

**MINUTE of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town
Hall, Kelso, on Tuesday 11th June 2013,
at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT Provost Bassett (in the Chair), Councillors Scott, Horsburgh, Tomczyk, D Weatherston, Cook, and King, Scottish Borders Councillors T Weatherston and Mountford.

IN ATTENDANCE George Young, Secretary and Michael Ballantyne Chairman of Kelso Chamber of Trade.

APOLOGIES Councillor McGrath and Scottish Borders Councillor Nicol.

Welcome

Councillor Bassett welcomed members of the Council to the meeting.

Police Matters

PC Howgego was in attendance. A Police Report prepared by PC Howgego was circulated to all members of the Council. She updated the Community Council on the performance, activities and issues across Kelso between 14th May and 11th June 2013. PC Howgego stated that there had been some minor thefts including door step thefts of milk and the theft of alcohol in the local supermarkets. There had been one serious assault at the beginning of June which resulted in a fracture. There had also been some thefts from houses in Roxburgh Street arising from residents leaving front doors unlocked. The Police do have some possible leads. She reported that there had been some anti social behaviour in the Square at weekends. There had been incidents of fly tipping around the Racecourse area and the Council have had to go around and pick this up. It was felt that the fly tipping was as a result of the withdrawal of the Knowes waste disposal service. Members were asked to report to the Provost any incidents of fly tipping so that this could be passed on to the Council highlighting the lack of recycling facilities in the Town.

PC Howgego stated that there was an attempt at reinventing "Shop Watch" in conjunction with the Chamber of Trade. She stated that there had been enthusiasm from the shop keepers in the Town and over 100 retailers had signed up to the scheme. The plan is that there would be a group call out of any incident utilising a database. This system is operated in Galashiels and utilises Border Care for notification of shop keepers when an incident arises. The procedure in Galashiels is that a Police Officer informs Border Care stating what the problem was i.e., shop lifting or counterfeit money being passed and this is transmitted to all shop keepers in the Town. The issue arising in Kelso is who is going to fund it. She stated that some of the larger retailers in the Town had resisted. The information will be fed back to the Kelso Chamber of Trade. In the first week of the School Summer Holidays an "Open Summer" initiative will be launched which will target juveniles. During the month there had been a big push on vehicle checks throughout the Borders.

Councillor Horsburgh stated that in good weather some juveniles had been utilising disposable barbeques in Shedden Park. In the first and second week of their use everything had been tidied up by the youngsters but on the third week no effort had been made to tidy up. PC Howgego will keep an eye on the situation. Councillor/

Councillor Horsburgh stated that there were still instances of youngsters climbing on the roof of the public toilets in Shedden Park. Councillor D Weatherston stated that he had noticed that there were more youngsters going into the river during the hot weather. PC Howgego stated this matter is normally highlighted to School pupils through the School Liaison Officer who reminds them of the dangers. Provost Bassett thanked PC Howgego for her attendance at the meeting and hoped that she would keep in contact with the Community Council over the summer recess.

Minute

The Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday the 14th May 2013 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Horsburgh seconded by Councillor Tomczyk, subject to a number of typing errors. Councillor T Weatherston also stated that within the Minute reference should be made to the fact that he was asking for toilets at Shedden Park and the Knowes to open until 8pm. Councillor T Weatherston also asked that on page 7 it should be noted that it was the Sunday Market which had been contacted not the Farmers Market in connection with the putting up of blackboard signs. Arising from the Minute Councillor T Weatherston also remarked that he had not as yet identified how funding could be obtained for the provision of a plaque for the Jubilee Tree in Bridge End Park.

Matters Arising

a) Stakeholder Group

Councillor Tomczyk stated that there had been a meeting of the Stakeholder Group on Thursday 30th May. He stated that Councillor Scott was also on the Committee representing Disability Groups. Provost Bassett had also been invited to join the Stakeholder Group. At the meeting with regard to Public Art there had been discussion as to whether planning consent is needed. And with the hope that the planning process would not cause undue delay to the development of the project. Councillor Mountford thought that the need for planning permission would not be known until the size of the artwork is determined. The feeling that the need for planning permission for a particular piece of artwork should not be a restraint on as to whether it would be chosen. Councillor Tomczyk will liaise with the Planners on this matter. The proposed winner will be taken to the Stakeholder meeting on 11th July and it is hoped to make the announcement of the winner during Civic Week.

