

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town
Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 12 November
2013, at 7.00 pm**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: George Young, Secretary, Shirley Redgrave and Michael Ballantyne Chairman of Kelso Chamber of Trade

APOLOGIES: Councillors Betty Hodges and Gavin Horsburgh and PC Howgego, Police

Welcome

Provost Bassett welcomed members of the Council to the meeting.

Police Matters

As PC Howgego was unable to attend the meeting a written report was submitted and circulated to members.

The Provost expressed concern and disappointment that there had been no presence from the Police during the past three meetings and requested that the Secretary write to raise this concern.

Chamber of Trade report

Mr Ballantyne confirmed that the new web site had gone live on 5th November 2013. It can be found at www.visitkelso.com.

A page had been allocated to the Kelso Community Council under the "Kelso Living" tab. This would be used to publicise the Community Council minutes, progress from Jake Harvey on Kelso public art and any other information the Council felt appropriate.

Mr Ballantyne advised that the Chamber of Trade was looking for web administrators and the Provost suggested he spoke to Councillor Horsburgh.

Councillor Tomczyk requested that in view of the importance of the public art project, it should be placed on its own dedicated page. The Provost agreed to this and suggested Councillor Tomczyk spoke to Councillor Horsburgh.

Mr Ballantyne confirmed that the Christmas Sunday Opening would commence on Sunday 1 December between 11.00am and 4.00pm and this was voluntary for shopkeepers to participate in. Leaflets were currently being widely distributed.

Mr Ballantyne asked the Provost whether he would be prepared to judge the Christmas Window displays and the Provost confirmed he would be very happy to do this. Date and time to be confirmed.

Mr Ballantyne advised that that the Chamber of Trade would be holding their AGM on 3 March 2014 and was still actively looking for candidates for Vice Chairman and Secretary. Mr Ballantyne would welcome any suggestions for candidates.

Mr Ballantyne emphasised that any trader in the Kelso area could be included in the website and details including cost of membership are available on the website. He advised that there was no cost for charities.

Councillor McGrath asked whether the Chamber of Trade had considered a "Fair Trade" option. It was noted that currently Melrose, Peebles, Hawick and Selkirk participate in this scheme. Mr Ballantyne advised that he would consult his members for comments and advised that some already actively participated in this scheme.

Councillor Nicol confirmed that the Fair Trade scheme was a voluntary one but it appeared to be a positive one.

Councillor Scott asked for clarification on what was the percentage of traders involved in the Fair Trade scheme to enable the town to be designated a "Fair Trade" town.

Councillor Tomczyk raised the issue of what use could be made of the panels on the proposed Pantwell. It was felt that one could be used for outlining the history of James Dickson. Suggestions could also be sought for what the two remaining blank panels could be used.

It was asked if one of the panels could be used to post Community Councils minutes and public notices Mr M Ballantyne was open to suggestions for the two blank panels.

Provost Bassett thanked Mr Ballantyne for his attendance.

Resilient Communities

Jim Fraser (Emergency Planning Officer) and Douglas Scott (Senior Consultant) from the Resilient Communities were invited to the meeting to give a presentation on the work and scope of Resilient Communities currently in the Borders with the view that the Kelso Community Council and others may introduce such a scheme in the town. Their presentation covered the following: -

- i) A Resilient Community is an initiative supported by Local, Scottish and the UK Governments, the principles of which are communities and individuals harnessing and developing a local response and expertise to help themselves during an emergency in way that complements the response of the emergency responders.
- ii) Emergencies can be severe weather, floods, fires, or major incidents involving transport etc.

- iii) A resilient community is achieved by using a framework “Resilient Community Plan”, this is specific to the community council. The plan contains a community profile, community area maps, risk assessment, asset register, insurance information, and general guidance.

The ethos of the plan is to formulate and co-ordinate voluntary support and assistance and direct this to those that require it within a community.

- iv) Mr Fraser commented that it was anticipated that 33 Community Councils would go live by next year. He outlined the benefits of such a scheme and how it could be achieved and advised that training would be provided for co-ordinators.
- v) If Kelso Community Council wished to adopt this scheme leaflets would be provided.

It was felt necessary in the first instance to find a co-ordinator (s) for the plan. The next step would be to organise a public meeting, which would normally be done by the Community Council. The development plan would then be finalised. It was also normal practice to have an annual training exercise.

Councillor Mountford advised that he would be happy to organise a visit to the emergency bunker at St Boswells if Councillors wanted this.

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2014 were approved subject to two minor alterations. They were proposed by Councillor H Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor John King.

