

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of Kelso Community Council
held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 9 May 2017, at 7.00pm**

PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett (Chair), Dean Weatherston, Fiona Scott, Harry Tomczyk, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, Colin McGrath, Peter Cooper and Alan Hall, Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) Alan Livingston (Chamber of Trade), members of the public Kerry Lee Yule and Ian Brown.

Minute

The minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 10 May 2016 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Horsburgh and seconded by Councillor Tomczyk.

Provost's Report

The last year has been as busy as ever, but without a strong hard working committee to back me we would not have got as much done as we have over the last year.

Before I move on I would like to thank my friend Shirley, our Community Council secretary as you all know she is working in the background making sure that the business of the Council is carried out in good order, I must add trying to get her to take her time is impossible, but I will admit without her good offices we would not be able to do as much as we do, so a big thank you and look forward to working with you over the next few years on this Council.

This last year has seen the Community Council take on several new projects, the first was when I asked Councillor Betty Hodges if she would take on Kelso in Bloom, after that I saw her all over the town digging and planting follower, and working away with her small committee keeping the flower beds around the town looking as lovely as ever, and to top it all off she and her committee won the Floral Gateway competition, congratulations Betty and well done to all your team.

Councillor John King, asked if we as a Council could build a Memorial Wall in the town to allow locals to remember their loved ones who had been cremated. We agreed that this was a good idea so after getting Councillor Harry Tomczyk, Colin McGrath and SBC Councillor Alec Nicol to help him they got on with the job, and over the last year things have moved on very quickly, and hopefully we should see this started before the end of this year, so I would like to say thank you to John and his team for all the hard work I know you have put in.

Myself I was asked by two members of NHS Borders working in Kelso Community Hospital Vivian Watson and Gillian Jackson if we as a Community Council would help them set up a Men's Shed here in Kelso, knowing I needed something to keep me out of trouble after retiring from Kelso High School, we set up our first meeting in August 2016, which was very well attended which show me there was a need for a project like this in the town, by good fortune Councillor Colin McGrath who had been telling one of his many

contacts that we were looking for a building to start a Men's Shed in the town, and with the help of two gentlemen Alastair Summerhill and Bob Stather we were able to form a Committee Alastair taking on the Chairman's post Bob as Treasury and myself as Vice Chairman, we are moving along at a pace hopefully opening in June or July this year, to this end I must thank the people and businesses of Kelso for all the donations which as help us move on at such a pace.

Four years ago, I started a Kelso Community Council Facebook page, but very quickly Councillor Dean Weatherston took on the mantle of running the page, and what a wonderful job he has done getting information to the people of Kelso of what is going on within the Community Council the town and within the Borders, other Community Council have said it is one of the best run page they have seen in Scotland not just the Borders. Lastly, I would like to thank our three SBC Councillor for all there help over the last four years, they are three very hard working gentlemen thank you all.

As you all know this is my last year as Provost of Kelso, I would like to thank you all for your help getting though the last four year, a lot has been asked of this Community Council over the years but not as much as this year, it just goes to show what a hard-working committee can do when we all work together for the good of the local community, thank you.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the new Provost of Kelso, I hope you have a good term of office, just enjoy your time, and I look forward to working with you.

Annual Accounts

The statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2017 had been circulated. Mrs Redgrave highlighted the main features of these accounts. The general fund had shown a deficit of £74.22 leaving funds at 31 March 2017 of £1,673.00.

The Floral Gateway had funds at 31 March 2017 of £4,178.54. Income had been generated through donations, SBC grant, Charity Begins at Home, Sainsbury's Bag Pack, Calendar sales and money transferred from the Floral Gateway account. Councillor Hodges commented it was good to have a healthy balance and reminded members this was a five year rolling project and invoices would be presented for the planting of Bridge end bed, wild seeds for Jedburgh entrance and the planting of the new border at Coldstream entrance.

With regard to the CCTV account no expenditure had been incurred during the year and the funds in this account at 31st March 2017 amounted to £1,372.75.

With regard to the Kelso Memorial Fund there had been no activity and the balance in the account at 31 March 2017 remained at £4.00

The annual accounts were proposed by Councillor McGrath and seconded by Councillor D Weatherston.

The Secretary placed on record the thanks of the Council to Mr George Young who had audited the annual accounts.