

**MINUTE of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town
Hall, Kelso, on Tuesday 14th May 2013,
at 7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE George Young, Secretary, Michael Ballantyne and D Playfair representing Kelso Chamber of Trade.

APOLOGIES Scottish Borders Councillor Mountford and Nicol.

Election of Office Bearers

As this was the first meeting of the new duly elected Community Council for Kelso Councillor T Weatherston took the chair. He asked for nominations for the position of chairman of Kelso Community Council. Councillor Bassett was proposed by Councillor Tomczyk seconded by Councillor Scott. Councillor D Weatherston was proposed as vice chairman nominated by Councillor Bassett seconded by Councillor Tomczyk. G Young agreed to remain as Secretary/Treasurer for the time being but suggested that it may be appropriate to look for a new secretary/treasurer as he would like to demit office before the end of 2014.

Welcome

Councillor Bassett welcomed the members of the Community Council to the meeting. In his opening remarks he stated that he was very keen to sell the Community. He also stated that members of the Council who wrote to any Council official or other body on behalf of the Community Council should send a copy of the correspondence to the secretary. The aim within the council is to work very much as a team.

Police Matters

PC Howgego was in attendance. She informed the Council that a written report would be circulated to the Community Council. She intimated that Police Scotland was still in a transition period. She stated that she intended to present the information to the Council in the same form as in the past but if Councillors felt that there was a more appropriate format she would consider any suggestions. PC Howgego went on to state there had been 142 incidents in the Kelso town area within the last month included within this were shoplifting incidents at the Co-op stores both at High Croft and Roxburgh Street. Offenders have been apprehended. There had been two alcohol related incidents recently at the Nightclub including an assault. A complaint had also been received from residents about the level of noise at the Nightclub. After investigation the Police felt that there were no breaches of licensing conditions. She was pleased to report that the Kelso Rugby Club 7s had passed with no incident. Road Policing was continuing with regular checks being carried out. There were still some concerns about young drivers in the Knowes as well as the Broomlands area. Patrols were being made in the town in relation into Anti Social parking and some fixed penalty notices had been issued as well as a warning. She felt that the road markings within the town were not very clear particularly in relation to double yellow lines and she had submitted a traffic intelligence report to Scottish Borders Council. She/

She informed the Council there will be 2 road safety initiatives one in relation to motor cycling and another targeting alcohol. She stated that there had been four bogus callers targeting the Wallace Neuk area of the town offering to undertake power washing on drives for a substantial sum. This situation is being monitored as the callers are still in the locality. The Police are continuing to keep an eye on the dog fouling situation within the town. She stated that the ice cream van is being restricted to 10 minutes stops in the Square in line with existing legislation. Provost Bassett stated that Scottish Borders Council were not willing to renew road markings at the moment while the major work is being done in the town consequently it may be necessary to grin and bear the situation for the time being. Councillor D Weatherston asked if there was any word of a new traffic warden being appointed. PC Howgego stated that the current traffic warden was off sick and would be returning to work following the recovery. Councillor T Weatherston stated that he had received complaints about boy racers in the Broomlands area. PC Howgego stated that police were aware of the situation but did want to walk a fine line as sometimes the young drivers can be the eyes and ears of the community and can provide useful information to the police. Provost Bassett thanked PC Howgego for her attendance and her report.

Minute

The Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday the 9th April 2013 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Tomczyk seconded by Councillor McGrath.

Matters Arising

a) Stakeholder Group

Councillor Tomczyk stated that when the Minute for the last meeting of the Stakeholder Group are available he will circulate these. He stated that the process for choosing public art was proceeding with 27 expressions of interest having been received. All expressions are being reviewed and the meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd May to decide on a short list of 5. The short listed proposals will then be put on public display possibly in Sainsburys in due course. Interviews will be held on the 8th and 9th July with a decision being made on the 10th July prior to a Stakeholders meeting on the 11th. Councillor Tomczyk stated that the timescale for the completion of the public art work is now expected to be in 2014. It is hoped that a public announcement about the public art could be made during Civic Week. There are still discussions going on as to whether the public art will require planning permission. It is hoped that Scottish Borders Council will take ownership of the public art work however a decision from Scottish Borders Council is required for this.

