

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council on
Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 7:00pm in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Councillors James Boulton (Vice Chair), Peter Cooper, Christine Hamilton, Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Toni Oliver, Paul Roberts, Gus Russell and Gail Watson and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tommy Weatherston

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Owen Adams, James McCombie and Colin McGrath, Tina Newton (Visit Kelso) and Police Scotland

- *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.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct question through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost extended a warm welcome to Councillors.

Police Matters

The Provost advised the Multi Member Ward Plan for Kelso and District for January 2022 had previously been circulated and there were no comments on the report.

The Provost advised as a result of comments from previous meetings he had approached Police Scotland regarding the misuse of the restricted parking areas within Kelso town centre and as a result he had arranged a Teams meeting with Sergeant Liddle. Feedback from the meeting advised the Police have been assigned to concentrate on the areas of yellow lines, bus stops and loading bays to keep the traffic flowing. However, since raising our concerns there has been an increased Police presence and this will continue as best they can along with other policing priorities.

The Provost advised he had raised the issue of patrolling timed parking and those who flout the 2 hours parking and the Police advised they were unable to dedicate a full day in order to patrol, as the process involves noting all the number plates

around the controlled streets and then returning 2 hours later. It was noted that Kelso is the only town that has 2 hours limit, whereas, other towns have 30 minutes or 1 hour and if the parking time was lowered to 30 minutes parking, they would be able to do timed monitoring more easily. It was noted much of the town centre is covered by the two hour maximum parking restriction, with no return within 90 minutes. This is designed to ensure that there are spaces available for all members of the public to utilise whilst in the town centre for a short period. Unfortunately, vehicles are sometimes parking in these spaces all day, thus limiting the available spaces in the town centre for others. As a result of the reduction in spaces available, vehicles are parking in inappropriate and dangerous places, such as on single and double yellow lines, loading bays and taxi ranks. The Provost advised that hopefully, with more awareness of these restrictions, more town centre spaces will be available for visitors, shoppers and tourists alike, which in turn should benefit the town of Kelso and local businesses.

Councillor Roberts commented it would be worthwhile looking at the disc parking system currently operating in Northumberland.

The Provost advised Kelso has a number of non-restricted spaces in the town, which can be found only a short walk from the town centre itself. Details of all free and unlimited parking are available on the Scottish Borders Council website.

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory/48/car_parks.

The Provost advised no more complaints had been received from the public regarding antisocial behaviour and reminded Councillors that all incidents need to be reported so an accurate record could be captured. SBC Councillor Mountford commented the CAT team have organised their shift patterns so there were more staff on duty in the evening.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton had tendered her apologies but submitted the following report –

Visit Kelso was pleased to receive funding from the Destination and Sector Marketing Fund. They are in the process of creating 4 stories linked to Kelso:

- Sir Walter Scott's First Love
- Freddie the Racehorse
- The Capture of Roxburgh Castle
- The Commercial Monks of Kelso Abbey

Video and audio footage has been completed with Alasdair Hutton telling the stories. There is also extensive drone footage as well as static photography to promote the town and the stories will be shared with extensive social media posting/sharing.

Visit Kelso also attended the initial Jubilee meeting and are looking forward to help promote the event by asking businesses to decorate their windows, as well as

managing other forms of advertising and promotion through social media. They extended their thanks to the Provost for co-ordinating the event.

Visit Kelso attended the unveiling of the new Kelso Abbey Community Orchard Stone on Sunday 6 February and have posted this on social media with more information to follow when the official press release is confirmed.

Councillor Roberts made the observation that Kelso had lost two significant shops – McColl's and Orvis

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2022

The minutes held on Tuesday 11 January 2022 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Russell and seconded by Councillor Boulton.

Matters arising from the minutes

On Demand buses

The Provost advised SBC launched an On Demand Bus Service in October which has been trialling in a few areas. At our January meeting we received an update from SBC officers to see if this service could be brought to Kelso and the surrounding villages. It was noted several outlying villages have not had a bus service for many years. Also with the introduction of the free bus travel to the under 22s - this may also be a worthwhile service. The Provost had shared this information on social media and would highlight it in his next Provost report in Kelso Life – asking for feedback.

Councillor Oliver commented that the Facebook platform was not reaching the right audience and suggested the use of Instagram, etc.

The Provost commented he would raise the subject at the next Kelso High School Parent meeting

Police Specials

Deferred to next meeting.

Common Good Consultation

The Provost commented the Community Council would submit a formal response and it was noted that Kelso, unlike other Border towns, had no assets to generate funds and the Trustees were responsible for the fund.

Questions from the public

The Provost advised Isabel Freeman had contacted the Council to see if the white "Welcome to Kelso" sign by the showground could be cleared of the stickers. The Councillors advised they found this sign to be iconic, with each year visiting clubs attaching new stickers and endorsed that remain as it was. The secretary will write to Ms Freeman with this feedback.

