

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 14 June 2016, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett (Chair), Dean Weatherston, Harry Tomczyk, Tamzin Thomas, Betty Hodges, John King, Colin McGrath, Alan Hall and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) Inspector John Scott (Police Scotland) and Colin Banks (Future Kelso).

APOLOGIES: Councillor Fiona Scott, Gavin Horsburgh and Peter Cooper, Alec Nicol (SBC Councillor), Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade) and Suzanne Howgego (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.

Welcome

The Provost welcomed members to the meeting and Inspector John Scott (Police Scotland) and Colin Banks (presenting FutureKelso).

Presentation

Colin Banks advised a small working group had been formed consisting of FutureKelso members, SBC Councillors Alec Nicol and Simon Mountford, Community Councillor Colin McGrath and himself to look into the feasibility of developing a community action plan for Kelso. Colin outlined the background to community action planning, progress to date, asked for support in taking the project further forward and outlined the potential next steps. Colin circulated examples of communities who were working on a community action plan.

Colin Banks advised the next steps would be to work up a proposal with The Bridge and Star Development and source funding to produce a project plan. If endorsed an open public meeting would be arranged for the autumn to which stakeholders would be invited.

Councillors endorsed the proposal and welcomed the opportunity of involving new people in community projects but raised concerns about duplication of effort.

Police Matters

Inspector Scott advised the Police Scotland May report had previously been circulated and highlighted the following:

- National Air Weapon Surrender Campaign
- The appropriate use of 101 and 999 numbers
- Launch of Rural Crime Campaign
- Ward Priorities

Inspector Scott highlighted the issue of parking and confirmed tickets would be issued when possible for noncompliance. Inspector Scott undertook to provide figures for the number of fixed penalties issued.

Councillor King highlighted the issue of Maxwell Lane being used as a racetrack.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone had tendered his apologies and there was no report. Councillor D Weatherston raised the issue of tourist signage for car parking. Councillor T Weatherston raised the issue of coaches struggling to park at the Knowes car park.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2016

Councillor Tomczyk asked for an amendment to the Town Hall – 200th Anniversary to state it was Friends of Kelso Museum who organised the event. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 May 2016 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Colin McGrath.

Councillor C McGrath on behalf of Councillor Peter Cooper asked that an amendment be made to the April 2016 minutes to include the following –

In connection with concerns regarding the poor state of repair of the roads, Councillor Cooper drew attention to the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting of 28 January 2016 which stated (point 3.7) that: *While Scottish Government granted £7m to the Council within the GAE for the roads network, it was up to Members, as policy makers, to allocate funding and, with competing pressures elsewhere on the budget, had determined only to spend half of that.* Councillor Cooper was advised that this was political decision. Previously in the same minutes (point 3.5), it was stated that: *Compared to other local authorities SBC had one of the lowest rates of investment in the roads network.*

Matters arising

a) Memorial Wall

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had drafted a business plan but there were a number of issues outstanding around ownership, maintenance and analysis of a survey. Councillor Tomczyk advised that a meeting of the sub-committee would be arranged in the near future to progress matters and hoped to promote the

survey in September. He advised that an estimate of £13,200 (including VAT) for building the wall, fencing etc had been received. Councillor Nicol advised SBC currently owned the site and had a duty to maintain it. His personal view was repairs to the fence and hedge should be undertaken by SBC. The commercial part of the project would be run by Robertson Memorials. Councillor King advised if individuals purchased plaques this would involve a one off cost and they would be permanent. The Provost asked for this matter to be discussed at the September meeting.

b) Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

Councillor Hodges advised progress was being made and the sub-committee had met last week. The issue of funding needed to be confirmed. It was noted a litter pick was held on Sunday 15 May and another one organised for Sunday 26 June. A bag pack at Sainsbury's was organised for Friday 1 July and she hoped to get the High School involved. The Secretary asked for help in organising publicity material to hand out at Sainsbury's. The Provost undertook to do this. Betty confirmed the committee were working on a poster campaign to encourage volunteers.

Councillor Hodges advised the bed at the Coldstream entrance to the town had been planted up and wild seeds had been planted at the Jedburgh entrance. She also advised she had arranged a meeting with the residence of Springwood Bank to overhaul the adopted bed.

Councillor Hodges formally acknowledged the £500 cheque from Charity Begins at Home.

Councillor Hodges advised a meeting of the sub committee would be held to draft the route for the Judges Tour.

Councillor T Weatherston placed on record his thanks to Alistair Finnie and Stuart Young for their involvement in the project.

c) Rotary Way

Councillor D Weatherston confirmed approval had been given to rename the road from Sainsbury's to Shedden Park "Rotary Way" in recognition of the work by the Rotary Club in planting bulbs in this area. It was noted new signage was needed.

d) Mens Shed

The Provost advised a public meeting was being organised to promote this project.

e) Trinity North Church

It was noted Trinity North Church had been vandalised and this had been reported to the Police. Councillor McGrath advised there was no development on an enforcement order.

f) Questions from the public

Councillor McGrath raised the issue of young people not prepared to seek employment and raised the concern of the Youth Link Worker at Kelso High School being made redundant. The Provost advised staff at the High School were working very hard with pupils. Councillor D Weatherston advised there were Business Ambassadors in Kelso providing work placements. Councillor S Mountford suggested the Community Council invite a member of the SBC Education Committee to a future meeting to explain what is being done to assist young people.

Correspondence

The secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors and a summary schedule had been compiled. In addition the following documents had been received:

- A letter from Kelso Laddies Association inviting Councillors to attend the Laying of the Wreath Ceremony at the War Memorial at 6pm on Sunday 17 July 2016 and thereafter to the Church Service in St Mary's Church at 6.30pm and to attend the Bussing Ceremony on Wednesday 20 July at 6.45pm in the Square and for refreshments in the Tait Hall after the Ceremony.

Secretary's Report

There was no Secretary's report.

Scottish Borders Council

The Provost advised statements would be given by SBC Councillors if there was an update. The Provost reminded Councillors that if they wished to raise specific questions with SBC these should be submitted to the Secretary 7 days in advance of the meeting.

Area Forum

Councillor T Weatherston advised the last Area Forum had been poorly attended by the public and urged Councillors to encourage the public to attend if they had any issues they wished to raise.

Repainting yellow lines

Councillor T Weatherston advised the warranty time was up and any repainting would need to be funded by SBC.

Public toilet opening time

Councillor D Weatherston requested the opening times be put on summer hours and extended over Civic Week.

Questions to SBC Councillors

It was noted the damage to Teviot Bridge would need to be funded by SBC.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans -

- a) The Hermitage, Hermitage Lane, Kelso. Alterations and extension to existing detached garage to form annexe accommodation. The Council had no objections.
- b) 62 Horsemarket, Kelso. Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse. The Council had no objections.
- c) 146 Roxburgh Street, Kelso internal and external alterations. The Council had no objections.
- d) Land South West of Wallaceneuk, Jedburgh Road, Kelso. Erection of dwellinghouse. The Council had no objections.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 7.00pm.