

**MINUTE of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town
Hall, Kelso, on Tuesday 8th October
2013, at 7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT Provost Bassett (in the Chair), Councillors Hodges, D Weatherston, King and Tomczyk, Scottish Borders Councillors T Weatherston and Nicol.

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

APOLOGIES Councillors Horsburgh, McGrath and Scott, Scottish Borders Councillor Mountford.

Welcome

Provost Bassett welcomed members of the Council to the meeting.

Police Matters

As P C Howgego was unable to attend a written report was submitted and circulated to members and is attached to this minute.

Chamber of Trade Report

M Ballantyne stated that there had been a meeting of the Chamber earlier that evening. They were still trying to find someone to act as Vice Chairman and someone to act as Secretary of the organisation. The development of their website is almost completed and it is anticipated that it will be launched on 4th November and go live on 5th November. If the Community Council wished to get involved from the outset then the Secretary of the Chamber of Trade should be contacted. It was pointed out that the Community Council has a page on the website. Councillor T Weatherston asked now that Sainsbury's had been in existence for two years if it had had a major negative effect on the trading in the Town Centre. M Ballantyne stated that the problem with traders arose more from the current general economic situation rather than the arrival of Sainsbury's. It was felt that Sainsbury's may in fact be drawing people to the Town. It was noted that vacant shops within the Town are starting to get let. Councillor Tomczyk asked M Ballantyne when further progress was likely to be made on the toilet development in Horsemarket/Woodmarket. M Ballantyne stated that there had been some service issues which had delayed the project by some three months but it was hoped that the concrete work would commence shortly.

Provost Bassett thanked M Ballantyne for his attendance.

Borders Sport & Leisure Trust

Debra Martin the Area Manager of Borders Sport & Leisure Trust was in attendance and addressed the meeting. Ms Martin informed the meeting that she had commenced her appointment in April. The appointment took over some of the functions which had passed from Scottish Borders Council to the Borders Sport & Leisure Trust. She was responsible for the delivery of the service to people in the Eastern Borders covering Kelso, Duns and Eyemouth. Ms Martin circulated a document headed BSLT Strategy 2012-15. She/

She expanded on the five strategic pillars of the organisation. She stated that the Kelso Swimming Pool was one of the major functions within her remit. She was working with all sectors of the population encouraging more active lifestyles. As well as her appointment there was a Cluster Activity Co-ordinator appointed who covered the Primary Schools and the High School within the Kelso area. One of his major functions was the development of coaching. She was also working with local Health Services with the aim of creating healthier futures. She was also aiming to develop School Sports Clubs. She was anxious to make the Community more aware of her functions as Area Manager of the Trust.

Provost Bassett wondered if it would be possible for the Trust to pursue the need for an Athletic Track in the Kelso area as anyone wishing to participate in serious athletics had to travel on a regular basis to Tweedbank.

Ms Martin stated that there was a need to look at the facilities as a whole throughout the Borders. There were ambitions to develop indoor tennis within the area. In any development it was necessary to look at the best location.

Councillor Nicol pointed out that a 100m running track was included within the proposals for the new Kelso High School. Ms Martin stated that a four court badminton facility will be created at the High School but the Trust would have preferred this to have been a five court facility as it would have encouraged its use as a competition venue.

Provost Bassett thanked Ms Martin for her presentation.

Minute

The Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday the 10th September 2013 was approved on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor D Weatherston.

Matters Arising

a) **Stakeholder Group – Public Art**

Councillor Tomczyk stated that a Public Meeting had been held with Jake Harvey, the Artist in attendance. There had been a very disappointing turnout at this meeting with only twelve people attending. Councillor Tomczyk stated that the stone which would be basalt had been sourced in India. The stone weighs 30 tonnes. Jake Harvey will be visiting India to prepare the stone for its transportation to Kelso. The Councillors felt that it was essential to keep publicity about the work of art going and it was suggested that news of the Public Art should be included in the Community Council section of the website. Councillor D Weatherston thought it would also be useful to have progress reports on the THI included on the website. Councillor King was concerned about the lack of interest displayed by the community in the Public Art.

b) **Window**

Councillor Tomczyk stated that nothing else had happened with regard to a use for the window. Councillor D Weatherston stated that he had asked the Amenities Society if they had suggestions as to what it could be used for. Councillor Tomczyk stated that if any of the local Churches could find a use for it they would be very welcome to have it.

