

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held  
in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 12 September 2017,  
at 7.00pm**



**PRESENT:** Councillors John Bassett, James Boulton, Peter Cooper, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh, Harry Tomczyk, Kerry Lee Yule and Provost Dean Weatherston and Scottish Borders Councillors Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Acting Inspector Jacqueline McGuigan (Police Scotland), Alan Livingston (Chamber of Trade), Kathryn Wylie (Southern Reporter), Jill Lothian, Aidan Gates and Lucy Angus (Kelso High School) and members of the public Debbie Kerr, Jackie Kerr, Kirsty, Dotty and George Corner.

**APOLOGIES:** SBC Councillor Simon Mountford, Councillors Ian Brown, Jim McCombie and Colin McGrath.

- 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 Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

### **Police Matters**

It was noted reports from Police Scotland for July, August and September 2017 had previously been circulated. Acting Inspector Jacqueline McGuigan was in attendance.

Councillor Kerry Yule raised an issue regarding antisocial behaviour in Rodger Fish Gardens, Kelso and asked Police Scotland why the issue was not recorded in their monthly reports. Councillor Yule commented this issue had been going on for three years and asked for an update. Acting Inspector Jacqueline McGuigan advised Police Scotland were very aware of an issue of antisocial behaviour at Rodger Fish Gardens and were actively involved and were working with partners to resolve it.

Councillor T Weatherston advised he was involved with this issue and had attended a meeting with Eildon Housing recently. The Provost advised he had been in contact with the tenants and had agreed to meet with them. Councillor T Weatherston confirmed there was a very clear process to follow to evict residents who were causing antisocial behaviour. He advised evidence needed to be collected to submit to the Sheriff for him to issue an eviction order. He intimated he was fully aware of the situation and would do everything he could to resolve the situation.

Several members of the public had attended the meeting to voice their concerns and asked Police Scotland and SBC to do their utmost to resolve the issue which was affecting local residents living in the road.

Councillor D Weatherston raised the issue of attempted thefts from Nenthorn Equestrian Centre and the fact the Police had not responded within 24 hours of the incident. Acting Inspector McGuigan advised the Police were aware of the incident but when it was reported there was a more pressing issue to be addressed but the centre at Nenthorn had been contacted.

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

Alan Livingston advised there was no report from the Chamber of Trade as no meetings had been held. He placed on record his thanks to Visit Kelso for their sterling work in raising the town's profile for the recent Tour of Britain event and for promoting events held over the summer which had resulted in increased visitors. He advised many of the traders had opened for the Sunday event which had gone extremely well particularly for those involved in catering.

Councillors commented all arrangements around the event had run very smoothly and the parking arrangements at Springwood had worked extremely well. The Secretary was asked to write a letter of thanks to the organisers.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Gavin Horsburgh and seconded by Councillor Peter Cooper.

### **Matters arising**

#### **Memorial Garden**

Councillor T Weatherston advised progress had been made on the project. He confirmed Morrison Construction had kindly donated the materials. Councillor T Weatherston advised he and the other SBC Councillors were meeting with Alistair Finney to cost the project and was confident funding could be found from within SBC to carry out the work. He anticipated the project would be completed by Christmas. He advised there would be very little maintenance which the Community Council would be responsible for and Robertson Memorials would be responsible for handling the plaques.

As background the Provost advised the Kelso Community Memorial would be a permanent structure situated in the old cemetery at Coldstream Road in particular for people who have been cremated or moved away who would like a permanent memorial in the town.

#### Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

Councillor Hodges advised Kelso in Bloom had lost out by three points to Melrose at the recent Floral Gateway Champions of Champions award, however they had been highly commended and awarded a salver and certificate. Councillor Hodges asked the Provost if these could be displayed in one of the Town Hall windows. The Provost advised he would organise this once the current cycling display by Friends of Kelso Museum was finished.

