

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town
Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 14 January 2014, at 7.00 pm**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Inspector Scott, Community Police, PC Suzanne Howgego, Michael Ballantyne, Shirley Redgrave (in coming Secretary) and, George Young (Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Fiona Scott and Colin McGrath

Welcome

Provost Bassett welcomed members of the Council to the meeting.

Police Matters

PC Howgego reiterated the comments from Sergeant Dougal last month concerning the new format of the Police report and requests for feedback. She confirmed the report was a standard one used across the whole of Scotland. She reminded Councillors the report was a month out of date and the December report would be published on 15 January 2014.

PC Howgego stressed the importance of early intervention and detection to reduce criminal activity amongst young people. She reminded members that once someone had a criminal record it would stay with them forever.

PC Howgego highlighted the increase of rural thefts in the Borders and the Police were working with Farm Watch and the NFU.

PC Howgego reminded Councillors to use the 101 number for non emergency calls.

PC Howgego advised Operation Rack, which related to the robust enforcement of house break in's was proving a success in the Borders.

Inspector Scott reminded Councillors criminal activity in Kelso was of a minimum nature compared to other areas and the Police were concentrating on issues relating to young people.

Councillor H Tomczyk asked for an update on recent issues in Kelso. PC Howgego advised those responsible for the public toilet vandalism were not known to the Police and therefore no prosecutions had been made. Those responsible for the fire incidents had been identified and dealt with.

Inspector Scott commented traffic enforcement was available until the end of February. However, he reminded Councillors after this date the Police would take action with parking offences, obstructions and safety issues.

The Provost thanked Inspector Scott for attending and commented PC Suzanne Howgego worked extremely hard, was proactive and positive.

Chamber of Trade report

Mr Ballantyne advised there had been a high value theft from a Kelso shop premises last week and there was now a need to introduce a Stop Watch scheme. Inspector Scott advised there was a Resilience Borders scheme which was currently being rolled out, and this included a rapid response telephone facility. The scheme was funded by Scottish Borders Council. It was agreed Mr Ballantyne would obtain details from Inspector Scott and discuss this initiative with the traders.

Mr Ballantyne advised they had received comments regarding the time the town Christmas lights were on and this would need to be looked at.

Mr Ballantyne advised the Chamber of Trade had applied to Charity Begins at Home for a grant towards the cost of watering the flower baskets in the town. The Provost reminded Mr Ballantyne the Chamber could apply for a grant from the Sainsbury's fund.

Mr Ballantyne advised the Bridge Street traders were not happy with the location of the Taxi Rank as they felt it was taking trade away from them. The Provost advised a representative from the Bridge Street traders had been invited to the next meeting of the Stakeholders at the end of the month and this would give them an opportunity to raise their concerns

Provost Bassett thanked Mr Ballantyne for his attendance.

Presentation by George Higgs – “Gypsy travellers in the Scottish Borders”

The Provost welcomed George Higgs MBE (Chair, Equality Forum SBC) and Inspector Scott to the meeting.

Inspector Scott advised George Higgs had worked with the SBC since 2010 to help alleviate any issues with gypsies and travellers in the region. He emphasised SBC, together with the NHS and Police were keen to improve their relationship with the gypsy/travelling community. SBS are aware that gypsy/travellers camp for a short period at one place and are restricted as to where they can legally encamp. SBC and partners are keen to promote a fair balance between the needs of the local community and gypsies/travellers.

Inspector Scott advised there had been a long history with travellers visiting the St Boswells Fair in July. The Fair started in the 1600s.

Mr Higgs advised he had been successful in building up relationships with local travellers/gypsies. He visited every site on a regular basis to ask about their welfare, education and health needs. He provided information on waste collection, checked how long

they intended to stay at the site and informed them of any concerns local people had raised and sought solutions to resolve these issues.

Mr Higgs advised he successfully used two leaflets – a guide for gypsy/travelling people staying on unauthorised sites in the Scottish Borders and St Boswells Fair. He visited and each camp in the Borders on either authorised or unauthorised sites and distribute these leaflets as well as a questionnaire. Mr Higgs commented that the two leaflets had been shared nationally with other Councils and organisations.