Councillor Tomczyk stated that the work in the centre of town is proceeding. Scottish Power are currently working to changing the cabling. When the major work is completed in the Square attention will be turned to Coal Market. Councillor Tomczyk stated that there had been some feedback regarding the street furniture. There was a certain opinion about the colour of the bench currently located in front of the town hall. He stated that a wooden seat would be placed on the concrete structure. The Public also wanted more information about where the benches are to go but it will be essential to make a decision shortly. Work on the flat top setts will shortly commence in Innes Place and the front of the Town Hall. This work is currently out to tender. Consideration is being given to the timing of the work and it is expected that the work in the front of the Town Hall will not be undertaken until after St James Fair.

Councillor Tomczyk stated that the public toilets had closed early to do preparatory work. It was initially thought that the public could use the facilities at Shedden Park but it was agreed that temporally toilets should be obtained. It/

It was first thought that it would be most convenient to have them in place at the back of the Cobbles but this proved not to be feasible. The toilets will be placed in the Knowes and it is hoped that these can start to be moved to the Knowes in the current week.

Councillor Tomczyk stated that the next full meeting of the Stakeholder Group will be on the 11th July. Councillor McGrath who also attended the Stakeholder meeting stated that there will be 15 benches in place in the centre of the town and hopefully there will be some consultation on the matter. He felt that the toilets which were being installed were up market. A suggestion had also been made at the meeting that a digital display should be created for the public to see what the Square will look like after the work has been done.

With regard to bus stops it was pointed out that a temporary bus stop was in place in Horsemarket but this would be relocated ultimately to the lower part of Horsemarket where the shelter has been constructed. The bus stop in Woodmarket will be moved down to the bottom of the street on a temporary basis but no shelter will be constructed. Councillor T Weatherston stated that it had been hoped that the Council could have access to chemical toilet but after investigation it was felt that it would be necessary to install proper toilet which will involve quite a large amount of money. The Council did look at various options. Councillor Horsburgh pointed out that there were no signs in Shedden Park directing people to the public toilets within the park. It was also felt that these toilets were locked from 6pm. Councillor T Weatherston will follow this matter up with Scottish Borders Council.

b) Floral Displays – 2013

Councillor Horsburgh stated that the Donor of the plants for Bridgend was still waiting to hear about the arrangements for the plants. The Secretary understood that Kelso Horticultural Society had recently been in touch with the Donor. It was confirmed that a letter of thanks was being sent by the Provost to the Donor.

It was observed that the plaque which was intended to be placed beside the tree planted at the Queen's Jubilee had never been obtained. Councillor T Weatherston will look into this matter.

c) Polish Plaque/Ceremony

Councillor Scott stated that the Ceremony had been very successful. The Polish families to whom it was relevant were very moved by the Ceremony. The Polish Consul General was grateful for what has been done by the Town. Provost Bassett thanked Councillor T Weatherston for getting the Council to undertake the work in the War Memorial where the plaques were sited. Councillor T Weatherston stated that he would pass on the Council's thanks to the Scottish Borders Council workmen who had undertaken the work at short notice. Councillor Scott stated that letters of thanks had been written to Deacon Duncan, Morebattle and Heiton WRI Choir and the Pipers for their contribution.

Councillor McGrath asked about the state of the commemorative stone at Roxburgh Castle. Councillor Scott stated that Councillor T Weatherston had researched the possibility of moving the stone to the War Memorial but this was going to be a fairly expensive and complicated operation and it was felt better to leave the stone in the current position. She went on to say that the Polish Consulate are committed to look after the stone at Roxburgh Castle.

