

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso  
Community Council held in the Town  
Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 8 April 2014, at 7.00 pm**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade) Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), George Young, Russel Blood (Jim Clark Rally), David Johnston (SBC) and Mark Entwistle (Southern Reporter)

**APOLOGIES:** Provost John Bassett, Betty Hodges and Gavin Horsburgh

**Welcome**

Councillor Dean Weatherston welcomed members of the Council to the meeting.

**Presentation – Jim Clark Rally**

Russel Blood, Event Organiser for the Jim Clark Rally had been invited to the meeting to hear about the town works programme. He had been advised the main square in front of the Town Hall would be fenced off which would prevent the erection of a podium for the prize giving ceremony at the end of the Rally.

Mr Blood advised the Rally would take place between Friday 30 May and Sunday 1 June 2014. He advised his committee had decided to utilise the facilities at the Showground as a service area and they were trying to increase revenue by developing a Show along with the Rally. The Jim Clark Rally based at Kelso was the most successful one in the country and they expected 230 competitors, of which 10 would come from overseas. It was estimated the Rally brought income of £4.5 million into the Borders.

Mr Blood advised they had taken a let for three years at the Showground and were hopeful of developing the event. He advised there was between 3 – 4 thousand hours of overseas TV coverage for the event and a separate team had been established to develop and promote the event. They were trying to expand the area of the Rally routes into the Scottish Borders as a whole rather than simply Berwickshire with Kelso as the central point.

Mr Blood concluded by advising the Square was the favoured point for the finish of the Rally, however, he appreciated that with all the works currently taking place they would not expect to have the event in the town this year.

The Chair thanked Mr Blood for attending and advised he was pleased they were utilising the facilities at Springwood Showground. Tom Weatherston (SBC) commented the Kelso Community Council and SBC always welcomed the Rally and wished it success.

## **Police Matters**

Apologies had been received from PC Howgego. The Secretary advised the February 2014 Police Scotland report had previously been circulated.

## **Chamber of Trade report**

Mr Livingston advised all officer positions had been filled with the exception of the Secretary post but he was hopeful of appointing someone soon.

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 March 2014 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor John King and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

## **Matters arising**

### a) Resilient Communities

The Secretary advised she had contacted the Emergency Planning Officer at SBC and they were drawing up a list of clubs and associations within the Kelso area to invite to a meeting later in the year.

### b) Caravan Park provision

Councillor McGrath advised he had spoken to both the Race Course and Showground concerning the provision of caravan parking. The Race Course had raised the issue with their Board and they advised it would only be possible if it was in conjunction with a private joint venture. Both the Race Course and the Showground advised there would be an issue in providing staff to man the facilities.

### c) Stakeholders Briefing

David Johnston SBC had been invited to the meeting to outline the programme of works for the town. He advised the programme was on display in the Library and in the Square. He had visited all businesses that were affected by the works and was not aware of any delivery issues. He flagged up one potential issue on the 24 May with the Cross Keys Hotel who had a wedding party booking.

Mr Johnston emphasised the importance of getting the work completed by Civic Week.

Mr Johnston advised there may be an issue accommodating the Farmers Market on the 26 April and 24 May due to access and limited parking availability and they were looking at options as to where to locate the Farmers Market.

Councillor Tom Weatherston declared an interest as he sat on the Farmers Market Committee. However, he advised the Farmers Market would not wish to be located outside the Square area or put in an indoors location. He commented people travelled from Newcastle and Wooler to attend the Market.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed a compromise would be to locate the Farmers Market in the area outside Greggs, where it would be visible from the Square and have stalls leading through the Dardanelles and utilising the car park around the Cobbles.

It was noted the stall holders who required electricity would need to provide portable generators.

Mr Johnston would put this proposition to the Farmers Market.

Mr Livingston raised the issue of the Farmers Market and the impact it had on food retailers in the town.

Councillor Dean Weatherston advised there was a Scooter Rally planned for the weekend of 24 May and 10,000 scooters were expected and asked whether portaloos could be made available due to the absence of public conveniences.

Gap Site Horsemarket/Woodmarket – noted the work was on schedule and was due to be complete mid June. Name of the building to be confirmed.

Noted that area at the top of Dardanelles was untidy and need to establish who owns the land.

Bridge Street parking – need a loading bay – Traders to confirm their preferred location.

Pantwell – noted planning permission had been approved. SBC would take over ownership. It will have an electric supply but no water.

Taxi rank to remain where it is until the town works are complete.

Showground – noted there needs to be signs within the town centre directing people to the Showground.

Public Art – work progressing well. Carving of names to start in May. Unveiling by the Kelso Laddie will take place on the Monday of Civic Week, this will be in conjunction with the opening of the Art Exhibition in the Town Hall.