Councillor Tomczyk stated that there had been considerable discussion regarding the choice of street furniture but it was agreed that the design which is currently on display in front of the Town Hall had been chosen to be used and the Group agreed that the order should be placed.

Councillor Tomczyk intimated that the Pant Well would not be sited in the middle of the Square as was originally thought but would be constructed in Innes Place outside Greggs. A copy of the proposed design was circulated. Discussion at the Stakeholder meeting had centred around whether the Pant Well could be used for a particular purpose and various suggestions had been made including putting an information panel on it. Michael Ballantyne stated that a conclusion had not been drawn as to how it could be used but he felt the difficulty would be putting services to it and who would in the future pay for these services. He stated that the project was almost at a point of going to planning. Provost Bassett wondered if the Pant Well could be used as a store for winter equipment but it was generally felt that this would not be suitable.

Councillor/

Councillor D Weatherston expressed concern about the time that it was taking to undertake the work in Horsemarket and Woodmarket in the area surrounding the old public toilets. It was thought that this work was only scheduled for ten days but there were still two massive holes. Michael Ballantyne stated that once work had started it was found that to get the necessary connections the contractors had to work further down the street. Councillor D Weatherston also highlighted issues regarding the need for investigating an area underneath the Black Swan but it was pointed out that the owners and agents were being informed of any requirements.

Councillor Tomczyk also stated that there had been discussion as to what would happen to any surplus setts being lifted on the street. It was thought that there may be a problem with regard to storage but it is hoped to retain as many as possible. With regard to the surplus these could be sold and utilised to offset any costs of the project.

b) Floral Displays

Provost Bassett stated that discussions had been held with both the Horticultural Society and the proprietor at Newton Don regarding the type of floral display which could be put in the new flower pots. He also stated that there had been problems with regard to the quality of planting in the War Memorial but this had been satisfactorily resolved. He felt that floral displays generally were going well and the hanging baskets had all been erected. With regard to planting in the Square this had been done fairly sparsely because of the fact that they will probably have to be disturbed during the course of the summer.

Reverting back to the overall project in the centre of the Town, Councillor T Weatherston reminded Councillors that money for this project is spread over a four year period between 2011 and 2015.

Provost Bassett stated that a decision had been made not to enter the Floral Gateway Competition. He also highlighted the fact that if there were any problems with regard to floral displays these could be referred directly to Neil Pringle.

c) Defibrillators

Provost Bassett stated that two defibrillators had been identified in the Town, at Springwood Park and the Cross Keys but it was also thought that there may be further defibrillators at Queens Head and the Racecourse. The Ambulance Service in the Town would be willing to come and demonstrate how these machines should be utilised to anyone who was interested. He was aware that the local Police would like to attend. He stated that the Community Council and any other interested Group could come to such a session. It is hoped that this could be widely published so that there were a large number of people aware of how to use the machine. It has been highlighted to Councillor King that the defibrillators were very easy to use. Provost Bassett felt that it may be appropriate to hold a register of those people who are trained and also have signs placed in the Town stating where the defibrillators are situated. He urged Councillors to get names of people who would attend this instruction session.

d) Window

Councillor Tomczyk stated that an article had appeared in the Southern but there had been no feedback as a result. A specialist recommended by Michael Ballantyne had examined the window but he was unable to say anything definite about it. It was agreed that further attempts should be made to find out about its history.

Consideration of Plans/

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It was intimated that four sets of plans had been considered by the Planning Sub Committee and that they had no objections to any of these. The plans were from:-

1. James Stewart & Son for external alterations at 3 Simon Square, Kelso.
2. Scottish Borders Housing Association for the installation of solar panel array to the roof of No 3 Rutherford Square, Cross Street, Kelso.
3. Andrew Binnie for the erection of a dwellinghouse (renewal of previous consent) on garden ground at Cairnbank, Sprouston Road, Kelso.
4. John Hogarth Ltd., for change of use from residential and alterations to form office accommodation at 11, 13 and 15 Oven Wynd, Kelso.