HRH Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee celebration

The Provost advised the town has an opportunity to come together to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on the afternoon of Saturday 4 June 2022. He advised he had already circulated an event plan, had applied for funding and done a risk assessment for the insurers. The main celebration will be parade from Tait Hall to the Square with a re-enactment of the Coronation with children acting the parts. The working group were currently organising musical entertainment, dancing, a market and funfair and an update would be brought to the next Council meeting.

The Provost commented it would be good to have all the Community Councillors in attendance and to be available to act as stewards, if needed.

The Provost reminded Councillors that we had been invited to plant a tree(s) to commemorate this event and would welcome feedback from the public on the location.

The Community Councillors thanked the Provost for his lead on this event.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised no committee meetings had taken place but he had arranged a community litter pick on Sunday 20 February (from the Square) at 1.00pm. Councillor Watson had agreed to arrange the rotas for the coming season.

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee

Councillor Boulton gave the following update –

The Cheviot Area Partnership has approved £2,500 of funding. This will enable the Campaign to take some crucial first steps. We can now build a media profile and a presence online which will allow us to generate interest and support for a railway between Borders Rail and the East Coast Mainline running through Kelso.

We would like to record our sincere thanks to the Scottish Borders Council and Cheviot Area Partnership for approving this funding. The railway will bring immense benefits to Kelso and communities in the wider region and, without this funding, we would not be up and running so quickly.

The Campaign aims to have at least 100 members by the end of the year.

The Campaign will start its communications activities almost immediately. This will target members of the public and councils along the Tweed Valley from Borders Rail to the East Coast Mainline.

At the last Community Council meeting I mentioned the draft report on the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2). This is being carried out by Transport Scotland and has now been published: it came out on 20 January. The consultation closes on 15 April. It has listed 45 national priority projects for the next 20 years. The list does

not include any commitment to the extension of Borders Rail to Hawick and on to Carlisle and only notes that there is to be a feasibility study. This is a concern for the Campaign for Borders Rail and also for the Tweed Valley Railway Campaign. That is because the line needs to be extended south from Tweedbank to Newtown St Boswells, or thereabouts, so it can turn east towards Kelso and the East Coast Mainline.

The Campaign is very encouraged that the Scottish Borders Council have raised their concerns with Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government and, as Chair of the Tweed Valley Railway Campaign, I have written to the Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth MSP. I have asked her to include the possible extension of the rail network in the Borders as a strategic national project during the next two decades.

The lack of a commitment from Transport Scotland to extending the rail network in the Borders is also a concern for Kelso itself. The Community Council may wish to add its voice by responding to the consultation to keep the option open for the benefit of the town.

The Campaign will also be responding to the South-East Scotland Transport (SEStran) consultation on their own 20-year transport strategy for the region.

Councillor Russell commented he would be happy to draft a response to the STRR2 consultation on behalf of the Community Council.

The Provost thanked Councillor Boulton for this update.

Secretary's Report

- Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and captured and a summary would be attached to the minutes.
- Equal Opportunity Policy – Councillor Hamilton advised she had comments on this and would circulate them.
- Environmental and Sustainability Policy – Councillor Russell advised he would lead on drafting this policy.
- Annual Insurance renewal – the Secretary advised a draft application form and risk assessments had previously been circulated for comments and the Councillors endorsed these for submission.

Provost Report

The Provost advised he had attended the unveiling of the Kelso Abbey Orchard Community Stone on the 6 February 2022.

Secretary's Honorarium

The Provost and Councillors commented they would like the Secretary to receive a higher honorarium. However, due to limited funds the Secretary agreed to an honorarium of £850.00 this was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Watson.

Walking Festival 2023

The Secretary advised she had tried to get involved with this year's planning committee to be held at Galashiels but had been unsuccessful. However, it was noted this event would be held between 4 and 10 September 2022. The Secretary advised it was important to start planning for the 2023 event and she would be in contact with the Ranger to obtain guidance, etc. The secretary advised she was willing to be involved with the organisation of the 2023 Walking Festival.

SBC Councillor Weatherston commented that the local walking clubs had organised the actual programme of walks and the Community Council had been involved in organising social events in the evening.

It was noted that this event would be of great importance to the town.

Scottish Borders Community Council Scheme Review

The Secretary advised the consultation on changes to the SBC Council Scheme had previously been circulated and asked Councillors for comments. The Provost had co-ordinated and circulated a draft response. Councillors were asked to review the comments and feedback any additional comments to enable the response to be submitted.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

There was no update available.

Scottish Borders Council

Kelso Ambulance provision

SBC Councillor Robson advised there was no update but asked for this to remain on the agenda.

