

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 12 January 2016, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors Dean Weatherston (Chair), Harry Tomczyk, Colin McGrath, Tamzin Thomas, Peter Cooper, Fiona Scott, John King, Betty Hodges, Gavin Horsburgh and Alan Hall and Scottish Borders Councillors Alec Nicol, Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) and Bob Stevenson (member of public)

APOLOGIES: Councillor John Bassett 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

Chair Dean Weatherston welcomed members to the meeting and a member of the public, Bob Stevenson.

Police Matters

PS Suzanne Howgego had tendered her apologies and her December report had been circulated for comments and feedback.

Councillor J King raised the issue of young drivers using the one way road, Maxwell Lane, in both directions, as a race track at nights and asked for this to be reported to the Police.

SBC Councillor S Mountford advised the police were already aware of this, but encouraged us to write to the Police anyways.

Post meeting – Suzanne Howgego advised they were aware of this issue as Inspector Scott had passed details onto herself and Roads Policing Department.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone tendered his apologies and there was no report to consider.

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2015 were approved subject to minor textual amendments. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor John King.

Matters arising

a) **Twinning opportunities with Kelso USA**

The secretary advised she had been in contact with the Kelso City Manager, USA who welcomed the interest in furthering relationships between the two communities. As agreed informal links will be made with the local School, Church and Rotary Club. Contact details will be sent in due course.

The secretary advised an email had been received from Brian Sanders General Manager of Toyota (Kelso, USA) who had read an article in his local press regarding potential twinning opportunities. He is keen to facilitate a visit of his top salesperson to visit Kelso UK and asked for our support and suggestions. Councillor D Weatherston advised he would discuss this with the Visit Kelso committee.

It was noted Sandy Devers had set up a Kelso International Facebook page.

b) **Memorial Wall**

Councillor King advised a meeting had been scheduled for Thursday 14 January with Jim Walker of Robertson Memorials to progress matters. It was noted Robertson's involvement with the project was a commercial one. Councillor King advised the plaques would be permanent and after the initial installation cost there would be no lease to be paid.

Councillor A Nicol circulated a sketch proposal for Rosebank Cemetery Memorial Garden to be situated in the centre of the old section which was used for storage prior to Neighbourhood Service's move to Pinnaclehill. This included a three sided wall, new seating and a new hedge to be planted inside the existing fence. He also advised other options for consideration could include a memorial walkway plaque or Columbarium. Councillor Nicol advised he was optimistic community funding money could be found to fund the layout of the area.

After discussion it was agreed a memorial wall was the best option. The next step would be for a questionnaire to be circulated to gauge public support. Councillor Tomczyk advised he had drafted the questionnaire. It was noted the cost of providing plaques needed to be established.

Councillor Scott asked whether consideration had been given to set aside a sensitive dedicated area for babies and infants

c) Youth Representative

The secretary advised Councillor Bassett was currently in discussion with the High School to invite youth representatives to attend and feed into the Kelso Community Council meetings. Councillor Scott welcomed this initiative as it would be useful to receive feedback from this age group.

d) Parking – Glebe field

Councillors noted the comments from SBC regarding the proposal to form additional parking in this area. SBC had stated there were too many obstacles with the proposal which make the supporting of the proposal most unlikely. Councillors voiced their disappointment particularly as building work will start in Roxburgh/Union Street in March which will result in losing the car parking. SBC Councillors were asked to put pressure on SBC to identify an area for additional parking.

Councillor Nicol commented the way forward would be to decriminalise parking and introduce a warden service and he was pushing hard for this. Councillor T Weatherston commented people prefer to park next to the shops they wish to visit and do not prefer to park outside the town and walk in.

Councillor Tomczyk asked whether there was a timescale to introduce decriminalised parking. Council Nicol advised he was not aware of one but decriminalising parking was due to be discussed at a future Council Executive meeting.

Councillor Tomczyk asked whether designated spaces could be introduced in Rose Lane. Councillor Nicol undertook to find out and report back.

e) Questions from the public

Councillors raised concern regarding the state of Trinity Church and asked whether the Council had any funding to purchase the site to provide additional parking. Councillor Nicol advised the Council could apply for a Waste Land Notice so improvements could be enforced.

