

Minute of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 7:00 in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors James Boulton, Shirley Redgrave, Peter Cooper, Paul Roberts, Colin McGrath, Gail Watson, James McCombie and Toni Oliver; June Swan (Visit Kelso); Scottish Borders Councillors Euan Robson, Tom Weatherston and Simon Mountford and Yvonne Oliver (Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Christine Hamilton and Owen Adams

IN ATTENDANCE: PC Paul Owenson, Police Scotland; David Wilson (Opfer Logan Architects) and Sean and Stephanie Geddes, applicants to Starbucks Planning Application 23/01886/FUL; Members of the Public.

- *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.*
- *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 questions through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Police Matters

The January MMWR had previously been circulated. PC Paul Owenson was in attendance at the meeting.

- Parking around Schools Pick-up/Drop-off

The Provost advised that he had received feedback from Scottish Borders Council with regard to the problems on Ednam Road outside Broomlands Primary School. SBC did not think there was a problem with parking at this location and, therefore, they were not prepared to install zig-zag lines. They said it was up to the school and parents to educate the children to cross with the lollipop person. The Provost expressed his extreme disappointment at this outcome. SBC T Weatherston

advised that the problem had originally arisen with parking on Broomlands Drive which then led to cars parking further down the road. The Headteacher of Broomlands Primary School, together with parents and carers, were now involved with the situation and they were going to try to come up with a solution.

Councillor James Boulton asked PC Owenson if the 20mph limit had made a difference? PC Owenson said most definitely it had.

The Provost was going to ask SBC if a sign could be erected at the junction of Rennie Court and Bridge Street, Kelso which was a concealed entrance. He also advised that he had written to Sergeant Granger asking about the current situation regarding parking in the Town Centre but, to date, had not had a reply, PC Owenson advised he would follow up.

Visit Kelso

June Swan, representing Visit Kelso, advised the meeting that Visit Kelso was still having difficulties setting up a meeting with David Hope-Jones, the Chief Executive of SSSDA (South of Scotland Destination Alliance) regarding the independent needs in Kelso. Adrian Clarkson was sitting in on an online meeting with SSSDA discussing extending the holiday season to 12 months per year.

With regard to Visit Kelso's Social Media, Wendy Richardson has been promoting members who are hotels, B&B's and Self-Catering establishments, to try to extend the holiday season.

June raised the issue of shoplifting in the town which had become more of a problem lately. Members were advised that a talk was being given by Yvonne Gilroy, who had previously been employed as a police officer and also a store security officer, in Kelso Town Hall on 11 March 2024 at 5.30pm. This talk would be free to Visit Kelso members with a small charge for non-members.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

PC P OWENSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

Attendance by David Wilson (Opfer Logan Architects) and Applicants to Starbucks Planning Application 23/01886/FUL

Mr Sean Geddes, applicant to the Starbucks Planning Application 23/01886FUL, accompanied by Mr David Wilson, Architect to the applicant, addressed the meeting and answered questions from the Council and members of the public. Various concerns were raised, one of which was the increase in traffic at what is already a very busy part of the town. Mr Wilson advised that a traffic assessment had been requested, which he feels will show that Station Road is the best option for access to the site. However, once the assessment has been carried out, all options will be considered.

Another concern was the impact a Starbucks could have on the existing coffee shops in Kelso. The Provost advised, however, that over-provision was not a valid planning objection. The general consensus was that it would not affect existing trade in the Town Centre.

Mr Geddes advised the meeting that Starbucks was a franchise and he currently ran the Galashiels and Blairgowrie premises. If the Kelso application was successful, he would be providing employment for 15 employees, divided between full-time and part-time. He also stressed that no employee was on a zero hours contract.

It was noted that the site is zoned for development – not industrial - use and Starbucks was a good catalyst for developing the site.

Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 2024

The Minute of meeting of Tuesday 9 January 2024 had been circulated and was approved. The Minute was proposed by Councillor James Boulton and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts.

Matters arising from the Minute

There were no matters arising from the Minute.

Questions From The Public

A member of the public asked whether, with regards to speeding in various parts of the town, members of the public could be allowed to monitor this? The Provost advised he would speak to Police Scotland. He would also enquire about flashing speed signs.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised rotas would be setup in February and would be arranging a meeting in this regard.

Placeplan – Cheviot Place Making Working Group

The Provost advised that this was now to be known as Community-led Planning. Beth Landon, from Border Community Action (Formerly The Bridge) would be attending the next Community Council meeting on 12 March 2024 to update members on the current situation. The Provost said he would like to set up a Sub-Group to discuss this and asked for volunteers. It was agreed that the Sub-Group would consist of Provost Gavin Horsburgh, Councillors James Boulton, Shirley Redgrave, Paul Roberts, James McCombie and Colin McGrath.

Scottish Borders Community Council Network

Councillor Colin McGrath advised that a meeting had been arranged for 11 March 2024. The next stage to be discussed is Transfer of Power.

Provost Report

- **Probus**

The Provost advised he had been invited to attend the next Probus meeting, being held on Thursday 15 February 2024, to give a talk entitled “Life as Provost”.

- **Charity Begins At Home**

It was noted that the Awards Scheme for 2024 was now open to applicants, with forms to be submitted no later than 31 March 2024. It was generally agreed that Kelso Community Council would submit an application.

- **Declaration of Kelso Laddie**

Members were asked to note that the Declaration of the Kelso Laddie 2024 would take place on Friday 19 April 2024. He asked for a good turnout of Kelso Community Councillors to support the event.

Secretary’s Report

Events/Correspondence

Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary was attached to the Minute.

Consultations

SBC T Weatherson advised members that Kelso Rugby Club was taking over the running of the public toilets at Croft Park – the Community Council will be asked for their views.

