

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of Kelso Community Council
held by Zoom
on Tuesday 11 May 2021 at 7.00pm**

PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Ian Brown, Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh, James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Paul Robert, Harry Tomczyk, Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Scottish Borders Councillors Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso) and members of the public Hazel Woodsell Teresa Dorward, Owen Adams, David Henderson and Gus Russell (Secretary KCC Railway Committee)

APOLOGIES: SBC Councillor S Mountford

Minute

The minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2020 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Colin McGrath and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Provost's Report

This will be the shortest report ever submitted to a Kelso Community Council AGM. Since our last AGM which was postponed until we were able to establish online meetings there has not been one single event that has taken place.

Kelso Community Council has seen all our meetings go online in line with national legislation to stop the spread of the global covid pandemic. It is also for this reason that our election due to be held every four years has been postponed until such a time that it can be safely conducted. At this moment it is hoped this can be held in September 2021.

Kelso Civic Week went online for the first time hosting a virtual civic week which I was pleased to play a part. This year's Civic Week will follow much the same pattern. I will also remain in office as Honorary President of the Kelso Laddies Association until the Community Council holds an election.

Kelso Resilience Group was formed as a sub group of the Community Council in 2018 and thankfully had an established committee and action plans in place when coronavirus forced us into lockdown. Although we didn't have a specific plan at that time for a global pandemic we were able to use other experiences to set an immediate plan into action. During the first lockdown the group were operating 6 days a week and were delivering on average twenty prescriptions a day primarily in Kelso but on occasions out into the district. Shopping requests varied greatly from between one to seven requests a day. I would like to thank my fellow coordinators Dennis Fortune and Colin Seccombe for all the work they put in throughout, which was a 7 day a week job at the height of the pandemic. Thanks must also go to all the volunteers who supported us and I know those receiving the assistance were very grateful. Special thanks to Gavin Horsburgh and Archie Hume who were daily helpers with getting prescriptions out. Thankfully Kelso and the wider Borders

have escaped the worse of covid and as the vaccination programme is rolled out the need for our services has stopped, but as always we remain on standby.

Remembrance services were very different last year but I was still able to lay a wreath on behalf of the community on VE Day, 75th anniversary; on 12th July at 7:30am to remember the 331 KOSB killed including over 40 from Kelso at Gallipoli on that date in 1915; and Remembrance Sunday in November. For the latter I would like to thank Paula Wright and the Kelso Ladies Poppy Group for all their work decorating the War Memorial which was very impressive. Thanks also to Steven Patterson who representing the town and hosted The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh at the Polish Memorial at Roxburgh Castle.

Kelso in Bloom continues to brighten up the town and keep it tidy although we have been restricted with what we have been able to do due to restrictions in place. Our rotas for this year are all out and maintenance has resumed with new flowers due to be planted soon. Thanks to everyone who supports Kelso in Bloom either financially or by volunteering.

A new sub group has been set up, Kelso Railway Committee, chaired by Councillor Harry Tomczyk. This group now has a committee and will be gathering information in order to build a case for a feasibility study to look at a line from St Boswells through Kelso to Berwick. It is still in its early stages but I look forward to following the progression.

While we have had all our usual correspondences and consultations, although greatly reduced, the main consultation that has come before the council is the 20mph trial under the Spaces for People programme. A public consultation has now opened. On completion of the trial the Community Council will also have an opportunity to give their opinion as they have been during the trial.

Finally, this is my last AGM and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all my Community Councillors for their work over the past four years, to our SBC Councillors who I have been very fortunate to have a great working relationship with and to Shirley who has not only performed her secretarial role to a high standard but has also been a great support to me over the past four years. Thank you all.

SBC Councillor T Weatherston on behalf of the other SBC Councillors thanked the Provost for all his hard work and commented SBC Councillors were lucky to have a good working relationship with the Kelso Community Council. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented a positive community spirit had arisen as a result of the pandemic and he was very proud to be part of the community.

Annual Accounts

The statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021 had previously been circulated. The Secretary highlighted the main features of these accounts. The general fund had shown a surplus of £996.11, leaving funds at 31 March 2021 of £1,975.69.

The Secretary advised that compensation of £200 had been received from the Royal Bank of Scotland for the difficulties we had experienced in setting up online banking on behalf of the Community Council. It was noted that grants had been received from SBC and paid out to cover Covid volunteer expenses (travelling expenses and telephone), VE

Day celebrations and paths maintenance. The Secretary advised the Kelso Heritage Society had been successful in securing a grant from the SBC path grant and the British Legion had secured a grant for the VE Day celebrations.

The Secretary confirmed the old CCTV account had been closed and the proceeds had been split between the main KCC account and Kelso in Bloom account.

The Kelso in Bloom sub group had funds at 31 March 2021 of £4,443,41. Income had been generated through generous donations from the public, a grant from the Common Good Fund (to purchase litter pickers) and the Salmon Museum.

With regard to the Kelso Memorial Fund there had been no activity and the balance in the account at 31 March 2021 remained at £4.00. The Secretary advised this account is used as a conduit to pay money in from either the general KCC or KIB accounts to make payments.

The annual accounts were proposed by Councillor Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Roberts.

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

The Provost reminded the meeting that our election which was due to be held in 2021 had been postponed until such a time that it can be safely conducted. At this moment it is hoped this can be held in September 2021. The Provost advised SBC took care of legal obligations and amendments were made to the Community Council Scheme of Establishment to enable this to happen and now we were awaiting guidance from SBC to arrange an election in the future.

Councillor McGrath advised he had been in contact with his contacts in Kelso USA who were still very keen and enthusiastic to make plans to come to Kelso UK when it was safe.

The Provost advised it had been his intention to send out letters of thanks to businesses and community groups who have supported the town and community during the coronavirus pandemic. However, he had decided to have a Christmas card commissioned and sent these out instead with a handwritten message of thanks. They had been gratefully received.

With no further business the meeting ended at 19.18 hours