows to avoid problems with garden waste. It was felt by Scottish Borders Councillors that nothing could be done by them at the moment. It was highlighted by Community Councillors that residents are now putting garden waste in the black bins. Councillor McGrath suggested that it was important that Kelso Community Councillors be seen to be trying to take action. Councillor Dean Weatherston asked if the matter should not be taken up with the Scottish Government as it was Government policy that major settlements should have appropriate facilities. It was intimated by Scottish Borders Councillors that it was unlikely that the Scottish Government would take action as Scottish Borders Council does have future plans.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent by Kelso Community Council to the leader of Scottish Borders Council of the disappointment at the lack of interim provision for the disposal of 690 tons of garden waste and the reasons for the lack of provision was purely political and that the Community Council could not understand Scottish Borders Councillors attitude.

Roxburgh Street Surface Repairs

It was pointed out that the three Scottish Borders Councillors were working together on this matter. The prices of the various alternatives had been circulated. Councillor Nicol stated that they were looking at ways of getting a time slot for project and it was felt that this maybe possible by getting 50% of the funding one year and 50% in the following year. There was discussion on the tarmac of the street from the Ragged School up to the point where there was tarmac. There was feeling that the cost may be greater because of the possibility of subsidence with some of the properties having cellars. Councillor Nicol stated he was asking officials of the Council to consult with the residents in the area to get their opinion as to the use of tarmac as opposed to getting cobbles relaid. Councillors Scott and Dean Weatherston said that they understood that this area was within the conservation area and they thought the residents may feel that cobbles should be relaid. Councillor Tom Weatherston was of the opinion that the work may not be undertaken until the gap side in Roxburgh Street was utilised which he felt may be utilised for affordable housing.

Jedburgh Road Fencing

Councillor Tom Weatherston had raised this with officials and they had agreed to check that nothing was dangerous and if it was dangerous then would be made safe. The officials did however feel that they would need evidence from the title deeds that the council were responsible for any replacement of the fence before it could be replaced.

Shedden Park Toilets

Councillor Nicol stated that he understood that there would be a deep clean of the toilets and that in the future they will be better looked after. Councillor Dean Weatherston stated that the toilets were open from 9am to 5pm while it was understood that during the summer they should be open from 8am to 6pm. He also stated that he understood that they do not get cleaned in the morning. He also understood that various cleaning functions were carried out under 3 different contracts. Councillor Nicol agreed to investigate the situation with regard to cleaning and timing of the opening of the toilets.

Grass Cutting

Provost Bassett stated that grass had not been cut in the Inchmyre area. It was pointed out that the Council cut the grass in the parks but in the housing estates SBHA and Waverley are responsible for the various housing areas. It was understood that Waverley were looking to change their contractor. It was also understood that SBHA will be commencing the cutting of the grass in the coming week and will pick up the grass on the first cut. The feedback from other towns is that the SBHA contractor has been doing a good job. It was also pointed out that Waverley and SBHA are responsible for cutting back the trees. It was pointed out that there was no coordination of the grass cutting work.

Future Kelso

The next meeting of Future Kelso will be the AGM in June.

Consideration of Plan

The Council considered the following plan

- a) From Mr and Mrs I Thorpe, 142 Roxburgh Street for landscaping work to incorporate raised decking area with access steps, boundary fencing and summer house - the Council had no objections.
- b) From Mr and Mrs N Oliver for replacement windows at Dalveen, Maxwell Lane, Kelso – the Council had no objections.
- c) From Forbes Plastics Limited for the erection of access gates – the Council had no objections.
- d) From Ms Nerinder Chando for internal and external alterations to form dwelling housing and for change of use from Church Hall and alterations to form dwelling housing at Trinity North Church Hall East Bowmont street. The council had no objections but they did urge the applicant to get the work done as quickly as possible because of the current state of the premises and surrounding area.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held on Tuesday, 10th June 2014 at 7.00pm. As the Town Hall will be in use at that time alternative arrangements will be made either for the ground floor room at the Town Hall (if possible) or the Dickson room at the Cross Keys.