

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community  
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso  
on Tuesday 14 April 2015, at 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Provost John Bassett (Chair), Councillors Dean Weatherston, Gavin Horsburgh, Peter Cooper, Alan Hall and John King and Scottish Borders Councillors Alec Nicol and Simon Mountford.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Harry Tomczyk, Fiona Scott, Colin McGrath, Tamzin Thomas, Betty Hodges, SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston and Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland) and Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade)

- Please note questions to either the Scottish Borders Councillors or Kelso Community Councillors need to be submitted in writing to the Secretary seven days prior to meeting.
- All Councillors to make a declaration of interest prior to discussion.
- All correspondence to be circulated via the Secretary.

**Welcome**

Provost John Bassett welcomed members of the Council and public (Jeanette Forbes and Colin Bank) to the meeting.

**Resilient Communities**

The Provost advised Scott Forbes was unable to attend this meeting but would be invited to the meeting on 10 June 2015 to give a presentation on Defibrillators.

**Police Matters**

The Secretary advised the March 2015 Police Scotland report had previously been circulated. Suzanne Howgego had given apologies. The Police Scotland report was noted. Councillors expressed concern regarding illegal parking in the town and the lack of resources to enforce penalties. Councillor Nicol advised he would give an update under the SBC section later in the minutes.

**Chamber of Trade report**

No report had been received from the Chamber of Trade.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Dean Weatherston and seconded by Councillor John King.

## **Matters arising**

a) Public Toilets (Wee Gallery, Knowes Car Park)

The Secretary advised she had written to SBC and they had agreed to take the premises off the market for the time being to allow the Community Council time to consider options. SBC had reconfirmed there was no funding available to undertake the conversion works or run the facility.

The Provost advised he had given an update to Radio Borders earlier that day and confirmed the way forward was to put together a business case for the conversion and running of the premises as public toilets. The Provost asked if a meeting of the sub group and SBC officers could be organised by the end of the month.

b) Memorial Wall

Councillor King advised the sub committee would be meeting Jason Hedley (SBC) and representatives from Robertson Memorials on 21 April at 10.30. SBC Councillor Mountford will attend. Councillor King will report back to the next meeting.

c) Cinema

Councillor Cooper reminded Councillors of a request received from Film Mobile Scotland, an independent cinema company that specialising in working with existing film clubs, to see if there was interest in Kelso to set up a Film Club. It was acknowledged there was a financial liability and 120 people would need to participate at a cost of £7.00 per film showing. A discussion took place on suitable venues within Kelso and it was agreed the new High School would be an ideal venue. The Provost asked Councillor Cooper to identify potential partners who would be interested in taking this forward.

d) Bus service 120 - Kelso – Jedburgh – Hawick timetable options

The Secretary confirmed details of the bus service 120 timetable options had previously been circulated. Councillor Dean Weatherston advised details had been uploaded onto the Kelso Facebook site. The Community Council had no comments.

e) Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

## **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary gave the following update:

- She reminded Councillors the Annual General Meeting would be held on 12 May 2015 and an advertisement had been prepared and would be placed in the Southern Reporter.
- She had replied to SBC regarding the Health and Social Care consultation.
- Memorial Fund – additional donations had been received from Trevor Black (Showground), Martin Jarvis (Farmers Market) and the Provost.

- She had contacted SBC requesting additional litter bins. No response had been received and Councillor Nicol agreed to follow up. The Provost advised he was available for a walk around the town to identify suitable sites.
- The Secretary asked Councillors to complete the feedback forms from CAB on last month's presentation on Universal Benefits.
- The Secretary advised a new standard item had been added to the agenda to cover licensing applications.
- The Secretary advised words for the Diamond Jubilee tree plaque had been submitted to SBC.
- She reported the Visit Kelso website had been updated to include the two new Councillors.