Matters arising

- a) Defibrillator
Councillor Weatherston confirmed that the two spare defibrillators had been offered to Morebattle and Yetholm.
- b) Dog Fouling
Councillor Weatherston confirmed that he was writing to the Scottish Parliament to suggest the wording of the dog fouling legislation be changed to say dogs were not allowed on children’s playgrounds and sports fields at all.
- c) Future Caravan Site
Councillor McGrath will contact the Racecourse for comments. The Provost confirmed that he had contacted the Border Union Agricultural Showground and they had advised that they were not taking in individual touring caravans, just groups.

It was noted that although there were caravan parks in Yetholm and Craighouse, nor Smailholm, there was a gap in the immediate Kelso area

d) Bus Consultation

SBC Councillors confirmed that an agreement has been reached between SBC and Sainsbury's for the dedicated free bus service to continue to run between the town and the superstore until March 2014. There would be no charge Monday to Friday. A replacement bus service at normal fare will be provided from Saturday 9 November by Sainsburys

After March 2014, the Sainsburys bus will be used for the town service but it is still to be determined who will pay for this expanded service.

Councillor Weatherston advised that some of the subsidies on bus routes were unrealistic and therefore there would be consultation on bus routes and times in 2014. This would be brought back to a future meeting.

e) Trinity Church

Councillor Nicol advised he had met with the owners and the site had been tidied up and gas canisters removed. The owners had intimated that this site be used for housing, but no plans had been submitted to date.

f) Recycling

Councillor McGrath asked why this subject had been taken off the agenda, and the SBC Councillor's confirmed that they had previously advised the Committee there would be a review next year and until then nothing could happen, including the introduction of a concessionary rate on a Thursday.

Councillor D Weatherston asked whether the current recycling areas, including what can be recycled in Kelso could be better publicised on the Community Council's page of the visitkelso.com website and it was agreed this would be helpful.

Councillor Weatherston advised the Council that he had been surprised that SBC had intimated they intended making £600,000 savings on their recycling budget.

Councillor Nicol thought that this arose as Scottish Government were altering their targets.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) From Royal British Legion for internal and external alterations to Clubrooms 66 Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) From Mr Gordon Fox for the change of use from office to dance studio at Unit 5, Abbotsford Court, Business Centre, Kelso. The Council agreed in principle although concerns were raised about the level of noise.
- c) Kelso Evangelical Church for the siting of a mobile unit to provide additional crèche/toddler facility. The Council had no objections.

- d) From Rural Renaissance Limited for the change of house type - three dwelling houses at plots 15, 16 and 17 land adjacent Wallaceneuk, Jedburgh Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

Correspondence

- a) An email had been received from Clare Malster at Scottish Borders Council (SBC) regarding nominations for community baton bearers for the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Nominations can be made by individuals or groups and need to be submitted by 22 November 2013.
- b) An email had been received from Clare Malster at SBC regarding the launch of a consultation on Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill. The consultation is available on the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultation/Current> and is open until 24 January 2014.
- c) Notification had been received of temporary traffic regulation order regarding closure of Abbey Court on 28 November 2013 for one day.
- d) Notification had been received of temporary traffic regulation order regarding “No waiting” on Bridge Street between 18 and 22 November 2013.
- e) An email had been received from Councillor Alex Nicol regarding the launch of the SBC Budget simulator which gives the public the opportunity to balance the books. This gives members of the public the opportunity to lay out their own spending priorities and see how their choices would affect the many services provided by the Council. The budget simulator is available at www.scotborders.gov.uk/budget.
- f) An email had been received from Councillor Alex Nichol regarding the launch of the Council’s new “Click before you call” campaign. Services online can be accessed at www.scotborders.gov.uk.
- g) A letter had been received from Scottish Water regarding a public meeting they have organised in The Townhouse, Market Square, Melrose on Thursday 14 November 2013 at 6pm to discuss their performance and plans for the future. A performance summary for 2012/13 had also been received from Scottish Water.
- h) Scottish Elders Voice – Oct/Nov newsletter had been received.
- i) Scottish Natural Heritage – the autumn magazine had been received.
- j) A letter had been received from SBC acknowledging the Secretary’s response to the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. These comments will be reviewed at the SBC meeting scheduled for 30 January 2014.
- k) EDBA Awards 2013 – a letter had been received inviting the Community Council to make recommendations for the Award.

- l) The October 2013 newsletter had been received from the Southern Uplands Partnership.
- m) Notification had been received of a Charity Briefing Evening to be held on Thursday 5 December 2013 for Help the Heroes. This will be held at the Tait Hall at 7pm. All welcome.

Secretary's Report

- a) Grant applications for the Community Grant Scheme funded by Sainsbury's
The Secretary advised that he had made comprehensive notes on the discussions held on 13 October to consider the grant applications.

Letters had been sent to all applicants confirming the extent of their award and where there was missing information this had been requested.

This is an ongoing process.

