

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town
Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 11 February 2014, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Provost John Bassett (in the Chair), Councillors Betty Hodges, Harry Tomczyk, Dean Weatherston, John King, Colin McGrath and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Tom Weatherston and Alex Nicol

IN ATTENDANCE: PC Suzanne Howgego, Shirley Redgrave (in coming Secretary) and George Young (Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Fiona Scott and Mr Michael Ballantyne

Welcome

Provost Bassett welcomed members of the Council, press and public to the meeting.

Police Matters

PC Howgego advised the December 2013 Police Scotland report had been previously circulated. She advised there was information available regarding the current crime prevention initiative which was running throughout Police Scotland relating to tackling housebreakings across the region and how the public could keep themselves and their property safe.

It was noted there were opportunist thieves trying doors in the Kelso area and PC Howgego stressed the importance of the public reporting any incidences to the Police sooner rather than later.

PC Howgego asked the Community Council to widely publicise this information and the Provost advised this had been posted on the Kelso Facebook and there had been over 4,500 hits in the last few days. The Provost advised he would ensure information was put in the next issue of Kelso Life.

Councillor King advised he would speak to the local taxi companies to keep a watch.

Chamber of Trade report

Mr Ballantyne submitted a written report and advised the Chamber of Trade AGM is set for Monday 3 March 2014 at the Cross Keys Hotel. The major cause for concern is the lack of members coming forward to fill the various positions namely – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. In the event of the vacancies not being filled the Chamber of Trade will be dissolved. An article had appeared in the current issue of Kelso Life outlining the roles and duties.

Mark Entwistle of the Southern Reporter agreed to put an article in the next edition to see if this would drum up support.

There is on going development of the web site and encouraging more traders to join and share their diary dates.

It was noted the Gap Site development is progressing well and currently still on target for a June completion.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2014 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Dean Weatherston.

Matters arising

a) Resilient Communities

The incoming Secretary advised she had met with Jim Fraser, Emergency Planning Officer, SBC to see how this project could be taken forward.

It was agreed a subcommittee would be set up consisting of the Provost and Vice Chairman, rather than use the whole Community Council. A meeting would be arranged at which all local community groups would be invited to send a representative, rather than organising a public meeting. The community groups would be encouraged to use their networks. Depending on feedback this would decide how the project was taken forward.

Jim Fraser had undertaken to draw up a list of local community groups.

b) Gallipoli Memorial - funding

George Young advised he had spoken to Linda Cornwall at the SBC and it was agreed it was not appropriate for the Kelso Community Council to put in an application for funding under the Community Grant Scheme funded by Sainsbury's.

Linda Cornwall had suggested two alternative routes - either requesting another organisation put forward an application on the Kelso Community Council's behalf e.g. the British Legion or ask the Kelso Community Council to put forward an application to the SBC Community Grant Scheme.

After discussion it was agreed an application should be made to the SBC Community Grant Scheme and George Young would prepare this application.

The Provost commented he had received a quote from Robertsons for a memorial in white Portland stone at the cost of £1700. He advised because this was a local scheme they had waived their set up charges of £150.

Councillor Tom Weatherston reminded the Provost three quotes would be required for funding through the SBC Community Grant Scheme.

The Provost commented that he was looking to raise £2,500 to cover the cost of the memorial and some publicity material.

c) Odour Problem – meeting 4 February

Councillor Nicol advised a meeting had been held on 4 February 2014 for interested Stakeholders. Due to the complexity of the matter it was agreed the problem needed to be identified before a solution could be proposed. As a result the SBC Environmental Health team would undertake a full monitoring project and report back in a timely fashion.

It was noted Mr Ken Ross, member of the public who had written to the Kelso Community Council with his concerns, had attended the meeting and was fully aware of the situation.

d) Caravan Park provision

The Provost asked Councillor McGrath to give an update on the provision for caravan parking in the Kelso area. Councillor McGrath advised parking could be available at the Race Course in the summer. It was agreed he should speak to the Race Course to see if they were prepared to apply for a licence for 20 spaces all year round. Councillor McGrath undertook to report back.

e) Stakeholders Briefing

It was noted a meeting of Stakeholders was held on the 30 January 2014. Full minutes would be available on the Visit Kelso web site and this is a summary of the subjects discussed:-

- Parking of lorries in town overnight.
- Public Art – noted this was expected to be delivered to Kelso next week and work would start on the carving in March. The aim was to coincide the unveiling of the art with Civic Week.
- Pantwell – now proceeding.
- Gap Site – suggested this be called the Ark as this related to an historical reference to the site – this is being considered.
- Changes to centre of town proceeding well.
- Parking on Bridge Street – noted this had been made worse with the location of the taxi rank. It has been suggested the bus stop be moved. Traders are being canvassed for their opinions.