Correspondence

- 1) An invitation had been received from the Kelso Laddies Association inviting members to attend the Church Service in St Andrews Church on Sunday 14th July at 6.30pm and also the laying of the wreath at the War Memorial at 6.00pm. The Community Council together with their wives or husbands were also invited to attend the Bussing Ceremony on Wednesday 17th July at 6.45pm and also refreshments in the Tait Hall after the Ceremony. All Councillors present agreed to attend the installation.
- 2) Notification had been received from the Scottish Women Convention regarding a free event for women in the Scottish Borders at Eyemouth on 2nd July. Further information can be obtained on 0141 339 4797.
- 3) A letter had been received from David Richardson, Asset Manager at Scottish Borders Council, intimating that a Winter Service Review for 2013/14 was being undertaken and he would welcome the Community Council's comments on their winter service provision during 2012/13 in relation to the Kelso Community Council area. Any feedback should be returned to him by Friday 28th June at the latest. The Council felt that the service provided during 2012/13 in Kelso had been adequate.
- 4) A letter had been received setting out a consultation document on forestry work being planned in the Kelso area. This had been circulated prior to the meeting to members of the Council.
- 5) Information had been received from "Home Energy Scotland".
- 6) A selection of information regarding events which will be happening at Harestanes and Old Gala House had been received.
- 7) A letter had been received from the Chief Executive's Department regarding a Traffic Regulation Order in relation to speed limits at Ednam Road. It was decided that the previous proposal to extend the 30mph limit at Ednam Road was not to proceed however the proposal is now to extend the 40mph speed limit. The Council had no objections to this change.
- 8)/

- 8) A letter had been received from the Neighbourhood Area Manager, Alistair Finnie, regarding "Cleaning up Scotland – Longest Day 21st June 2013" The scheme is to encourage enthusiastic volunteers to take part in Keep Scotland Beautiful Scheme. If the Council was interested in taking part then Scottish Borders Council will supply a limited number of litter stickers for adults and children and will also arrange to pick up full rubbish bags from litter pickers the next day at a prearranged location.
- 9) A letter was received from The Bridge asking the Community Council if they wish to renew their membership of "The Bridge". The cost of this is £10 and the Council agreed to rejoin the organisation.
- 10) Information had been received regarding the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for the closure of Bowmont Street, Kelso, between the junction with Albert Place to the junction with Horsemarket. The work will start on 1st July 2013 for five days between the hours of 8am and 5pm each day. The purpose of the work is for carriageway resurfacing.
- 11) Notification had been received from Scottish Borders Council regarding the Community Council's insurance cover and enclosing an employer's liability certificate.

Secretary's Report

- a) The Secretary intimated that a Notice of Motion had been received timeously to co-opt a person to Kelso Community Council. The person being nominated was Elizabeth Hodges, 4 Springwood Bank, Kelso and she was proposed by Councillor Tomczyk, seconded by Councillor Scott. Councillors unanimously agreed that Ms Hodges be co-opted to the Council.
- b) Sainsbury's Grants
The Secretary intimated that applications for the Sainsbury's grants should be lodged with the Secretary prior to 30th September 2013. He stated that he hoped Community Councillors would publicise this as widely as possible. He also asked if this could be publicised in the Southern Reporter and Kelso Life if the Provost was intending to write an article in that publication.
- c) Councillor Horsburgh asked if Liz Herd had been informed of the names of Councillors who will participate in the St James Fair Ceremony. It was intimated that Councillors D Weatherston, Horsburgh and McGrath would be willing to participate. Provost Bassett intimated that he would be attending.
- d) It was intimated that a letter had been received from the Consul General of Poland addressed to former Provost Scott thanking everybody for the organisation of the Polish Ceremony at the War Memorial.

Area Forum Report

Councillor T Weatherston intimated that the next meeting of the Area Forum would be on Wednesday 19th June. The meeting was due to have been held in Jedburgh but there was difficulty in obtaining a suitable venue and consequently the meeting probably may be held in Kelso. It/

It is hoped that a decision on the location will be made on 12th June. Councillor Mountford stated that he was disappointed with the number of representative from Kelso attending but Provost Bassett intimated that no notification of the meeting had been received. Councillor T Weatherston stated that in future the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary will receive a copy of the notice calling the meeting.

