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**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall,  
Kelso on Tuesday 13 June 2017, at 7.15 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Alan Hall, Gavin Horsburgh, Jim McCombie, Colin McGrath, Kerry Lee Yule and Dean Weatherston and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary).

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors John Bassett, Betty Hodges and Harry Tomczyk 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 members to the meeting

### **Police Matters**

Apologies had been received from Police Scotland and the June 2017 report had previously been circulated. Councillors had no feedback to make.

The Provost advised he had heard rumours the front desk of the Kelso Police Station was due to be closed. The Secretary had contacted Police Scotland and they had confirmed the post for a full time front desk officer was currently being advertised and they hoped to fill this shortly.

### **Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso**

There was no report from the Chamber of Trade. The Provost advised Visit Kelso were currently working on a new web site which would go live in July. He confirmed they had received funding from SBC to support marketing activities for the Tour of Britain event which would be taking place in Kelso on Sunday 3 September. He also advised the Kelso Folk Club were organising a music event over the weekend of 2/3 September.

In response to a question on whether the shops would be open on the 3 September, the Provost advised they would be encouraged to open.

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 May 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Gavin Horsburgh and seconded by Councillor Alan Hall.

### **Matters arising**

#### **Memorial Garden**

Councillor T Weatherston advised there were several issues outstanding and he had arranged a meeting the following week with SBC officials to discuss the project, cognisant of the time barriers.

#### **Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition**

In Councillor Hodges absence the secretary advised a litter pick had been organised for the 23 May between 6.00 and 8.00pm and local youth groups, including some of the uniformed organisations in the town would be involved

A Sainsbury's bag pack had been organised for Saturday 24 June and the Secretary would be drawing up a list of volunteers for the rota.

It was confirmed Charity Begins at Home had made a generous donation of £1,000 towards the KIB project and Councillor Hodges and the Provost would be attending an event to receive the cheque.

The Secretary advised other donations had been received from the Kelso Bowling Club (£150), two personal donations (£55) and a grant from SBC (£200) towards the planning to wild seeds at Jedburgh Road end.

#### **Cinema**

Councillor Cooper advised considerable progress had been made. Live Borders had confirmed they would not be involved in future events. Councillor Cooper advised he had met with Film Mobile Scotland who were very supportive and it was anticipated film nights could commence in September 2017. He advised a small working group had been set up and Kelso Community Cinema would be applying for charitable status. It was noted that although the majority of the previous cinema evenings had been profitable, some had run at a loss Peter advised the group were still looking for a Treasurer and any volunteers would be welcome.

Councillor T Weatherston advised the Kelso Community Cinema would have community status and therefore be able to apply for the local group rate to hire the Tait Hall, as opposed to the commercial rate. Councillor Cooper commented he was in discussion with the Kelso High School to see whether cinema nights could be held in the Assembly room at some point in the future but the intention was to initially hold the cinema nights at Tait Hall.

Councillor Mountford commented once the enterprise was up and running they would be able to bid for community funds from the Locality Fund and they would be allowed to have one year's running costs in their bank account.

### NHS/Social Services integration

Councillor McGrath advised he had attended a Locality Group meeting who were working on a Locality Plan and it was noted the profile was out of date. He advised he had attended a NHS Public Participation Forum covering the Borders region. The NHS Integration Board had held an induction day. He also commented a meeting had been held to discuss organ donation and advised if you live in Wales and you had not registered a decision on organ donation, from 2015 you will be treated as having no objection to being an organ donor – deemed consent.

### Newspapers for Kelso Library

Councillor McGrath advised jointly Sainsbury's and the Co-op will be providing newspapers at Kelso Library Monday to Friday and Friends of Kelso Library would provide these on a Saturday.

### **Secretary's Report**

**Code of Conduct** - The secretary advised the Code of Conduct had been re-circulated to Councillors to remind them to abide by the rules. All Councillors agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct.

The Secretary advised she had written to SBC regarding charges to use the public toilets. To date no response had been received but this would be followed up.