Walking Festival 2023

Councillor Shirley Redgrave advised that she had sent £500 to Borders Water Rescue for their services during the Walking Festival. She was also in the process of repaying £2,500 to Scottish Borders Council.

Scottish Borders Council Report

- (a) **Ednam Road – Yellow ZigZag Lines**

This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting. SBC E Robson suggested that Kelso Community Council raise their concerns over this matter with the Press. SBC T Weatherston stated, in his opinion, there should be yellow lines.

(b) Lighting Problems

SBC E Robson advised that the lights in Kelso Square had now all been inspected. He had been informed that the suggested uplighters would cost in the region of £750-£1,000 each. He would circulate the full report once he had received it. Councillor T Oliver asked why the existing lights in the Square could not be lowered as it was very dark? SBC E Robson said this was a very good idea and he would investigate this possibility further.

It was noted that the light in Shedden Park was still out.

SBC E Robson advised he would write another letter to Scottish Power and asked the Community Council to advise him of any other lighting problems.

(c) Council Tax

Councillor S Redgrave asked why Scottish Borders Council had decided not to increase the Council Tax for 2024/25 when money appeared to be in short supply for other services? SBC E Robson replied that, although the Scottish Government had awarded all Local Authorities a sum of money, other expenses were not now being covered.

(d) Free Transport

Councillor Paul Roberts asked the Scottish Borders Councillors whether, if someone held a Saltire card, could they also be eligible for free train fares? SBC E Robson replied that the problem was that the Scottish Government did not fully reimburse free travel.

(e) NHS Borders

SBC T Weatherston advised the meeting that NHS Borders was required to make savings of £32 million pounds in year 2024/25. He advised that he would be fighting hard for the Cheviot Area to ensure they did not suffer unnecessary cuts.

COUNCILLOR S MOUNTFORD LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no licensing applications for consideration.

Consideration of planning applications

23/01896/CLPU/Alterations to garage to form additional apartment/23 Wallaceneuk, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 8BR – **No objections**

24/00043/TPO/Works to trees/ Springwood Caravan Park/Springwood Village, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 8LS – **No objections**

24/00036/FUL/Erection of joinery and engineers workshop/Land South of Border Precision Services Ltd, Solomon Way, Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso, Scottish Borders – **No objections**

Any other business

- (i) Councillor C McGrath advised that there had been a donation of a piano to Poynder Apartments;
- (ii) Councillor C McGrath said he and his wife had attended the free lunch at Queen's House, Kelso and had enjoyed a lovely meal;
- (iii) Councillor S Redgrave advised that she had now received the Annual Paths Grant.
- (iv) Councillor S Redgrave asked what the current situation was with regard to the Community Council's Social Media Policy? The Provost replied there was no immediate hurry and this was still being looked at.
- (v) The Provost advised the meeting that he was very conscious that not all the general public use social media or the internet to a large extent, so perhaps do not have access to Community Council minutes, agenda, accounts or updates. He had therefore asked Sainsbury's for a corner of their Noticeboard on which he intended to post a copy of Agendas and Minutes of Community Council meetings. He is also going to produce folders of historic minutes to present day and these can be available within Kelso Library and The Town Hall.
- (vi) The Provost also advised the meeting that he had applied to the Neighbourhood Support Fund for a grant of £1,500 for the provision of 10 dog-poo bins plus 20 cases of bags (which contained 600 bags each). Scottish Borders Council had said this was a great show of community involvement.

Date of next meeting

The next Kelso Community Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12 March 2024 at the Town Hall, Kelso.

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS – JAN / FEB 24

Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
10.01.24	Lighting - Sprouston Road - Councillor Robson	For information
	23/01896/CLPU Alterations to garage to form additional apartment 23 Wallaceneuk Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8BR	For Comments By 16th Feb
	24/00038/FUL Erection of boundary fence and associated gates Smithy House 8 Simon Square Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7AZ	For Comments By 16th Feb
	24/00043/TPO Works to trees Springwood Caravan Park Springwood Village Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 8LS	For Comments By 16th Feb
11.01.24	24/00036/FUL/Erection of joinery and engineers workshop/ Land South Of Border Precision Services Ltd Solomon Way Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate Kelso Scottish Borders	For Comments by 8 th Feb
12.01.04	Democracy Matters - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space and more information is available on the Scottish Government's website Democracy matters phase 2 consultation - local governance review - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)	For Comments by 28 th Feb
16.01.24	Parade - Tweed Salmon Event, Kelso - 1st Feb 2024	For information
	Road Closure - Abbotseat, Kelso	For information
	News Release: More budget survey responses sought	For comments by 31 st Jan
19.01.24	December MMWR - Police Report	For Information
22.1.24	News release: Changes to Borders bus network to be introduced to improve service	For information
	Road closure - Lee Forbes Way, Kelso - 5th February 2024	For information
23.01.24	Community-led planning peer support network session	For information
	Fwd: Scottish Water - Borders customers, including Kelso, Jedburgh and Hawick, urged to check for leaks following change in weather.	For information
	RE: Opening of Salmon Fishing on the River Tweed	For information
	QME Care Place & Space	For information
26.01.24	Upcoming Recruitment Event and Open Day – February 2024	For information
30.01.24	Explore the Borders Digital Magazine	For information

02.02.24	Shedden Park - The Square	For information
	E Bike for Loan – Kelso Mens Shed	For Information
06.02.24	News release: Health and Social Care Partnership seeks views of people with lived experience of cancer	For information
	Community-led planning update	For information
	Public Involvement (NHS Borders)	For information
08.02.24	Statement from David Robertson, Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council	For Information
09.02.24	January MMWR [OFFICIAL] – Police Report	For Information