

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of Kelso Community Council
held in Kelso Town Hall
on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 7.00pm**

PRESENT: Councillors Owen Adams, James Boulton, Peter Cooper, Christine Hamilton, Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Toni Oliver, Shirley Redgrave, Gus Russell, Gail Watson and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Sharon Johnston (Secretary), Mags Clark (Visit Kelso) and Police Scotland Stuart Little.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Paul Roberts.

Minute

The minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Colin McGrath and seconded by Councillor Gail Watson.

Provost's Report

Since the last AGM, Kelso Community Council has been extremely busy with so much going on – We welcomed a new Kelso Laddie, which we hadn't had since the Covid Pandemic – which we are thankfully moving on from and all getting back to a more normal way of living.

The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a tremendous success. The sun shone all day, the enactment of the Queen's Coronation and the musical arrangement of the afternoon – along with the outdoor Sunday church service, with Kelso Churches Together, all went to plan – and thank you to everyone who made this the success it was – which reached national coverage – and a letter to the girl who acted The Queen, from The Queen's lady in waiting – wishing Kelso the best wishes from Her Majesty.

Kelso Civic Week came and gone, just as quick as it started – the week starts at a nice steady pace, but after you get to the Wednesday night Bussing, the rest of the week fly's by.

Kelso Laddie, Callum Davidson, took charge of the Kelso Standard from myself and returned it with its honour unsullied and untarnished – and proved to be an extremely popular Kelso Laddie.

The following week with the Border Union Show – another excellent and busy weekend for Kelso.

In September, with the passing of Her Majesty the Queen – I was called upon to read the proclamation of King Charles III – to which this was an immense honour of a role to perform, under such sad circumstances.

I would like to offer my sincere thank you to all Community Councillors for everything they have done over the last year – with our subgroups, Kelso In Bloom, Railway

Committee and the Walking Festival Committee which have now started looking towards the festival this coming Sept 2023.

Thank you to Shirley and Sharon for their duties as Secretary and Treasurer – and also to George Young for auditing our Accounts.

Thank you to our SBC Councillors for all they have done for Kelso and Kelso Community Council, the last AGM year – we and Kelso is blessed to have three elected members, who do their best for the town – and always available to myself for any guidance and advice.

My final thanks is to the people of Kelso – and all those wonderful volunteers who give up their own time, and donate it to the many clubs and organisations we have in Kelso – without you, most of these organisations and groups, wouldn't be able to run.

SBC Councillor T Weatherston on behalf of the other SBC Councillors thanked the Provost for all his hard work and commented Kelso Community Council is an example of how a Community Council should be run with good cooperation.

Treasurer's Report

Councillor Redgrave (Treasurer) tabled the accounts and explained she had been recommended to use a different layout due to using the Memorial Account for various activities to accommodate grants received for the Jubilee Fund, Kelso Community Larder and the Kelso Walking Festival.

It was noted that generous donations to Kelso in Bloom had resulted in a surplus of £2,300. The Treasurer advised that when Kelso in Bloom had been established it was agreed that it would aim to have two years of funding in account and this has been achieved. There were no questions on the Kelso in Bloom accounts.

The Treasurer advised all other activities were set out as Receipts and Payments Account.

Councillor Boulton asked where the Provost's gift of the Laddie's crop was detailed and the Treasurer explained that this was recorded as officer's expenses.

It was noted that due to a technical error the grant awarded from SBC for computer equipment, printer and expenses, although paid in this financial year had not been received and would appear in the 2023/24 accounts.

The accounts were approved by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Adams and unanimously approved.

George Young has decided to step down from being auditor and could not recommend a replacement. The Treasurer suggested that a gift be made to recognise many years of service as examiner. Councillor Boulton suggested writing to Douglas Hume & Co to see if they would be willing to carry out some work *pro bono*.

The Provost placed on record the thanks of the Council to Mr George Young (Rennie Welch) who had audited the annual accounts.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

With no further business the meeting ended at 19.15 hours