Councillor Hodges advised the rota system to maintain the beds at the War Memorial Garden and Coldstream entrance was working well but were still desperate for volunteers to join next year. The summer bedding at Coldstream entrance and Bridge End would be replaced shortly, funded by Kelso in Bloom.

Councillor Hodges was progressing work on the installation of an additional bed at Coldstream entrance – this would be a mirror image to the new one opened up this year.

Councillor Hodges and the Secretary had met with representatives of the Macmillan Move More initiative and they would be undertaking training. As background she advised Macmillan Cancer and Live Borders were working together to develop Move More Borders – a programme of physical activity designed specifically for people affected by cancer. It was hoped volunteers could be recruited to assist with gardening projects.

Councillor Hodges advised she would be applying for funding to purchase a Bowser for Kelso in Bloom. Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC had previously awarded funding to the Chamber of Trade to purchase a Bowser and it was unlikely funds would be awarded for an additional Bowser. Alan Livingston undertook to find out the whereabouts of the Bowser and report back.

Councillor John Bassett advised the British Legion may have volunteers and funding available and suggested the Secretary write to the Branch Secretary.

The Provost wanted it placed on record the thanks of the Council for all the work Betty and her team had carried out over the past year.

#### Cinema

Councillor Cooper advised considerable progress had been made and the Kelso Community Cinema would be relaunched on Friday 29 September at the Tait Hall. Future dates are the 20 October, 24 November and 15 December. A Treasurer had been appointed and the group were currently applying for charitable status. Peter advised there was an outstanding issue with public liability insurance but the group were working to resolve this.

Councillor Cooper advised posters and flyers would be distributed widely and volunteers would be manning a table to raise awareness at the Farmers Market on Saturday 23 September. Radio Borders and the Southern Reporter would also be promoting the event.

Headmistress Jill Lothian commented pupils may be interested in volunteering and asked the Secretary to pass on contact details.

#### NHS/Social Services integration

There was no update as Councillor McGrath had tendered his apologies.

#### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary advised the SBC grant for 2017/18 had been received.

Correspondence, planning applications and variation of licence applications had been circulated during the summer recess.

#### **Correspondence**

- SBC Local Development Plan 2: Drop in sessions and workshop –Tuesday 26 September, Town Hall, Kelso. Drop in session will run between 2.00 – 5.00pm and workshop session from 6.00pm. Councillors were asked to register with Secretary if they were attending.
- SBC Traffic Regulation Order – Speed limits – A6089 Angraflat Road part time 20mph limit.
- The Bridge newsletter
- SBC Authorisation for laying of foundation and associated ground works Rosebank Cemetery, Shedden Park Road, Kelso.

#### **Provost Report**

The Provost advised the Community Council had purchased a second hand laptop from Pitman Computers for his use during office and was grateful to receive it.

As reported at an earlier meeting the Provost advised under the Code of Conduct he was obliged to declare any hospitality over £10.00. He commented he would raise this with the Community Council Network and Locality Committee to see whether this figure could be increased to a more realistic level as it had not been reviewed since 2007.

#### **Advertising Boards**

Councillor Hodges had asked for this matter to be placed on the agenda as she was alarmed at the number and size of advertising boards which had been on display in Kelso over the summer and in particular those that had been placed in the flower beds by Slaters to advertise the summer fair. Councillor T Weatherston whilst sympathetic to her request commented it would be difficult for SBC to target individuals and that a decision on advertising was needed Border wide. He undertook to speak to Slaters to see if their signage could be toned down and

reduced. Councillor Tomczyk commented the banners were an eyesore and signage should be of an appropriate quality and standard.

### **Bus stop near Queens House**

Councillor Yule advised she had received complaints from pensioners about the lack of a bus stop near Croft Park toilets and asked whether this could be reinstated. The Provost undertook to make enquiries.

### **Any Other Business**

Public toilets – Councillors asked for the response from SBC regarding charges for public toilets to be posted on Facebook.

