

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 11 November 2014, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Provost John Bassett (Chair), Councillors Dean Weatherston, Harry Tomczyk, Betty Hodges, Fiona Scott, Peter Cooper and John King and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Mark Entwistle (Southern Reporter), Ally McGilvray (Borders Telegraph), Andrew Drummond-Hunt (SBC) and Mark Douglas (SBC)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Colin McGrath and Gavin Horsburgh, SBC Councillor Alec Nicol, 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 declare a declaration of interest prior to discussion

Welcome

Provost John Bassett welcomed members of the Council and local press to the meeting.

Presentation on future use of the existing Kelso High School

The Provost welcomed Andrew Drummond-Hunt (Head of Properties and Facilities Management) and Mark Douglas (Heritage team) Scottish Borders Council to the meeting to give an overview on the future use of the existing Kelso High School site.

Andrew Drummond-Hunt advised the Council has been undertaking some background work for the old high school site with Historic Scotland to find out what is feasible from a listed buildings perspective, bearing in mind the original art deco core of the building is considered to have a high architectural and historic value.

The Council wishes to dispose of the premises for a viable use and the preferred option is for housing, with up to 62 properties given its location within a residential area. It was noted the proposal shown has a high number of flats and there was concern about the lack of demand for this type of housing. Also being considered are commercial uses ie offices, workshops and an hotel. The facade of the old building will be retained.

Andrew Drummond-Hunt emphasised the importance of the whole site being developed as a complete entity.

Councillors requested the provision of adequate parking and parking for those attending the Rugby and access in particular to the Rugby ground.

It was noted plans are at an early stage and talks will continue with SBC, KCC, KRFC and Heritage Scotland.

The Provost thanked Andrew Drummond-Hunt and Mark Douglas for their presentation.

Police Matters

It was noted PC Suzanne Howgego had tendered her apologies and the October 2014 Police Scotland report had been circulated.

Councillors asked the Secretary to contact Suzanne Howgego and request an update on the prowler and the issue of dangerous parking on the junction of The Butts. Councillors suggested the introduction of yellow lines to alleviate this.

Councillors raised their concern regarding the delay by Police Scotland of the investigation into the Jim Clark Rally and therefore its cancellation next year. Councillors expressed their disappointment and in particular the loss of income to the area. It was noted Councillors would fully support the reinstatement of the Rally in the future.

Chamber of Trade report

Mr Alan Livingstone had tendered his apologies and advised there was no report to be made as the Chamber of Trade had not met since the last Kelso Community Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 October 2014 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Dean Weatherston.

Matters arising

a) Stakeholders Briefing

Councillor Harry Tomczyk advised the official opening ceremony had taken place on 30 October which had gone well. Presentations had been made to Jake Harvey and Charlie Robinson and the Town Crest was now on display at the entrance to the Town House.

It was noted the new business hub was an excellent facility and the tenants were very pleased with the premises.

Councillor Tom Weatherston advised more local signage would be provided, including ones to the public toilets.

It was noted there were certain road markings incomplete and Councillor Simon Mountford advised the situation would be resolved soon.

Councillor John King advised one of the planters at the taxi rank needed to be adjusted to allow three taxis to fit in.

Councillor Fiona Scott asked whether a disability access evaluation had been undertaken to measure what improvements had been put in place as a result of the town works for disabled people. Councillor Simon Mountford undertook to report back. It was noted there are seven disabled parking spaces in the town. Councillor Simon Mountford advised the new pedestrian walkways gave improved disabled access

Councillor Dean Weatherston requested temporary signs be erected at the old bus stops to advise people these had been relocated.

The Provost requested Councillors make note of any outstanding issues that need addressing and minor adjustments could be done to complete the project.

b) Memorial Wall

Councillor John King advised he had met with Jason Hedley from SBC and it was confirmed the present wall was not a viable option to hold plaques. It was noted the major cost for the project would be labour and the Provost asked whether Borders College could be approached to see if they would be prepared to allow their apprentices to undertake the building work. Councillor Harry Tomczyk agreed to work with Councillor King to see how to progress this project. Councillor Tom Weatherston advised some funding could be available through the Community Grant schemes.

c) Sainsbury's Grant 2014

It was noted 30 applications had been received asking for a total of £39,792. Funds available for distribution are £22,380. Councillors would be holding an additional meeting on the 12 November to consider the applications.

d) Questions from public

There were no questions from the public raised.

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.

The Provost asked for thanks to be passed to Kelso Horticultural Society, Kelso Farmers Market and The Border Union Agricultural Society for agreeing to fund and plant winter flowers for the next three years at Bridgend. It was noted the Community Council will pay for summer 2015 planting and the horticultural society will plant them.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised Councillor Hodges had agreed to get involved with the Maxwellheugh Trust.

The Secretary reminded Councillors to submit their personal details for inclusion on the web pages.

The Secretary advised she would be the nominated data protection officer

Resilient Communities – Mike Lomas had advised he had identified a person who may become the co-ordinator and was keen to be involved. It was noted Earlston High School and Kelso High School had expressed an interest in undertaking a Resilient Communities exercise.

It was noted the Borders Network of Conservation Groups had requested copies of the minutes of the Community Council and requested they be added to mailing list.

The CCTV had been installed at the public toilets.

Meeting to be arrange with Cheviot Youth Organisation in December.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Area Forum

It was noted the next Area Forum would be held on the 26 November in Jedburgh and urged members to submit items for the agenda. Councillor Weatherston reminded Councillors the Area Forum meetings were open to the public.

Recycling Centre

Councillor Tom Weatherston advised building work had started on the Kelso Community Recycling Centre, to be located on the Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate. The project is expected to be completed in spring 2015

The Butts

Councillors raised the issue of dangerous parking on the junction of The Butts and the bad state of the road and footpath. Councillors suggested the introduction of yellow lines to alleviate this. Councillor Tom Weatherston undertook to investigate and the Secretary was asked to pass comments onto Police Scotland.

The Provost commented there were two Victorian concrete horse troughs within the town and he asked if their ownership was known and whether they were listed.

Councillor King commented the paving slabs in Roxburgh Street were unstable.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Change of use from retail to podiatry clinic, 24 Horsemarket, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

- b) Alterations to wall and footpath at 108 Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- c) Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signage Merlin Veterinary Group, The Knowes, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

Councillors raised the issue of flower boxes at the Town House and what their future use should be given limited funding and they were not seen from the Square. Councillor Tom Weatherston undertook to speak to the previous Provost Margaret Riddell for options. It was noted SBC paid for the flowers in the Square.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 9 December 2014 at 7.00pm