Scottish Borders Council Report

a) Christmas Lights

Councillor T Weatherston stated that four funding applications had been made. Three of these applications had been successful which would provide £10,000. The fourth application to the Lottery has been made and a decision is expected in the next two weeks. Council officials are confident that the Lottery application will be successful as it is well framed and does seem to meet most of the conditions. Councillor T Weatherston stated that it is essential for the Lottery funding to be obtained to allow the project to go ahead.

b) Dog Fouling

Councillor T Weatherston stated he was disappointed that the motion which he had placed before the Council had had to be withdrawn on the basis that it was illegal and that there could be no restriction on dogs in public parks. He was however looking at the issue from another angle by looking at the Public Nuisance Act which he felt did have powers to deal with such situations. He stated that he had sent his proposals to the Legal Department to see how they viewed it. He stated that he was going for a local byelaw to stop what he considers is a public nuisance.

c) Drinking in Public Places

All councillors had received a copy of the report on proposed byelaws to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in designated public places. The letter accompanying this had stated that it was hoped that the Community Council's views would be fed into a meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum on Wednesday 6th November 2013. Councillor T Weatherston stated that Scottish Borders Council is only one of two local authorities who do not have such a byelaw. It was felt that the Police do not have the power to prevent such drinking but in fact have to wait until a problem arises. The Police feel that such a byelaw would be useful. There are specific exemptions for local festivals but it is found generally that the Police will use commonsense in applying such a byelaw. It was noted that the proposed byelaw stated that alcohol consumption in public places could only take place on the main days of festivals. Councillor T Weatherston stated that an invitation will be made to the Police to attend the Forum to give their opinion. He hoped that such a meeting would be well attended so that the public can put forward their views. Councillor Scott asked if responses can be made electronically and Councillor T Weatherston felt that they could. It was reiterated that the Police in all other areas of Scotland are flexible in their application of such a byelaw.

d) Bus Contracts

Councillor T Weatherston stated that he had received an email regarding the allocation of bus contracts which will come into effect in August. This stated what company had got what contract and he felt that there were considerable changes but was unable to make an announcement on this as he was unsure whether this was for public information at this stage. Councillor Mountford stated that the Kelso to Sprouston service will become "on demand". In response to a question from Councillor Scott he felt that the buses used were not very comfortable. Councillor T Weatherston stated that only buses with flat bedded floors to allow for wheelchair access could be used on most routes. Such/

Such buses tended to be less comfortable than conventional luxury coaches. Councillor D Weatherston stated that certain bus services are currently very poor while others provide an excellent service.

e) Toilets

Councillor Horsburgh stated that it was essential that signs be put up indicating where the toilets are situated highlighting the toilets in Shedden Park and the temporary units at the Knowes.

f) Council Meeting

Councillor Mountford intimated that the next full Scottish Borders Council meeting will take place in the Tait Hall on Wednesday 26th June at 10.00am.

Chamber of Trade Report

Michael Ballantyne confirmed that with regard to "Shop Watch" there was a good take up by the local traders. He stated that flower baskets are now all up and watering of these is taking place. The next meeting of the Chamber of Trade is on Monday 17th June. One of the topics being discussed will be the new Chamber of Trade website. In this website independent traders have their own pages. It is hoped to incorporate information such as the Rugby and Cricket Clubs and an emergency page is being developed. Councillor Scott stated that it will be essential if the dry weather persists that watering of the flower bed at the end of Kelso Bridge will have to be taken. It was felt that this could be done in conjunction with the watering of the flower baskets. Michael Ballantyne will follow this matter up and it was agreed that the Community Council would make a contribution for the watering of the Bridgend flower bed.

Councillor Tomczyk asked if there was space to insert a Community Council page on the Chamber of Trade website. Provost Bassett who will be attending the Chamber of Trade meeting will take this matter up.

Future Kelso

Councillor Scott stated that the Annual General Meeting of Future Kelso will take place on Thursday 13th June in the Abbey Row Centre.

Any Other Business

Provost Bassett intimated that flags will be flown at both the Town Hall and the Tait Hall to commemorate Armed Forces Week. Two events are planned. On 22nd June a Parade of Colours will take place at Coldstream. There will also be a Ceremony at Kelso War Memorial at 6.45pm on 28th June which will be followed by evening entertainment at Kelso British Legion.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso, on Tuesday, 10th September 2013 at 7.00pm.