Next Stakeholders' meeting – 29 May 2014.

### **Correspondence**

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

Annual Membership for the Bridge (providing community and voluntary sector support). The Secretary advised the membership was £10.00 and members unanimously agreed this should be paid.

SBC Spring Clean Scotland 2014.

### **Secretary's Report**

- a) Annual General Meeting  
The Secretary reminded members the Annual General Meeting would take place at 7.00pm on 13 May 2014 immediately prior the Kelso Community Council meeting which would take place at 7.15pm.
- b) Framed photo of previous and current Provost for Town Hall  
It was noted these were now available and we were waiting for the caretaker to install them.
- c) Alastair White  
The Secretary reminded members the presentation to Alastair White was still outstanding and suggested this takes place at the AGM in May. Members agreed and asked the Secretary to contact Mr White and invite him to the meeting.
- d) Electronic copies of plans  
The Secretary asked whether members would like to receive electronic copies of planning applications. It was agreed they would prefer to receive paper copies of planning applications but were happy to receive consultation documents, road closure notifications etc by email. Secretary to advise SBC.

Councillor McGrath will raise this issue at the next Network Meeting.

### **Area Forum Report**

Councillor Tom Weatherston advised the next Area Forum would be held in Kelso and there would be a presentation on the new High School. Councillor Weatherston commented there was disappointment at the lack of attendance by members of the public and he urged members to put forward agenda items for discussion that would attract the public. He commented there would be a review of the role of the Area Forums whose purpose was for members of the public to come along and ask questions of the SBC.

### **Scottish Borders Council Report**

- a) Youth Club  
It was noted this project was ongoing and funding was available for the next three years. It was noted there was no launch date but a full feature would appear in the Southern this week.
- b) Memorial Garden  
Councillor Nicol suggested a working group be set up of the Kelso Community Council and SBC to see what could be provided locally and carry through an application for funding. Councillor John King confirmed he was willing to sit on this working group and talk to interested parties for potential funding.

c) Signage in Kelso Square

It was noted the signage in the Square would be addressed.

d) Interim arrangement for Green Waste collection

At the last Kelso Community Council meeting Councillor Mountford advised he had been given assurances an interim scheme would be put in place between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 when the new recycling centre would be open. Subsequently he has been informed that the SBC meeting minutes of December 2013 stated that all kerb-side green waste collections in the SBC area would cease at the end of March 2014 which over-ruled the previous assurances. The three local SBC Councillors expressed their deepest disappointment at this and stated they were exploring all avenues to provide an interim scheme. Therefore a review of SBC Standing Orders would need to be moved at the April Council meeting to allow a proposal for a green waste service to proceed using funds from the Cheviot Area Forum Quality of Life budget allocation.

Councillor Tom Weatherston advised following a decision from the Cheviot members at the area meeting, it was agreed a motion should go to full Council to seek permission to use the Quality of Life funding to provide an interim green waste collection in Kelso.

e) Savings at High School – timescale for budget cuts

Councillor Dean Weatherston asked whether he could have access to copies of the minutes of the Kelso High School Parent Teachers committee. Councillor Tom Weatherston advised these were available to the public on the High School web site.

f) Sainsburys Bus

It was noted that although the Sainsburys Bus facility had stopped it would be part of the Kelso Town service during the mornings.

Councillor King asked for clarification of a private taxi rank at the supermarket. He was advised it would be a private rank and limited to 2 or 3 spaces.

g) Resurfacing of Roxburgh Street

Councillor Nicol advised there were six options available for the resurfacing of Roxburgh Street ranging in cost from £73k to £183k. No decision had been made and he agreed to circulate the options to the Kelso Community Councillors for their comments before a decision was made. It was noted resurfacing work is also budgeted for at Maxwellheugh.

h) Jedburgh Road fencing

Councillor Tomczyk raised the issue that parts of the fence were now dangerous and caused health and safety issues. SBC councillors undertook to a survey to see the extent of the problem.

i) Ednam Road flooding

Councillor King advised this road had been subjected to severe flooding and SBC councillors advised £10k was budgeted to address this.

### **Future Kelso**

It was noted the next meeting was due to take place at 6.00pm on 1 May 2014.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) From John Galbraith for alterations to enclose a balcony at 6 Mayfield Gardens, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) From Merlin Veterinary Group for change of use from light industry (Class 4) and alterations to form veterinary centre (Class 2). The Council had no objections.
- c) From Scottish Borders Council for the formation of a community recycling centre and associated works. 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 13 May 2014 at 7.15pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Kelso Community Council will take place in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 13 May at 7.00pm