Mr Higgs commented that in 2013 there had been 12 unauthorised camps in the Border area between Easter and September. The biggest encampment was 8 caravans and the smallest 2. The longest stay had been 15 days. There had been 3 encampments in Kelso during this period.

Mr Higgs commented there were few issues in the Borders with travellers and the majority were just passing through, as their ancestors' had done previously.

The Provost thanked Mr Higgs and Inspector Scott for their informative presentation.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2013 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Gavin Horsburgh and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Matters arising

a) Resilient Communities

It was noted there had been no feedback, although the Community Council was very interested and keen to implement this project.

The Provost requested the Secretary follow up to determine what steps were needed to implement this.

b) Gallipoli Memorial

The Provost advised he had received a letter from the Parade of Colours Coldstream, which advised they were willing to make a donation towards the memorial. He confirmed a sub committee would be set up with the assistance of the Kelso Laddies Association

George Young advised there was nothing to prevent the Community Council applying for funding from the Sainsbury's grant. The Provost commented that the application would need to be considered by the three SBC Councillors. Councillor T Weatherston suggested George spoke to Jean Robertson at SBC regarding funding. The Provost asked George Young to put in an application.

The Provost requested an account be opened for the funding of the Gallipoli Memorial.

c) Odour Problem

Councillor A Nicol advised he had attended the site that day to observe the tankering process and to see whether there was an odour issue. He commented that seven complaints had been received the day before regarding the odour before the tankering process had taken place. He commented that whilst the tankering operation was underway he noticed a minor “perfume” smell coming from the tank.

Councillor Nicol commented that it was not obvious where the smell was coming from and further investigation was needed.

It was suggested that the solution would be for the sewage works to be located outside of the town.

Councillor Nicol advised there was a meeting scheduled for 4 February for Stakeholders and he would raise the issue of capacity and report back to the Community Council.

d) Facebook

The Provost advised there had been 9000 hits on the Facebook site in six weeks, with over 500 on the minutes of the Council meetings.

The Provost reminded Councillors that members were abiding by the SBC Code of Conduct.

It was noted that no negative feedback had been received and the Visit Kelso website had increased by over 2000 hits. No individual member was answering questions direct and all enquiries were being directed to links on the SBC website for information.

It was noted all Kelso traders were signed up the Facebook page as well as 370 members of the community.

It was agreed a copy of future Kelso Community Council agendas would be added to Facebook.

e) Stakeholders Briefing

It was noted the next meeting of Stakeholders would be held on the 30 January 2014 and this would be fed back to the February meeting of the Community Council.

f) Bus Consultation

It was noted this consultation ended in February 2014. The Provost requested a link to the SBC website be added to Facebook.

g) Alcohol consultation

The Provost requested a link to the SBS website be added to Facebook.

Correspondence

- a) An email was received from Peter Peacock, Chair Customer Forum for Water. It advised the Customer Forum had been set up to ensure they accurately represented the

views of the residents and businesses in discussions with Scottish Water. The Forum was set up 18 months ago to negotiate with Scottish Water to make sure customers get the best water services at the fairest price. On 30 October 2013 Scottish Water published its Draft Business Plan which sets out its proposition on levels of service and price. The Forum is now engaging in further discussion with Scottish Water around a wide range of matters including the price proposed for water and the service improvements set out in their Draft Business Plan. The outcome will inform the regulators decisions on charges due to be made in June 2014. Consultation ends January 2014.

- b) An email was received and circulated on the consultation on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Plan for the Scottish Borders.
- c) A newsletter was received from the Scottish Borders Elder Voice
- d) A letter had been received from the Roxburgh and Berwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau regarding the introduction of a Welfare Reform Action project, funded by Big Lottery.

The Provost asked the Secretary to write advising although this was an important area of work it was not something for the Community Council, although the Council would be very happy to facilitate a public meeting if appropriate.

- e) A letter had been received from Police Scotland regarding the review of Traffic Warden Service Provision.
- f) A letter had been received from Stuart Young, Secretary of the Kelso Horticultural Society regarding the planning and maintenance of the flower beds at Bridgend Island.