Councillor Tomczyk stated that the stained glass window which had been sited in the old Kelso Cottage Hospital had been passed by Murray Charters to him. To date he has been unable to find the history of it. Councillor Scott stated that she had done some research with the Health Board but nothing had come of this. Councillors Tomczyk agreed to send a photograph of the window to Tweeddale Press who would publicise it asking for information. Michael Ballantyne stated that he was currently working with an expert in Stained Glass and asked if a photograph be sent to him so he could discuss the matter with the expert.

d) Youth Club Provision

Councillor McGrath stated that he had been discussing the matter with Councillor Nicol who was currently looking at possible provision for a youth club at the old Drill Hall on East Bowmont Street. It was also felt that there may be potential for provision either in the old High School building when it is vacated or at the new High School. The matter is therefore being put on hold until more information is known about the facilities at the new High School.

e) Coping with Emergencies

Councillor T Weatherston stated that this matter had been taken up by a large number of Community Councils in the Scottish Borders. He felt that it would be appropriate to have a public meeting to outline how the system works in relation to looking after vulnerable people in the locality. It was suggested that the two officials dealing with that matter at Scottish Borders Council could be asked to a public meeting at which more information could be supplied. Provost Bassett felt that the Council should show an interest in this and suggested that the officials be invited to the September meeting of the Council. Councillor McGrath asked what the situation was with regard to the defibrillator in Kelso. It was understood that there is a defibrillator in the Cross Keys but nobody there is aware of how to use it. It also understood that there is another defibrillator at Springwood Park. The Council wondered how other towns dealt with the placing of defibrillators. Councillor Scott suggested that it may be useful to get in touch with Wilma Gunn in Selkirk who has experience of organising a provision of defibrillators. It was felt that there could be insurance consideration involved in the use. Councillor McGrath wondered if Councillor T Weatherston could check to see if there was a training program for the use of these machines.

f) Trinity Church

Councillor Nicol was not in attendance there was nothing to report on this matter.

g) Dog Fouling

Councillor Basset stated that when Kelso High School were organising a hockey tournament they first of all had to go around the pitches at Shedden Park picking up dog excrement. He felt that dogs should be not allowed to run loose on playing field areas. Councillor T Weatherston stated that a similar situation had arisen at Croft Park and he had taken the matter up with Scottish Borders Council who had put up signs. He was later informed that dog owners could use the pitches and consequently the Council had to remove the signs. Council Horsburgh stated that Kelso Cricket Club pay rent to Scottish Borders Council for the ground and he wondered if the Cricket Club have the right to fence off the area to prevent dog fouling. Councillor McGrath asked if it would be possible for Councillor T Weatherston to get in writing the appropriate regulation regarding putting up signs preventing dogs from running on the playing areas.

h) Recycling

Councillor McGrath stated that after reading the Minute of the April meeting he had phoned the Ombudsman to enquire if the Community Council could force Scottish Borders Council to take action but was informed that the Ombudsman only deals with complaints from individuals however it was suggested that reference could be made to Audits Scotland stating that the local authority are not fulfilling a statutory duty. It would be essential to confirm that Scottish Borders Council were saying that they cannot do anything with regard to recycling in the Kelso area. A member of the public was in attendance at the meeting and was invited by Provost Bassett to point out his concerns about. He wondered what the criteria was for the siting of the 6 recycling sites currently in the Borders some of which were concentrated in a particular area which does not help communities such as Kelso where a 30/40 mile round trip can be required to dispose of items. He also inquired as to why facilities which had previous existed in Kelso have been taken away. He had observed in other areas that private individuals that can take over a site and run the site on a commercial basis.