Current Kelso High School site – Councillor Yule asked whether the use of the floodlights would continue when the school moves out. Councillor Horsburgh asked whether parking could be used on the site. Mrs Lothian advised it had not yet been decided what would happen regarding utilities. SBC Councillors advised the site was to be marketed from October and that all options for potential development would be looked at.

Trinity Church – Councillor Boulton asked for an update. Councillor T Weatherston advised the property was currently on the market. SBC had issued an enforcement notice to try to recover the cost of securing the property and making it safe.

Border Railway – Councillor Boulton asked what the Council were doing to attract the Border Railway to Kelso. Councillor Tomczyk advised the Council had been actively involved in trying to attract the railway to Kelso and various letters had been written to our former MSP and former MP for our constituency. The Provost advised he had written to the campaign group for the expansion of the Borders Railways and they had advised they had not considered Kelso as a destination. The Provost advised Visit Kelso were working with Destination Scottish borders, Midlothian Borders Tourism Action Group (MBTAG) and other partners to capitalise on the success of the Railway.

Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC were working hard to raise public awareness that the railway terminated at Tweedbank and this was the park and ride destination and visitors needed to alight at Galashiels to connect with local buses.

Branding Kelso as the place to come for Fitness – Councillor Boulton asked how many organisations in the community were involved in fitness and wondered whether Kelso should be branded as the town to come for fitness. The Provost advised there were over 70 different organisations in Kelso covering various activities and groups. Councillor T Weatherston commented information would have been collated from the SBC Household Survey. The Provost undertook to speak to Lynn Young to see what information she had. The Provost commented that VisitKelso were currently working making Kelso a Cycling Town.

Green “lungs” of Kelso – Councillor Boulton asked what provision had been made to create, enhance and protect green spaces in and around Kelso. Councillor T Weatherston advised the Local Development Plan contained information on all future possible development in and around the town and this document was out to public consultation on a regular basis.

### **Scottish Borders Council**

Locality Committee – Councillor T Weatherston advised Councillor S Mountford was the Chairman of the Cheviot Locality Committee which would be meeting the following evening in Jedburgh Grammar School at 6.30pm and all were invited. Councillor T Weatherston reminded Councillors there was an opportunity for local groups to bid for local funding.

Parking / Traffic Management – the Provost advised he had notified Police Scotland of two abandoned cars in the town which they had removed. Parking is still of serious concern in Kelso especially the lack of availability. When the new development is completed in Roxburgh Street and if the flats get planning permission in Crawford Street this will put even more pressure on the town centre.

Update on current High School site – Councillor T Weatherston suggested the Community Council invite Neil Hastie, SBC Estate Manager to a future meeting to give an update. The Secretary undertook to arrange for Neil to come to a future meeting.

Town Hall clock – the Provost advised the paint work on the Town Hall clock was flaking. Councillor T Weatherston advised he would report it to SBC.

Scottish Borders car stickers – Councillor Tomczyk asked whether additional supplies of the Borders car stickers could be produced.

### **Consideration of Licenses**

The Secretary advised the following variation of premises licence had been circulated during the summer recess and had been supported by the Community Council.

- Kelso Golf Club.

There were no new applications received.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Secretary advised the following plans had been circulated during the summer recess and had been supported by the Community Council

- Residential development – DM Wallace and Sons, Bowmont Street, Kelso.
- Internal alterations to Halifax Bank of Scotland, 8-9 The Square, Kelso.

- Erection of dwellinghouse (renewal of previous consent) land south of Dalveen Maxwell Lane, Kelso
- Part change of use to form dwellinghouse and alterations to existing commercial premises 161B and C Roxburgh Street, Kelso.
- Removal of two chimney stacks, Lloyds TSB The Square, Kelso
- Erection of six storage units Plot 4A south east of Croall Bryson Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso.

The Council considered the following plan –

Change of use from Class 1 (retail) to allow mixed use Class 2 (podiatry clinic) and Class 1 (ancillary retail) 40 – 41 The Square, 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 10 October 2017 at 7.00pm