### **Correspondence**

The Secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors and a summary schedule had been compiled which would be attached to the minutes as an Appendix. In addition the following correspondence was received:

- A letter from SBC inviting the Community Council to enter the Floral Gateway Competition for 2015 (closing date 29 May 2015 and judging expected to take place during the two weeks commencing 20 July 2015). The Provost advised this was an activity the Community Council had previously participated in but due to lack of funds they would be unable to participate this year. However, the Community Council agreed this activity should be considered for 2016 and asked SBC Councillors whether any additional funding would be available. Councillor Nicol undertook to discuss with Jason Hedley.
- A thank you letter had been received from George Young for the inscribed memento presented to him in recognition of retirement as Secretary of the Community Council.
- The Bridge newsletter for February 2015. Councillors agreed to renew the annual subscription at a cost of £10.00.
- Spring Clean 2015 – an initiative organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful and supported by Scottish Borders Council. This is an initiative aimed to encourage volunteers to get involved and take part in community led litter picking projects. Councillors advised this was an activity they participated in on an annual basis. The Provost asked for the Community Council's thanks to be placed on record for the work SBC undertaken to keep the town clean and tidy.
- Gail Watson a local trader had written to the Community Council to advise she would be representing Scotland at RHS Chelsea and had asked whether the Community Council could assist with funding. Councillors acknowledged Gail's achievement but advised there was no funding available. They suggested she approached the Chamber of Trade, Charity Begins at Home and consider setting up a Crowd Fund.

### **Scottish Borders Council Report**

### Area Forum

Councillor T Weatherston had given apologies but it was noted there was no feedback from the meeting which affected Kelso.

### Roger Fish Allotment area

Councillor D Weatherston advised an Allotment Association, in conjunction with residents and Eildon Housing had already been set up and 7 out of the 8 allotments had been let.

### Kelso High School

Councillor Nicol advised building work on the new High School had been delayed due to a European ruling which has affected a number of new building projects across Scotland. The law change affects schemes processed through the Scottish Futures Trust. They were treated as private sector projects but now they must be considered public sector. Councillor Nicol advised the Scottish government were aware of the problem but was confident a solution would be found as soon as possible.

### Kelso Recycling Centre update

Councillor Nicol advised the recycling centre was on schedule and it was anticipated it would open in May.

### Questions to SBC Councillors

Cheviot Vets planning application –The Provost advised a letter of support had been submitted from Kelso Community Council. Councillor Mountford advised SBC economic development officers were working with Cheviot Vets to resolve the planning issue.

Encouragement of business development within Kelso – Councillor D Weatherston advised the Tempest Brewery, a local firm, had in the past failed to secure appropriate premises in Kelso and therefore had no option but to choose a location outside the town, in this instance Tweedbank. As a consequence local jobs had been lost from Kelso to Tweedbank. SBC Councillors commented they had never been approached in the past to offer assistance with planning and emphasised they were always available to help assist local businesses with any issues.

Councillor Horsburgh commented a premises in Abbotsford Road had remained empty for a long time but the rent had increased by £10,000 in five years.

Councillor Nicol suggested the Kelso Community Council write a letter outlining their concerns and disappointment with SBC Regulatory Services. The letter should be sent to Brian Frater, Head of Regulatory Services.

### SBC Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Mountford advised the Scrutiny Committee had recently been reinstated and they were actively seeking proposals for review.

Car Parking - Councillor Nicol advised he would arrange to undertake a survey of cars parking in Kelso town centre, noting car registration numbers. The Provost

advised this issue had been discussed with the Chamber of Trade. It was agreed the issue of illegal car parking was a Police matter.

The Kelpies – Councillor Mountford advised the Kelpies would be coming to Kelso over the weekend of 15 – 18 May 2015 and would be on display in The Square. This particular weekend coincided with activities at Floors Castle (Horse Trials) and the Showground (Borders Vintage Agricultural Association annual rally).

Flower beds – Councillor Nicol commented that several of the flower beds in the town were untidy and unkempt and wondered whether groups of individuals would consider adopting one in particular to maintain their upkeep. He advised SBC would provide funding to clear away the rubbish and provide suitable planting.

Bowmont Hall – Councillor Hall asked for an update on the status of Bowmont Hall and Councillor Nicol advised although SBC had purchased the property no tenant could be found and therefore the building stood empty and in a bad state of repair.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Erection of boundary fence 51 Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) Alterations and extension to children's nursery to form office and staff accommodation, Castlegate Nursery, Spylaw Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- c) Change of use from Class 5 (light industry) to Class 11 (assembly and leisure), Abbey Tool and Gauge, Spylaw Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- d) Alterations to form a new access to the Post Office, Horsemarket, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

### **Consideration of Licenses**

The Council considered the following application:

- a) The Vibe nightclub, Kelso. The Council objected to the proposed extended opening times and comments had been submitted to the Licensing Board.
- b) Beer Craft 2 Horsemarket, Kelso. 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 12 May 2015 at 7.00pm