Councillor T Weatherston stated that Kelso originally had funding for a recycling site but had lost out. It then lost its facility in the Knows because of Health & Safety issues. He stated that the Council are aware of the problems which exist in Kelso and Jedburgh and an assurance had been given by the Director that a review of the recycling situation in the Borders will be carried out and a report completed within 2 months. He hopes that there will be a suggestion as to how the lack of facilities in Kelso will be dealt with. He felt that it would be unwise to pursue any matter until this review is received. The member of the public will be passed a copy of the report when it is received. He was assured that both Kelso Community Councillors and Scottish Borders Councillors are not going to let the matter laps.

Consideration of Plans

Secretary stated that the plans for the Housing Development in ground adjacent to the proposed new High School had been received and observations were required prior to this Community Council meeting. The plans were circulated and following the comments from Councillors the Community Council responded by saying they had considered the application in some depth in the limited time given for such a complex proposal. The Council were of the opinion that until details of the proposed adjacent new High School Development are known and its interaction with the proposed housing development, community facilities and the existing race course provision it must decline support for this application which is made in isolation. The Community Council particularly have concerns about the proposed road layout out and the need for the retention of land adjacent to the school for its potential to future expansion.

An application had also been received from Klondyke for the erection of extensions at Mayfield Garden Centre. Individual members of the Council had responded.

Applications had also been received from Kelso Baptist Church for the alterations to a boundary wall and Rural Renaissance for the change of house type at plot 14 on land adjacent from Wallaceneuk Jedburgh Road Kelso. The Council has no objections to these applications.

Correspondence

- a) Notice had been received regarding arrangements for the Border Walking Festival in September 2014.
- b) A magazine had been received from Scottish Natural Heritage entitled (Nature of Scotland).
- c) A letter had been received from Borders Voluntary Older People Services setting out that they are a voluntary organisation providing a range of low cost services for older people in the Scottish Borders. They were also highlighting the fact that volunteers were required to help with elderly people in the community including driving and being a good listener. Anyone interested should contact BVOPS at 5 High Street Jedburgh telephone 01835 862565.
- d) The magazine of Safer Borders had been received.

- e) A letter had been received from Scottish Borders Council asking if Kelso Community would have any objections to the properties at Wooden Mill being transferred to Sprouston Community Council. It was also suggested that the land at Hunters Hall could be transferred from Sprouston Community Council to Kelso. The Council had no objections to this.
- f) A copy of Scottish Borders Elder Voice had been received.
- g) Copies of the Local Policing Plan had been received from Scottish Police together with the Kelso Multi Award Policing Plan.
- h) Identification had been received about road closure during the Jim Clark Rally. The only closure affecting Kelso was the roads around Kelso Race Course which would be closed to the public between the 30th May at 12 midday to 2nd June at 10pm.
- i) Leaflets had also been received from Scottish Borders Council promoting local Countryside activities.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary informed the meeting that as there had only been eight nominations for the Council it was possible for Kelso Community Council to co-opt three further members. To undertake this a notice of motion would have to be lodged so that it could be put on the agenda for a meeting. Thereafter it would be up to Council Members to make proposals. It was pointed out that the co-opted members would have no initial voting rights but would get full voting rights after a 6 months period.

Area Forum Report

Councillor T Weatherston stated that a meeting had been held following the last Community Council meeting. This had not been highly publicised. The main item on the agenda was grants and how local groups could access these grants. Councillor T Weatherston stated that there were substantial amounts of funding available.

Councillor McGrath asked how Councillor T Weatherston felt the Area Forums were working. He stated that he was disappointed about the small number of the public who were attending. He felt that there was a need to get major issues on the agenda to encourage the public to attend. He understood that the system of Area Forums was being reviewed in 6 months time.