c) **Defibrillator/**

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Councillor T Weatherston stated that following further research it was felt that Kelso may have sufficient defibrillators and that the donor was looking for a potential use for the two spare defibrillators in other Border Towns. It was noted that there are currently five defibrillators in the Town at the High School, Cross Keys, Springwood Park, Queens Head Hotel and the Racecourse. Councillor D Weatherston stated that it was noted that in Coldstream there were yellow signs indicating the location of defibrillators and it was felt that this would also be a useful feature if it could be done in Kelso.

d) Dog Fouling

Provost Bassett stated that he had written to John Lamont on this matter and who had passed it to MSP Paul Wheelhouse. John Lamont had responded stating that he would look into the suggestions. Provost Bassett stated that he had no objections to dogs being on sports grounds but that they should be under control. Councillor T Weatherston stated that he was also endeavouring to take this matter forward through the offices of Scottish Borders Council and he felt that dogs should not be allowed on children's playgrounds and sports fields at all.

e) Coats of Arms

Councillor Tomczyk stated that he had been in correspondence with David Johnstone at Scottish Borders Council regarding the possible deterioration in the slab which would incorporate the Coat of Arm. It was pointed out by David Johnstone that the paving stone used would be the best sandstone and should be fairly resistant to wear and tear. He also suggested that it may be best to infill the design. It was agreed that the placing of the slab should go ahead with the Town's Coat of Arms engraved on an area outside the Town Hall.

f) Christmas Lights

Councillor T Weatherston stated that voting was currently in progress. It was agreed that the counting of the votes should take place at 3.30pm on Sunday 13th October in the Town Hall. The public should be encouraged to come to view the vote. It was felt that this could be advertised on Facebook. As soon as the results were known then the order for the lights could be placed. It was planned that the switch on of the lights would take place on 30th November at 7.00pm. There will be various activities taking place in the Square prior to the switch on.

g) Future Caravan Sites

It was agreed that this matter would be carried over to the next meeting. It is understood that Councillor McGrath will be approaching the Racecourse in this respect and Provost Bassett will approach the Border Union Agricultural Showground.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) From Michelle Thomson for internal and external alteration at Unit 1 – 21 Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) From M & J Ballantyne Ltd for the erection of Pant Well on land south west of 49 The Square, Kelso. The Council agreed with the plans in principle although it was noted that some of the design details were still to be clarified.
- c)/

- c) From Mr and Mrs James Bolton for the extension to dwellinghouse at Abbotsford Lodge, Abbotsford Grove, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- d) From Border Precision SSAS for the erection of wind turbine 67m high on land south east of Border Precision Services Ltd in Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate. It was understood that this plan has been modified to a 50m high turbine but the Council stated that it hopes that this would not set a precedent for other turbines. It was felt that the Council would have been more critical of the project had it not felt that it was an essential feature of maintaining employment at Border Precision.

Correspondence

- 1) A letter had been received from the Head of Corporate Governance at Scottish Borders Council informing the Council of a compulsory review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in preparation for the European Election and the Independence Referendum. Scottish Borders Council would therefore like to receive the comments from Community Councils on any issues with regard to Polling District and Polling Places in their area. The aim of the review is to ensure that all electors have reasonable and practicable facilities for voting and that Polling Stations are accessible to all electors including those who are disabled. The Council felt that the current arrangements with the use of the Tait Hall and Abbey Row are satisfactory and that no adjustment requires to be made.

The Secretary pointed out that he had written to the Boundary Commission earlier in the year regarding the possible extension of the Kelso area to include the area to Heiton. It was agreed that the Secretary should forward a copy of this letter to Scottish Borders Council.

- 2) A communication had been received from Clare Malster at Scottish Borders Council informing the Community Council that the proposed alteration to the boundary between Sprouston and Kelso Community Council areas with Wooden Mill being incorporated in Kelso will not go ahead. Similarly two Companies at Huntershall were being informed that proposals to alter the boundary to include them in Kelso Community Council area will be recommended for formal adoption when the Community Council Scheme revisions are reported to the Council.
- 3) A letter had been received from Legal & Licensing Services Manager at Scottish Borders Council confirming the transfer of ownership of the Punch Bowl and Salver donated by the family of Kelso's first Provost to the Common Good Fund. It was also confirmed that these items would be looked after by the Council's Museum Service and will remain on display in the Town Hall in the cabinet with plaques fixed to the cases.
- 4) A letter and a photographic image had been received from Mike Lomas of 1 Waldie Griffiths Drive, suggesting that the incorporation of more greenery in the Square would improve the overall look. The Secretary stated that he had sent copies of this letter and the photographic image to Colin Gilmour at Scottish Borders Council.
- 5)/