Rosebank Cemetery Wall

SBC Councillor Robson advised due to cost of rectifying the wall and pillars it was unlikely this could be addressed. He advised that work needed to be done on the seating areas (paint peeling) and he would report this.

Parking /Traffic management

The Provost advised there were inadequate signage to the main carpark at the Knowes. He also advised that the current Traffic Regulation Order will need to be amended to review the disabled parking spaces in the town. The Provost advised he would engage with people who had Blue Badges to get their feedback on where they wanted disabled parking spaces in the town. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented that we must remember that disabled car users needed greater space to open their car doors and some locations could not accommodate this.

Councillor Oliver asked whether yellow lines could be placed by the Kelsea Stone to avoid issues with lorries driving from Hogarth's Mill out of Mill Wynd.

Speed reduction on A669

The Provost advised a member of the public had contacted KCC to see if there might be any scope for reducing the speed limit on the A699 between Kelso Bridge and the Teviot Bridge from 40mph to 30mph. This is a pretty well walked stretch of road, including by Springwood residents and Borders Abbeys Way walkers, but has an unpleasantly narrow pavement with no protections for pedestrians from traffic doing between 40 and 50 mph. That the speed limit is too high is constantly demonstrated by the inability of many drivers to manage the corner at NT 7221 3365 without crossing into the opposing lane.

SBC Councillor Weatherston suggested the Community Council wrote to Brian Young at SBC asking for feedback.

Open Water Safety

SBC Councillor Robson advised he was in discussions with Roxburgh Estates regarding the location of a life buoy near to the Gillies hut.

Lamp on Rennie Bridge

Councillor Robson advised there were a couple of issues with the lighting on Rennie Bridge and he was in discussion with the lighting department to find a solution.

Ferneyhill cemetery gates

The Provost asked if a sign could be placed on the gates asking people to close them when they leave at night. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the painting of the rails was being reviewed.

Lighting at the bottom on the seats in Square

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised the life expectancy was 5 years and they had been quoted £10,000 to replace them and there was no money available in this financial year. Councillor Oliver commented that something needed to be done to brighten the Square.

Old Foundry perimeter wall

The Provost advised he had heard SBC would be replacing the wall at a cost of £10,000. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised this cost would be passed onto the new owners.

Wall from Maxwellheugh cottage

SBC Councillor Mountford advised he had received no feedback and would follow up.

Dropped kerb on bye pass

SBC Councillor Mountford advised money would be provided in the next financial year to address this and there would be appropriate signage.

Dropped kerb at Rutherford Square

SBC Councillor Mountford advised this was being costed.

Steps at Bank of Scotland

The Provost advised this had been dealt with.

Widening of the footpath on the Coldstream Road next to Community Wood

SBC Councillor Robson advised that although there should be an easy solution to the problem of the lamp post encroaching onto the pavement and thereby restricting the use of the pavement by people with mobility scooters, in fact it would be extremely expensive to move it and there didn't seem to be an alternative.

Smells from the Waste Water Treatment Plan on Broomlea/future capacity/confirmation of no discharge into the River Tweed

The Provost advised many complaints regarding this had been received previously and concern was raised that the increased number of housing developments in Kelso would leave a lack of capacity with the treatment plant being unable to deal with the volume of waste. The Provost advised it would be useful to arrange a visit to the treatment plan at some point.

At top of bypass there isn't sufficient lighting in between trees as you cut off to go back round by ambulance station

It was noted that this area was very popular for walkers and SBC Councillor Mountford suggested the trees were obscuring the lighting and he would raise this with officers to see if they could be cut back.

Food recycling bins

Councillors asked why there was no food recycling facility in Kelso and SBC Councillor Mountford commented this scheme had been dictated by Scottish Government.

Mayfield riverside walk between old bridge and car park needs lighting

Councillors asked whether additional lighting could be installed along this walk, maybe similar to the solar lights installed at Shedden Park. SBC Councillors agreed to investigate.

Changes to the Highway Code and possibility of having Zebra Crossings in Kelso

The Provost advised a member of the public had been in touch regarding the above. The previously circulated correspondence about the consultation on the highway code and zebra crossings was discussed and it was noted that whilst the narrowing of the roads in Kelso offered a crossing point, they were not recognised by the Highway Code, however due to SBC's position over zebra crossings being more

dangerous for the visually impaired, it looked unlikely that requests for new zebra crossings would meet with approval

Questions to Councillors

Councillor Oliver commented the area outside the Factory Shop near the bus shelter was overgrown and asked who was responsible for this. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised this would be the responsibility of the Factory Shop

Consideration of Licenses

The Secretary advised there were no applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Secretary advised the following plans had been considered –

21/01849/FUL and 21/01850/LBC – Mr and Mrs Hancox – change of use from office to dwelling house – FBR Limited, Abbey Row, Kelso TD5 7JF. The Community Council supported this application.