Councillors agreed to fund this activity for the summer and the Provost asked the Secretary to write informing them of this decision.

- g) An email was received from Angela Reid, Edinburgh Operations Control, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service regarding the future number of Emergency Fire Control rooms in Scotland. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had recommended the number of rooms be reduced from 8 to 2
- h) An email was received from the Senior Housing Strategy Officer, SBC, regarding an approach from Change Works to energy efficiency measures and renewable technologies. The aim is to help communities to identify measures that would be suitable to install in their area and help them to set up a programme to get the measures installed.
- i) An email was received from the Area Committee Chair inviting us to a Victims Support Open Day on 21 February in Galashiels.
- j) An email was received from Claire Malster regarding Scottish Rural Parliament.

- k) An invite was received from Council Leader, Councillor David Parker to attend a meeting of the Council Administration's plans for their budget and spending priorities for 2014/15.
- l) An invite was received regarding the Borders Chamber Referendum Debate to take place on 20 February at Borders College, Galashiels.
- m) A newsletter had been received from Borders Railways
- n) An email was received from the Planning Department of SBC regarding the implementation of an electronic planning system in 2006. It was agreed that electronic copies of plans should be encouraged but in the paper copies should continue to be used.

Secretary's Report

a) Honorarium and Expenses

George Young advised the Secretary's Honorarium had been fixed at £600 for the past three years and asked Councillors for feedback. It was agreed this would continue at £600 per annum. This was proposed by Councillor Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Horsburgh.

It was noted the Provost had submitted modest expenses and it was agreed these should be reimbursed.

b) Change of signatory

George Young requested permission to change the bank signatories from himself and the Provost to Shirley Redgrave and the Provost. This was unanimously agreed.

c) Provost framed photo in 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 this should be displayed in the Town Hall.

Councillors thought it would be a good idea to have the photo of the current Provost on display and Councillor Tom Weatherston recommended this.

Memorial Garden

Councillor King suggested it would be appropriate to place a town memorial wall at the new cemetery to place the names of people from the town who were cremated and have no head stone. Councillors agreed this was most appropriate and should be implemented. SBC Councillors said they would look into the possibility of this.

Area Forum Report

It was noted there had been no further meetings and the next one was scheduled for 14 February 2014.

It was noted that the consultation on asymmetric weeks had been launched in Jedburgh and not in Kelso. The SBC Councillors commented it was held in Jedburgh because the Cheviot educational locality held its meetings in Jedburgh. It was noted the Kelso headmistress was organising a meeting at Kelso in February to discuss asymmetric weeks.

Scottish Borders Council Report

a) **New Kelso High School**

The SBC Councillors advised they had met the Director of Education, Architects and builders before Christmas to look at the design and colours. There was nothing further to report.

b) **Youth Club**

It was noted this project was ongoing. Councillor T Weatherston advised the Mums and Toddlers group would stay. It was hopeful to reintroduce an internet cafe facility. Councillor Nicol reiterated the importance of having the Youth Worker Holly based in the High School.

c) **Review of Polling Districts and Polling places**

It was noted that Heiton would be included in the Kelso district in future.

d) **Integrated Waste Management Strategy**

Councillor Mountford commented that he was against the abolition of garden waste collection but was pleased there would no food waste recycling in the Kelso area.

All three SBC Councillors commented that when the garden recycling collection finished at the end of March 2014 they were aware that some transitional arrangement needed to be put in place before the new recycling opened in 2015.

e) Councillor Weatherston commented he was disappointed there was no legislation in place to stop the large number and size of the "To Let" and "For Sale" signs being displayed across the town

Future Kelso

Councillor Nicol advised there had been no further meetings.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) From Queens House (Kelso) Limited for an extension to form an activity room and store. The Council had no objections.
- b) From The Gentle Touch for installation of projection sign on Dental Surgery Corn Exchange, 31 Woodmarket. The Council had no objections.

- c) From Border Precision SSAS for the erection of wind turbine 67m high to top, foundation, access track and ancillary equipment. The Council had no objections.

Date of Next Meeting

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