Correspondence

The Secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors during the month and she had compiled a summary schedule which would be attached to the minutes as an Appendix.

George Young drew member's attention to the Consultation paper on the Community Council Scheme which had been circulated on 7.2.14 and in particular the Code of Conduct and the adjustment to the boundary to include Hunters Hall.

Councillors discussed whether they wanted to be involved in the Walking Festival and it was agreed that due to the volume of work currently being undertaken in the Kelso centre and surrounds it was not feasible but would be something to consider at a date in the future. Secretary to write and advised them of this decision.

Secretary's Report

- a) **Framed photo of Provost for Town Hall**
The Secretary advised she had instructed Hector Innes to arrange for a plaque to be placed on the previous Provost's framed photo and for this to be displayed in the Town Hall. As agreed at the last Committee meeting, the current Provost photo would also be put on display. The Secretary advised it was anticipated these will be available within the next fortnight.
- b) The Provost commented that a local member of the public, Alastair White, had made an amazing contribution to Bowling and his achievements to date were – Kelso Bowling Club Champion, International Cap for Juniors and Seniors, Scottish National Champion, Runner up for British Isles and most recently Runner up for World Championships.

It was agreed that such achievements should be publically acknowledged locally through the Community Council and a presentation will be organised later in the year.

Area Forum Report

It was noted the next meeting was scheduled for 12 February 2014 at 6.30pm at Tait Hall, Kelso. There would be a presentation on the green waste strategy and all Councillors were welcome to attend. Councillor Hodges advised she would attend.

Councillor Nicol advised there would be a Road show to discuss green waste on the 12 April 2014.

Councillor Dean Weatherston commented he had received concerns regarding the location of the recycling centre in Kelso but was assured by SBC Councillors there would be a full public consultation.

Scottish Borders Council Report

- a) **New Kelso High School**
It was noted this project is ongoing. The SBC Councillors advised they were awaiting the detailed plans.

Councillor Tomczyk asked for clarification on the standard of the rugby pitches and was advised they were compliant with league games.

Concerns were raised regarding car parking facilities at the School and the impact of traffic entering the Race course on race days. It was hoped there would be some joint use of the car parking area.

- b) **Youth Club**
It was noted this project was ongoing. Councillor A. Nicol had been informed unofficially the site could be taken over on the 24 February. Councillor Nicol reminded members SBC were in direct negotiation with the Ice Rink owners.

Councillor T. Weatherston commented a positive press release had been issued.

c) Memorial Garden

Councillor Nicol commented a meeting had been arranged on the 28 February 2014 with the owners of the crematorium to see if a solution could be found. He would report back.

Councillor John King advised there had been a lot of interest in this project and was hopefully there could be a satisfactory solution for all.

d) Springwood Terrace fencing

It was noted the Estates team at SBC had checked the Councils records and Titles last August and could find nothing to suggest that SBC has any land ownership in this area and likewise no responsibility for any boundary fences.

e) Councillor McGrath requested an update on any transitional arrangement regarding the green waste collection. Councillor Nicol advised no measures had been put in place and the last Council collections would be during April 2014.

f) Councillor Dean Weatherston requested clarity on the future building of social housing in Kelso. Councillor Mountford advised SBC had announced plans to build 200 affordable houses in the Borders area for mid market rent.

g) Councillor Mountford advised the new road signage in the Square had been located in the wrong position and there were ongoing discussions to relocate it in a less intrusive position.

Future Kelso

Councillor Nicol advised there had been no further meetings.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

a) From Mr James Hewit change of use from Class 1 (Travel Agent) to Class 2 (Estate Agent) at 43 The Square, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

b) From The Klondyke Group Limited – relocation of existing toilet block and erection of boundary fire wall at Mayfield Garden Centre, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

c) From Mr and Mrs Jeremy Henderson – internal and external alterations to Walton Hall, Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

d) From Rural Renaissance Limited – erection of three dwelling houses (change of house type on plots 30 and 31 and erection of additional dwelling house – amendment to previous consent) at land adjacent to Wallaceneuk, Jedburgh Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

- e) It was noted Edward Hurst had written to the Planning department of SBC giving strong opposition to the construction of a wind turbine (67m high) on Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate Kelso despite the Community Council not objecting to the modified plans last month which had been lodged by Border Precision SSAS.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 7.00pm