- 5) A letter had been received from Paul Boobyer Access Ranger at Scottish Borders Council setting out recent information on potential funding resources available to Community Councils particularly if Community Councils are considering projects to improve the local natural environment. Councillor Nicol asked if he could receive a copy of this document.
- 6) A copy of Briefing Notes regarding the current engagement and the possible introduction of Byelaws on the prohibition of consumption of alcohol in designated public places had been received. This had been circulated to all Community Councillors.
- 7) A letter had been received from Clarendon Planning and Development stating that the Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) which had been sent to the Community Council on 25th June regarding a consultation proposal for the 18th September has been put on hold and advice of any revised timescale will be circulated in due course. It was felt that this PAN was in relation to the land earmarked for the new High School Development.

Secretary's Report

a) **Sainsbury's Grants**

The Secretary informed the meeting that there had been 14 requests for grants received from local organisations prior to the closing date on 30th September. These applications had been vetted by the Grants Officer at Scottish Borders Council and copies of all the grant applications were being circulated to Community Council members. It was agreed that a meeting to consider the grant applications would be held in the Town Hall on Sunday 13th October at 2.30pm prior to the vote counting. The Secretary informed the meeting that amounts requested by organisations totalled £19,355. The amount available for distribution was £15,000 plus approximately £2,400 which was not utilised in 2012.

Area Forum Report

Councillor T Weatherston stated that no meeting had been held since the September meeting of the Community Council. Councillor T Weatherston stated that a meeting will be held in the near future which will discuss the bus services in the Cheviot area. Colin Douglas from Scottish Borders Council will be in attendance and Councillor Nicol asked that any questions which members wished to ask should be communicated to Colin Douglas prior to the meeting so that he could undertake the necessary research. Provost Bassett asked what the situation was with regard to the Kelso bus service which was currently provided by Sainsbury's. Councillor T Weatherston stated that Sainsbury's had agreed as part of their set up that they would provide a free bus service between Kelso Town Centre and the supermarket for a period of two years. He went on to say that discussions are currently taking place with Sainsbury's and it is thought that they will not drop the service after the two years has expired in October. It was thought that discussions may extend to incorporate the Sainsbury's service in a whole Town bus service. Councillor Nicol stated that a review of Town services throughout the Borders would be taking place but any implementation of recommendations would not take place for two years.

Scottish Borders Council Report/

Scottish Borders Council Report

a) Toilet Signage

Councillor Nicol stated that this had now been resolved although he had been approached by some people to say that they wanted more signage. The Community Council generally felt that the signage which had been erected was adequate.

b) Recycling

Councillor Nicol stated that he felt that Scottish Borders Council would not be prepared to reduce the price of the pick up service because of the withdrawal of the skip service in the Knowes. Councillor Nicol stated that he did not want to press this matter further as he was anxious to get a proper solution to the problem with the creation of a recycling site in the Cheviot area. All three Councillors were keeping up the pressure and he was sure that the review, when it takes place, will see the uneven distribution of services throughout the Borders and the problem which arises in the Cheviot area. Councillor T Weatherston stated that he understood that the review will take place in 2014. Councillor Tomczyk asked if there was an exact date when the review would be finished and wondered whether a survey should be carried out. Councillor Nicol stated that it was appreciated that there was a shortage of facilities in the Cheviot area. Councillor T Weatherston felt that some savings could be effected as he felt that in some areas two alternative services were being provided. Councillor Nicol stated that there was recognition that facilities were needed but there was no money available to solve the problem. Councillor Hodges stated that she understood that information had been gathered regarding the problem and she stated that she would endeavour to pass this information to Councillor Nicol. Councillor King also raised the question of fortnightly collections and felt that some families were not able to cope with this. Provost Bassett pointed out that if application is made to Scottish Borders Council larger bins will be provided.

c) New Kelso High School

Provost Bassett stated that consultation had been taking place with staff regarding the design of rooms in the new School. He understood that the School will be built to cater for a maximum of 780 pupils. It was pointed out that there was a Public Exhibition held in the Town Hall but it was felt that very few people had visited the Exhibition. It was generally accepted that it had not been advertised widely enough. With regard to the accommodation in the School it was pointed out that there would be a large number of multipurpose rooms which could cater for the delivery of teaching for a variety of subjects. By designing the rooms in such a way the number of rooms required will be reduced by 10%.

Councillor Bassett also stated that he understood that £11M was to be saved out of the overall Education Budget at Scottish Borders Council.