Scottish Borders Council Report

a) Kelso High School

Councillor T Weatherston stated that a booklet had been sent out to Community Council members setting out what the pitfalls had been in recent similar school development and how they are going to be dealt with. He stated that the land is in the process of being purchased.

b) Farmer's Market/

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Councillor T Weatherston stated that he had written to the Farmers' Market about the concerns which the Community Council had about the large black boards which had been placed at various sites. He noticed that at the recent Farmer's Market these boards are still up and he was still concerned about this as he felt that it was inappropriate to have these signs in the centre of the town.

c) Sales Vehicles

Councillor T Weatherston stated that the ice cream van which had been in selling in the Square had been informed of the regulations. He had discovered that Chipsaway use of 3 parking spaces in the Square had been given permission from the Council. Councillor D Weatherston felt that where it has been granted it is quite difficult to object to others. Denise Playfair on behalf of the Chamber of Trade asked where the line is drawn. It was felt that once the work in the Square had been undertaken it would be appropriate to have a review of the situation and make recommendations. She wondered if it would be possible to introduce a licensing system. Councillor T Weatherston stated that the Officer of the Council is now very aware of the concerns being expressed about this matter and it may be that permission is refused in the future. There were concerns about the award of a blanket license to the Farmer's Market and a suggestion was that every individual stallholder should have a license as it was felt that this system is getting abused at the moment. It was however pointed that stallholders at the Farmers Market should somehow be connected to Farmers. Councillor T Weatherston stated that he was aware that the stallholders have a debate amongst themselves as to who should be allowed to sell at the market.

d) Christmas Lights

Councillor T Weatherston stated that four applications for funding for lights had been made to date. They had been successful on two applications and they were waiting for a response to a major lottery application. He indicated that in the past the shops owned the equipment but this time the lighting will be paid for by public subscription. With regard to the choice of the lights, because of the past comments, it is felt that it would be best for the public to vote on two or three proposed systems. He felt that the outcome of a vote would be accepted. It was suggested that a voting form could be put in Kelso Life and he stated that he would like Kelso Community Council to act as Returning Officer for the voting system. The precise method by which this will be done will be discussed and reported back to the Community Council. Councillor T Weatherston asked for the opinion of the Chamber of Trade. Michael Ballantyne stated that the consensus was that what was being proposed by the Lights Committee would be acceptable.

3) Street Name

With regard to the naming of the street in the proposed development behind Lidl it was felt that it would be appropriate to incorporate the name Rodger Fish. It was understood the family of the late Rodger Fish were being consulted.

Chamber of Trade Report

Provost Bassett welcomed Michael Ballantyne and wished him well in being appointed as Chairman of Kelso Chamber of Trade. Michael Ballantyne stated that he had also attended the Stakeholder meeting and had discussed with David Johnston about displaying notices regarding the situation of the toilet block in prominent positions such as the shop front next to Boots the chemist and the old contact centre. He stated that the quiz night being organised by the Chamber of Trade had been abandoned because of lack of interest and they were thinking of other more stimulating ways of raising funds. He stated that the order for hanging baskets within the Town was being placed in the current week.

Future Kelso/

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Councillor Scott stated that Future Kelso Committee had been very pleased with the meeting at the Kelso Golf Club with the Director of Education. She commended the work done by Lynn Young and Sport Kelso. The Director had also been very impressed with the work. Provost Bassett felt that it was a good opportunity to incorporate an all weather athletics track within any development. It was generally felt that external funding sources will be impressed with groups working together.

Any Other Business

Councillor Horsburgh asked if the two flag poles at the Tait Hall ever have flags flying. Provost Bassett stated that they were used at Civic Week and the Armed Forces Week. Sometimes organisation utilising the Tait Hall will also fly flags there. Councillor D Weatherston wondered who decides when a flag goes at half mast. Denise Playfair stated that she was aware that the decision regarding the flying of flags was made by the Executive of Scottish Borders Council.

Council Scott stated that she had received a letter from Liz Herd asking which members of the Community Council will participate in the St James Fair ceremony.

Provost Bassett asked which members would be prepared to sit on the planning subcommittee. It was agreed that Councillors McGrath, D Weatherston and Tomczyk together with Provost Bassett that would fulfil this function.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso, on Tuesday, 11th June 2013 at 7.00pm.