

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Susan Howgego (Police Scotland) and pupils Lucy Anderson and Katie Fairgrieve from Kelso High School.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Fiona Scott 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

The Provost welcomed members to the meeting and Lucy Anderson and Katie Fairgrieve representing Kelso High School and member of the public Michael Edie.

Police Matters

PC Suzanne Howgego advised her March report had been circulated. Suzanne highlighted the information on “What the Scottish outdoor access code means to the public and their dogs”. Suzanne advised the Ward Priorities were the same. She advised Police used their discretion over incidents and were issuing warnings where appropriate. She advised the Police continue to patrol the area and issue fixed penalty tickets for parking offenders. She also commented road accidents did not need to be reported to the Police as long as details had been exchanged between the individuals concerned.

Suzanne confirmed if an incident was reported to the Police the individual needed to request a call back if they required feedback.

It was noted Lucy and Katie from the High School were part of the Care and Respect Group who had regular meetings with the Police.

It was noted there had been severe congestion in the town on Easter Sunday as a result of a rugby event at Poynder. Suzanne commented the Police had not been notified of the event. Councillors commented local sporting organisations should advise the Police and Scottish Borders Council of major events so steps could be taken to avoid congestion and haphazard parking throughout the town. For Sunday

events at Poynder St Mary's RC church also need to be advised so that alternative parking in Roxburgh Street can be arranged.

Councillor D Weatherston asked whether Suzanne could provide statistics on crime fluctuation on a six monthly or annual basis. Suzanne undertook to seek guidance and report back to the Council.

The issue of parking was discussed at length and Suzanne reiterated the Police were patrolling the town and issuing tickets where appropriate. She advised some of the local shop traders were the biggest offenders. Suzanne reminded Councillors drivers with a blue badge could not be ticketed.

The Provost commented a report on parking was due to go before a full SBC committee and he looked forward to receiving a copy. The issue of decriminalising parking was discussed and it was noted there was no timetable for its introduction.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone had tendered his apologies but advised the Easter shop opening on Sunday had received a mixed response. He advised the Chamber of Trade had met earlier in the week and they were currently looking at amending their constitution which he will report on at the next meeting.

Councillor D Weatherston advised Sunday shop opening doesn't work if all shops do not participate and therefore the Visit Kelso committee had abandoned plans for future Sunday openings but it was up to individual shops to open if they wished. Dean commented Visit Kelso were working on improving their web page and were currently targeting the Northumberland area to attract visitors. Dean advised Visit Kelso and Floors Castle were working closely to promote tourism into the town.

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 March 2016 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Peter Cooper.

Matters arising

a) Twinning opportunities

The Provost advised he had received a letter from the Mayor of Kelso USA giving formal acceptance to Sister City status and wishing to explore opportunities for sharing more between the two communities. He advised some members of the Kelso Pipe Band would be attending the Kelso's Highland Games later in the year and the local High Schools were in touch with one another.

It was noted Councillors Scott and McGrath were potentially interested in visiting Thiron Gardais, France in May.

b) Memorial Wall

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had drafted a business plan but there were a number of issues outstanding around ownership, maintenance and analysis of a survey. Councillor Tomczyk advised he would arrange a meeting of the sub-committee in the near future to progress matters. Councillor Nicol advised SBC currently owned the site and had a duty to maintain it. His personal view was repairs to the fence and hedge should be undertaken by SBC. The commercial part of the project would be run by Robertson Memorials. Councillor King advised if individuals purchased plaques this would involve a one off cost and they would be permanent.

c) Town Hall – 200th anniversary

The Provost formally thanked Friends of Kelso Museum for organising this event and advised the new bunting would be available to use at no cost. It was suggested the Town Hall be decorated during Civic Week with the new bunting. Councillor Tomczyk commented the engraving of the memorial was very discrete but it was noted this was a condition of Historic Scotland.

d) Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

Councillor Hodges advised progress was being made and the sub-committee had met last week. The issue of funding needed to be confirmed. It was noted the first litter pick would be held on Sunday 15 May and Betty confirmed the committee were working on a poster campaign to encourage volunteers. The Provost advised his May report would contain a reminder calling for volunteers and a tear off slip. Councillor Hodges advised she was working with Lizzy Philips at the High School on a project for ideas for the Coldstream entrance to the town. The committee were compiling a list of projects including the production of a calendar.

The Secretary advised the issue of insurance was still outstanding and she was meeting Councillor Hodges to complete the additional forms.

e) Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

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:

- A letter from Mrs Cowan regarding a sign for “no overnight parking” at Mayfield Car park. It was agreed the issue of caravans and overnight parking should be discussed at the next meeting.
- A letter from the Kelso Laddies Association requesting Stewards for Civic Week.

- A letter from SBC on a public consultation: draft supplementary guidance: Hendersyde planning brief.
- A letter from SBC confirming the community council annual grant for 2016/17 will remain unchanged at £1365.
- A letter from SBC Solicitor regarding a Stopping Up Order for Roxburgh Street and Union Car Parks. It was noted the excavation work at Roxburgh Street had to be stopped because asbestos had been found on the site.
- An additional letter regarding the proposed introduction of a National Park covering Kelso. It was noted this item had been discussed at two earlier meetings and the Council agreed they would only support such a proposal if Kelso was an island within a large exclusion zone.