As requested the Secretary had written to SBC regarding a Calendar of Events for bookings for the Square and had been advised the booking process is currently being reviewed but we would be notified of any events.

The Secretary advised she had received correspondence from Pat Baker-Hewitt regarding a petition to the Scottish Parliament to spread awareness and formally recognise PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance). Councillor Euan Robson gave some background information and advised one of the aims was to promote the syndrome. The Provost advised he had previously been in correspondence with Ms Baker-Hewitt who had asked the Community Council to endorse the petition. The Provost commented he felt the Council did not have the medical knowledge to endorse the petition but was happy for details to be shared on the KCC Facebook pages. The Provost will contact Ms Baker-Hewitt to offer this route again.

The Secretary advised a bag pack would be held at Sainsbury's on Saturday 24 June 2017 between 10.00am and 4.00pm as a fund raiser for Kelso in Bloom and she would circulate a rota of volunteers.

The Secretary advised she had circulated Councillor Contact details.

### **Correspondence**

- Kelso Ladies Civic week an invitation to attend the Laying of the Wreath at the War Memorial on Sunday 16 July and thereafter to the Church Service at Kelso North and to attend the Bussing Ceremony on Wednesday 19 July in the Square and for refreshments in Springwood Park after the Ceremony. The Secretary will advise the Kelso Laddies' Association of attendance.

- SBC Local Community Path Maintenance Grants – copies to be sent to Kelso in Bloom and Friends of Kelso Museum.
- Invitation from the Consul General of the Republic of Poland for an event on 28 June in Edinburgh. The Provost advised he would attend.
- The Bridge newsletter.

### **Provost Report**

The Provost advised he had asked for this item to be added to the agenda so he could report on any hospitality he had received as Provost. It was noted under current rules any hospitality over £10 needed to be recorded. The Provost advised he had been invited as a guest to the recent Country and Western Festival and Horse Trials. Councillor T Weatherston advised the figure of £10 needed to be reviewed.

### **Any Other Business**

Public toilets – Councillor Yule advised she had received many complaints regarding both the charge to use the public toilets in Kelso and the fact they were not being kept up to a suitable standard. Councillor T Weatherston advised the charges for the public toilets had been well publicised and he would pass on concerns regarding the standard of cleaning and general maintenance.

### **Scottish Borders Council**

Locality Committee – Councillor Mountford advised there would be a meeting on the 21 June. He advised there would be a meeting at some stage on the new Localities Trust Fund.

### **Parking / Traffic Management**

- Bowmont Street – Councillor Robson advised he had received several complaints regarding speeding in Bowmont Street. He advised that BT were currently undertaking some work on the street and part of it would need to be resurfaced and it may be an opportunity to make changes to signage on the road.

He advised that during the school opening and closing times the 30 mph speed sign changes to 20 mph and he wondered whether the Community Council would support the option of making the street a 20mph area on a permanent basis.

Flag Policy – the Provost asked whether the SBC flag policy could be amended to acknowledge terrorist attacks when locals wished for the flags to be lowered as a mark of respect. It was noted the current policy updated in 2015 allowed for flags in the Borders to be lowered to mark the decease of the Monarch, current or former Minister or First Minister. Councillor Mountford advised he would make enquiries and report back.

### **Questions to SBC Councillors**

Councillor Horsburgh raised the issue of the poor road surface of Jedburgh Road and particularly as it was the main road access for the Ambulance station. Councillor Mountford advised SBC were aware and repairs to the road were on the list and noted as a priority.

Councillor Hall raised the issue of the surface of Roxburgh Street and was advised money was available and set aside and work would be done after the building work.

### **Consideration of Licenses**

There were no applications received.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans –

Residential development comprising 5 flats – land NW of Red Lion Hotel, Crawford Street, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

Residential development – DM Wallace and Sons, Bowmont Street, Kelso, The Community Council had no objections to the plans.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 12 September 2017 at 7.00pm