Councillor Tomczyk asked if there was any further information regarding the use of the existing High School building once the School moves to its new site. Councillor Nicol stated that issues arose because of the fact that the whole site did include, within it, protected buildings. As part of the business case for the new School consideration had to be given as to how the old site would be developed. At the moment no decision had been made. Councillor Tomczyk stated that alternative uses for the School would have an impact on both Kelso Rugby Club and St Mary's Church and he felt that Community should be consulted on the ultimate plans for the use of the old School. Councillor Nicol stated that proposals for the old School site will be very much in the public eye of Kelso.

c) Youth Club/

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Councillor Nicol stated that he and Councillor Weatherston had attended a meeting that day at the ACE Centre which had been organised between the Cheviot Youth Group, the Education Department and Border Ice Rink Ltd the owners. Border Ice Rink want to find a new tenant for the property. Councillor Nicol stated that funding had been identified for the potential use of the Centre. He felt that any development could be very exciting as it was well placed near the new School site.

d) Petitions Committee

Councillor T Weatherston stated that a petition had been lodged by the residents of Kerfield Court but this had been rejected because of the fact that it had not utilised a set template. It is Councillor Weatherston's intention to go around each of the residents at Kerfield Court to ask them to sign on to a revised petition which is in the form of the recognised template.

e) Pinnaclehill Woods

It was pointed out that Councillor Mountford was looking into this. Councillor Nicol stated that the area where rubbish was being dumped was owned by Kelso Common Good Fund and the clearing of the debris had been charged to the Common Good Fund. Councillor Nicol felt that this ground would have the same status as the Tait Hall which because of its public use any expenses were met by Scottish Borders Council. He felt that this treatment should be extended to Pinnaclehill Woods and should not amount to a cost to the Common Good Fund. Councillor Nicol and T Weatherston will consider this further.

f) Jedburgh Road Fence

Councillor Nicol stated that Jedburgh Road fence adjacent to Springwood Bank was not the responsibility of Scottish Borders Council. The titles of this had been examined. It will therefore be necessary for residents in that area to check their own title deeds as to who is felt to be responsible. Councillor Hodges stated that as she lived in that area some residents had checked their titles and found it was the residents' responsibility. Discussion then turned to the fence adjacent to the Old Cottage Hospital Car Park. It was pointed out that this fence was in very poor repair. There was some thought that this fence would be the responsibility of the current residents of the flats on the site of the Old Cottage Hospital. Councillor T Weatherston will write to the Legal Department for clarification on this.

g) Traffic Warden

Councillor Nicol stated that the Traffic Warden Service throughout Scotland was being withdrawn and that the Police were taking up the role.

h) Smells/Woodside Park Area

Councillor Nicol stated there had been ongoing problems with smells in the surrounding area of Woodside Park arising from the sewage work. Scottish Water had stated that the matter had been dealt with but it was thought that there was still a problem.

i) Kelso/Roxburgh Rail Track

Councillor Nicol stated that money had been made available for the improvement of the pathway formed on the old railway track.

j) Travellers at Mayfield

Councillor Nicol stated that he had taken this matter up with the Inspector of Police. The people who were currently on Mayfield were the same people who had spent time earlier in the year. Councillor Hodges asked if there had been any monitoring of dog fouling in that area. Councillor Nicol stated that he will raise this matter with the Police. Councillor/

Councillor King wondered if it was possible for the Council to make a charge for the use of this area. Councillor Nicol stated that there would be a reluctance to levy a charge as it would legitimise the use of the land. Councillor Nicol stated that he understood that an appropriate person who is able to communicate well with such travellers will try to encourage them to take steps to remove themselves from the site.

k) Mill Wynd

The meeting was informed that there will be temporary closures of Mill Wynd for the next two weekends.

l) Restaurant Bin

Councillor Nicol stated that there had been a problem with a big bin used for the disposal of refuse by a local restaurant in Horsemarket. There is a problem with the current location of the bin but no solution has yet been found as to an alternative location.

Resilient Communities

Councillor D Weatherston stated that he had been in discussions with Jim Fraser of Scottish Borders Council who would like to address the Community Council about Resilient Communities to see if Kelso could take this forward. Councillor Weatherston stated that there were 15 Community Councils currently active in organising Resilient Communities Schemes with a further 35 progressing. Kelso and Selkirk were the only two Councils not pursuing this at the moment. Mr Fraser had informed Councillor Weatherston that if Kelso signs up to this all the necessary leaflets will be sent out.

Future Kelso

Councillor Nicol stated that the next meeting of Future Kelso would be on 7th November 2013 at 7.30pm.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso, on Tuesday, 12th November 2013 at 7.00pm.