- b) Electronic minutes
It was confirmed that in future, where possible, minutes would be distributed electronically.

The incoming Secretary advised that she would circulate draft minutes in a word format to enable members to make alterations and once these were ratified they would be PDF'd.

Hard copies would continue to be sent to the Library.

Area Forum Report

Councillor Weatherston confirmed that a meeting had been held on 6 November, which was well attended.

There had been three presentations on –

- Local Development Plan
- Local Bus Service
- Alcohol Byelaws

Councillor Weatherston stressed the importance of the public making both positive and negative feedback.

Scottish Borders Council Report

- a) New Kelso High School
Councillor Weatherston stated that a deal had been achieved on the site location although at this stage there were no legal papers. The SBC councillors had seen the plans which looked exciting.

The Provost stressed the importance of the public making their views known at future consultation meetings.

b) Youth Club

Councillor Nicol advised that a three year lease had been signed with the ACE centre. Funding (£73,000) had been secured for the next three years and this was available to get the facility started. It was noted that 3/4 major stakeholders were interested in being involved.

It was recognised that this was a very exciting project for the town and its youth.

c) Petitions Committee – Kersfield Court

Councillor Weatherston reconfirmed that the original Petition had been rejected because it had been submitted on an unofficial application form. Councillor Weatherston undertook to lead on this issue and would be spending time at Christmas/New Year collecting signatures.

d) Pinnaclehill Woods

Councillor Mountford confirmed that he had attended a meeting of the Kelso Common Good Fund to consider the possibility of transferring the ownership of this land to the Woodland Trust. It was confirmed that due to the costs of legalities this would not be a viable option.

It was confirmed that the Kelso Common Good Fund meetings were held in private prior to the Area Forum meetings.

e) Jedburgh Road Fence

Councillor Weatherston confirmed that the SBC did not own this land and the liability for repairs to the fence lay with the owners of the land.

It was suggested that ownership of the land could be confirmed with the Land Registry, but a small charge would be made.

f) Smell/Woodside Park

Councillor Nicol advised that issues regarding smell were usually due to an operator fault but he would arrange a meeting with the houseowners and Scottish Water to investigate.

g) Travellers at Mayfield

It was noted that George Higgs would be invited to the January meeting to give a talk.

h) Traffic Warden and Car Parking in Kelso Centre

Councillor Weatherston advised that the provision of Traffic Wardens had been withdrawn by Police Scotland, with no consultation. Currently there is an issue in the town with some shopkeepers parking their cars all day in the 2 hour wait area. It was noted that due to works there were very few yellow lines in the Square

i) Flower Planters

The Provost advised that the Royal British Legion would continue to look after the planting at the war memorial.

It was noted that two of the planters at the top of the town were damaged and these should be taken away by the SBC and replaced with planters from the square which would be replaced by the new furniture.

Councillor Tomczyk advised he would raise this at the next Stakeholder meeting.

j) Town Hall lift

Councillor Mountford reported that £13,000 had been made available to upgrade the lift in the Kelso Town Hall.

k) Cuts to Schools

Councillor Scott asked for clarification on cuts to schools. Councillor Weatherston advised that this subject was not out to consultation and no decisions had been made.

l) NHS Borders

Councillor McGrath advised that he had attended an NHS Borders meeting and the next one was scheduled for 20/2/2014. A major subject of discussion was integrated health and social care.

Gallipoli Memorial 1915

The Provost spoke about the 1915 Gallipoli campaign and its impact on Kelso and the Borders. He advised that when he became Provost earlier in the year one of his first duties was the Kirkin of the Kelso Laddie and to lay a wreath at the Kelso War Memorial to the memory of the men of Kelso killed on 12 July 1915 in Gallipoli.

He advised that there was no specific memorial to these men, apart from part of Bowmount Street named "The Dardanelles".

The Provost advised that 41 men from Kelso were killed on that day, the biggest loss since Flodden.

As part of the one hundredth anniversary of the First World War, the British and Scottish Governments had recommended that communities try to commemorate a date which has a meaning to their community.

The Provost stated that he felt strongly that the Gallipoli campaign is an appropriate one and would recommend that a permanent memorial is erected in the town in memory of these men.

The Provost recommended that a grave stone be erected at the War Memorial to commemorate Gallipoli and this will be dedicated on Sunday 12 July 2014, which coincides with Civic Week.

Money to provide this memorial will be raised through public subscription, With the help of the SBC and the Kelso Laddies Association.

Future Kelso

Councillor Nicol advised that he had attended a meeting last week and it was agreed that the Bowmont Hall project would be put on ice at this stage. He advised that no local organisation was prepared to take on the ownership and therefore it would need to be reinstated on the SBC books.

Date of Next Meeting

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