22/00061/FUL – Mrs Ramsay – change of use of garage and alterations to form holiday let – garage north of 51 Roxburgh Street, Kelso TD5. The Community Council supported this application.

22/00093/PPP = Mr Hewitt – erection of dwellinghouse and associated works – land east of 16 Hendersyde Avenue, Kelso TD5. The Community Council supported this application.

The Provost thanked everyone for attending the meeting

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 March 2022

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS JAN 22 / FEB 22

Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
11.01.22	Approved minutes Dec 21 posted	For information
	Thanks sent to Destination Tweed for attending the meeting and giving presentation	For information
	<p>21/01894/FUL – Ninewells Farms Limited – Erection of 9 no industrial units, new access and associated parking – Plots 15 and 16 land south of Border Precision Services Limited, Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso TD5. The Community Council supported this application.</p> <p>21/01977/FUL – Trustees of Kelso Baptist Church – change of use from bookmakers (Class 2) to community hub (Class 10) – Unit 1 ground floor 36 – 40 Horsemarket, Kelso Td5 7HD. The Community Council supported this application. However, regarding the above application the Community Council raised concerns regarding the toilets and noted that there was a dedicated male toilet and an accessible one and wondered whether these should be changed to Unisex toilets ?</p>	For information
12.01.22	Parking in the town centre – email from Provost to Police Scotland	For information
14.01.22	Secretary contacted Police Scotland to see how many parking tickets were issued in December	For information
	Recirculated the SBC Council Scheme proposed amendments for feedback	For comments and agenda item
	Connectivity Review response from KCC and SBC	For information
	Planning applications 21/01849/FUL and 21/01850/LBC – Mr and Mrs Hancox, change of use from office to dwellinghouse – FRB Ltd Abbey Row, Kelso TD5 7JF	For comments
	Processing Christine Hamilton’s application form	For information
18.01.22	Response from Police Scotland regarding number of parking tickets issued.	For information
	APRS - Providing support and advice to your community council	For information
	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund - Now Open	For information
19.01.22	Road Closure - B6401 Main Street, Morebattle	For information
	Possibility of reducing the speed limit on the A699 between Kelso Bridge and the Teviot Bridge	For comments and agenda item
	News release: Your final call to get involved and have your say on the future of the Scottish Borders	For information

23.01.22	Planning Mrs Sorcha Ramsay22/00061/FUL - Change of use of garage and alterations to form holiday let - Garage North Of 51 Roxburgh Street Kelso Scottish	For comments
	News Release: Borderers asked to consider careers in social care and relief work opportunities	For information
	Presentations from Destination Tweed	For information
	Free webinar: Joining Family Members under the EUSS	For information
	Kelso Abbey Update	For information
	Woodmarket electric car charging point	For information
	Feedback from meeting with Provost and PS Little regarding parking issues in town	For information
28.01.22	Highway Code Changes and Zebra Crossing in Kelso	For comments and agenda item
	Scottish Government - Our Place website	For information
	Local Place Plans - proposals for regulations: consultation analysis - gov.scot	For information
	Community Councils update: South of Scotland Enterprise's second phase of engagement tour	For information
	Road Closure - C78 Brotherstone to New Smailholm	For information
	Planning application - 22/00093/PPP - James Hewitt: Erection of dwellinghouse and associated works : Land East Of 16 Hendersyde Avenue Kelso Scottish Borders	For comments
	Invitation to Unveiling Ceremony for Kelso Orchard Stone – Sunday 6 February at 2.30pm	For information
	Woodmarket electric car charging point	For information
	Traffic Regulations - Kelso Square -Car Park Closure	For information
	Ability Borders January 2022 Newsletter	For information
	News release on behalf of the Borderlands Partnership: Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal responds to the publication of the Scottish Government's Strategic Transport Projects Review 2	For information
	News release: Council flies the flag in support of Doddie Aid 2022 challenge	For information
	News release: More time for you to have your say on Council budget and priorities	For information
	News release: Amber warning for wind issued for Scottish Borders as Storm Malik predicted to hit region tomorrow morning	For information
31.01.22	Agenda for meeting circulated	For information
04.02.22	Road Closure - Edenside Road, Kelso	For information
	News release: Council seeks feedback on future of active travel spaces across the Borders	For information

	Citizens Advice – appeal for volunteers	For information
	Police Scotland monthly report	For comments
	Equal Opportunity Policy and Environmental and Sustainability Policy	For comments
	Annual insurance renewal	For comments
08.02.22	Calling Notice: Scottish Borders Community Councils Network - next meeting Wed 23rd February 2022 at 7pm by zoom.	For information
	Mens Shed re-opening update	For information