Councillor McGrath advised signage approaching and within the town needed to be improved. The Provost suggested Councillor McGrath has a walk around the town with the assistance of Brian Young from SBC to identify issues and report back to the Community Council.

Secretary's Report

The secretary advised the following –

Insurance – two risk assessments had been submitted for the proposed litter pick and maintenance of the flower beds. The secretary thanked Stuart Young from SBC and Councillors Hodges and Tomczyk for their input. It was noted we are still awaiting confirmation we are covered for public liability and as noted previously a special events proposal form would be submitted.

The Secretary advised a new bank account was being set up to accommodate the Kelso in Bloom activities. It was noted Councillor Dean Weatherston would be an additional signatory on all Kelso Community Council accounts as he had taken on the role of the Treasurer for the Kelso in Bloom committee. All Councillors agreed to this resolution.

The Secretary advised information had been received from the Fallago Trust which could be a potential source of funding for Kelso in Bloom activities, details had been passed to Councillor Hodges.

The Secretary advised Jim Mackey from the Rotary Club had contacted the Council to see whether any formal events were being organised for the Queens 90th Birthday Picnic / Street Party on 12 June. It was noted nothing formal had been arranged.

AGM – the Secretary advised the AGM would take place next month and an advert would be placed in the Southern Reporter.

Scottish Borders College

Councillor McGrath advised no Scottish Borders College courses were currently available at Abbey Row and he was under the impression this was as a result of the computers being inadequate. The Provost advised he was a member of the Live Borders committee, the new organisation looking after Abbey Row and they were currently looking at facilities including computers. The Provost commented the new High School would have facilities available for the public who wished to undertake courses.

Communications between Councillors on substantive matters

Councillor McGrath commented there were many issues which were discussed via email outside of the regular Council meetings and he requested substantive matters were placed on the agenda for debate at the full Council meeting. The Provost reminded Councillors agenda items could be submitted to the secretary for inclusion on the agenda as long as they were received one week prior to the monthly meeting. Councillor Tomczyk commented it would be untenable to discuss all issues at a Council meeting and felt the use of emails to gain comments was a valuable tool.

Attracting new members of the public to meetings

Councillor McGrath raised the issue of attracting members of the public to Community Council meetings. The Provost commented he would be delighted if members of the public could be attracted to our meetings and charged Councillor McGrath with coming up with suggestions to come back to a future meeting.

Councillor Tomczyk commented that it is important for the Council to be clear on the reasons for increasing public attendance e.g to understand better the work of the Council, contribute to meetings, raise issues etc.

Cinema Opportunity

Councillor Cooper advised he wished to continue to explore the possibility of introducing a cinema opportunity to Kelso. He undertook to report back at a future meeting and requested this was placed on the June 2016 agenda.

Scottish Borders Council

Area Forum

Councillor T Weatherston advised the last Area Forum had been cancelled due to absences.

Kelso High School and Broomlands Primary School update

Councillor T Weatherston advised work on the new High School was progressing and completion was due December 2017.

He advised work on Broomlands Primary School was still at the procurement stage and the SBC project team were working through this with the bidders at the moment,

it was hoped construction would start in the summer. Further information would be issued when timescales were issued.

Jedburgh Edinburgh Bus

It was noted no changes to this bus route had taken place.

Fence Jedburgh Road

Councillor Nicol advised he had spoken to the two house owners with the broken fence and they were currently checking their Deeds for clarification of boundaries. Councillor Hodges reiterated the importance of addressing the issue as it was proving to be a health and safety issue.

Parking/Traffic management

Councillors had raised issues of parking around Highcroft, Edinburgh Road/Bowmont Street, Inchmyre and Mayfield and the state of road surfaces at various locations in the town. Councillor Nicol urged Councillors to look at the SBC web pages and complete an online enquiry form for any issues regarding road surfaces. It was noted there were limited funds available to address the issue of road surfaces and the key priority was to keep the trunk roads resurfaced.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor Hodges asked for an update on Crawfords proposed introduction of a path from Springwood Bank through the woods below to the Springwood gates. Councillor Nicol agreed to look at their planning agreement and report back.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plan

- a) Change of use from Class 4 (business) to Class 11 (fitness centre) Unit 1 Abbotsford Court Business Centre, Kelso The Council had no objections.
- b) Change of use from Class 6 (storage or distribution) to Class 5 (general industrial) Warehouse Nutrivet Ltd, Hunters Hall, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- c) Change of use from petrol station/garage and alterations to form Class 4 (food storage and processing) and hot food take away, T A Watson Garage Golf Course Road, Kelso. Councillors did not object to this application but raised concerns regarding the provision of car parking.

The issue of EPlanning was deferred to the May meeting.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no applications for consideration.

The Provost advised he had received an approach from the Psychiatric Nurse at Poynder View regarding the introduction of a Men's Shed in Kelso. This would be available for all ages and both genders. It was anticipated an area at Abbey Row could be utilised. It was noted funding was available and areas of activity would include upholstery, etc. The Kelso Community Council supported this initiative.

The Provost wished to place on file his thanks to SBHA for dealing with an incident at Eshiehaugh within a very short timeframe.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 10 May 2016 at 7.15pm after the Annual General Meeting.