Councillor King asked whether the town clock could be switched on for Old Years Night. Councillor Scott suggested one of the local churches could ring their bells. It was agreed this was an issue that need public consultation and Councillor D Weatherston agreed to raise it at the next Visit Kelso meeting and put some information on the Kelso Community Council Facebook page.

Correspondence

The secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors and a summary schedule had been compiled. In addition the following documents had been received:

An invitation from Friends of Kelso Museum to attend a meeting to discuss how to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Kelso Town House. Councillors A Hall, D Weatherston and H Tomczyk would be attending.

Secretary's Report

Kelso in Bloom - Floral Gateway Competition - The secretary reported she had been in contact with local organisations who had expressed an interest in being involved and a meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 19 January 2016. Jason Hedley from SBC had sent guidelines for the Floral Gateway competition and Alistair Finnie had agreed to attend the meeting to offer guidance.

Defibrillator Training - Scott Forbes had been in touch to advise the training session at Kelso Community Fire Station on Wednesday 27 January 2016 had been cancelled and a new date needed to be established. The date of Wednesday 24 February has been suggested. The secretary will follow up and confirm.

Meetings with MPs - The secretary advised she had been in contact with John Lamont who would be attending out March meeting and Calum Kerr had agreed to meet the Council but the date needed to be established.

Secretary's Honorarium – the Chair advised the Honorarium had been fixed at £600 for the past five years and asked Councillors for feedback. It was agreed this would be increased to £750 per annum. This was proposed by Councillor Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor King.

The secretary advised she had written to the Leader of SBC regarding the Borders Railway and a response had been received which had been circulated and indicated that the option of extending the line via Kelso to Berwick would be included in the considerations of the future of the Border Railway.

The secretary reminded Councillors Ann Underwood and family would be attending our February meeting to present her Fathers photo - Mr Ferguson who was Provost in the 1960s. She would like to provide sherry and canapés for the Community Council and all councillors were welcome. It was noted Provost Ferguson was a Provost under the old form of the Burgh Council prior to reorganisation and none of the other Burgh Council Provost have their photos on display. Councillor F Scott advised the display of Honorary Provosts were arranged in sequence on the staircase and none of the Burgh Council Provosts were included, although they had been acknowledged by having their names displayed on the past Provosts' board in the Chamber and their names had been engraved on the Provosts' chain of office. It was suggested the framed photo of Provost Ferguson could be placed on the wall outside the hall door and to arrange for the last three Provosts of the Burgh Council to go there as well as they still have living relatives in the town. Councillor Scott reminded members there was an album of photos of Burgh Council Provosts stored upstairs in the town hall. It was agreed the way forward would be for a discussion between SBC, Friends of Kelso Museum and Community Councillors.

Scottish Borders Council

Area Forum

Councillor T Weatherston advised the next Area Forum meeting would take place in Jedburgh on 3 February and extended an invitation to Councillors. He would also

welcome any subjects for discussion. Councillor Tomczyk indicated that he would not be able to attend as he is away.

Councillor T Weatherston advised there would be no changes to Neighbourhood Services this year as savings under the Area Review had been met through staffing costs, but going forward areas for savings would need to be identified throughout the Borders area.

Kelso High School and Broomlands Primary School update

Councillor T Weatherston read a statement in relation to the new High School. It is planned that both the High School and Broomlands will be open in August 2017. Start dates to be released. There will be an update after next week's full SBC Council meeting.

Springwood Terrace / Jedburgh Road

Councillor Nicol reported he had met with the two owners of the fence to advise the state of the fence was being discussed at the Kelso Community Council meeting. One of the owners acknowledged their responsibility and the other is going to consult their solicitor.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor D Weatherston asked whether the one way illuminated sign into Woodmarket and the no entry sign into Horsemarket could be replaced, having been stolen in the last few weeks of 2015. It was also noted that two of the planters in the Square had been moved.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouse 4 Rose Lane, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) Alterations to form new glazed gable, 22 Bridge Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections and supported the application.

It was noted the SBC appeal panel overturned the planning officer's decision and granted planning permission for Mr J Hewit's new house at Park Lane, which the Kelso Community Council had supported.

Consideration of Licenses

No Variation of Premises Licence had been received for consideration.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 7.00pm