

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 8 December 2015, at 7.00 pm**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Sergeant Jacqui McGuigan (Police Scotland), Mr and Mrs Sandy Devers and Mark Entwistle (Southern Reporter)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Fiona Scott, 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 to the meeting and Sergeant Jacqui McGuigan, Mr and Mrs Devers and Mark Entwistle.

Police Matters

Sergeant Jacqui McGuigan advised PS Suzanne Howgego had tendered her apologies and her November report had been circulated for comments and feedback. Jacqui advised she wanted to concentrate on two main items – Parking and Operation Snowflake.

Parking – Jacqui wished to reassure Councillors that the Police were aware of parking issues in Kelso and these were being dealt with, resources permitting. Councillor J King highlighted the lack of marked yellow lines in Roxburgh Street and Jacqui advised offenders would still be ticketed. Councillor T Weatherston advised he had received several complaints regarding parking on housing estates where cars were parked on pavements and thus mothers with prams and wheelchair users were forced to use the road. Councillor C McGrath asked what the Police were doing about traders parking in the Square all day – Jacqui advised the issue was in hand and Officers were visiting local shops to make owners aware they should park outwith the Square.

Operation Snowflake – an initiative covering parking, drink driving, shoplifting, inconsiderate parking, etc. Officers were engaging with the public and she urged Councillors to report any incidents. As part of the initiative Officers would be visiting

licensing premises. Councillor D Weatherston welcomed the Police presence in local pubs as this seemed to make an impact and alleviate potential trouble.

Councillor D Weatherston on behalf of the Council extended thanks to the Police for their sterling work and effort over the flood weekend.

Presentation by Sandy Devers on Twinning Opportunities with Kelso USA

Sandy Devers advised he and his son, Paul had travelled from the Borders to Seattle in Washington State and during the trip spent time in Kelso. The county seat of Cowlitz County in Washington State, Kelso is home to 12,000 residents and was founded in 1889 by Peter Crawford, a surveyor from Kelso.

He had met with the city Mayor and civic leaders and handed over a letter of greetings and a copy of Dr Derek Robeson and Alastair Campbell's book on Kelso from Provost John Bassett on behalf of the Community Council. He played with Kelso Pipe Band which are planning to visit Kelso USA to attend their Highland Games in 2016.

Sandy brought back video messages of welcome which he shared with the group. He also presented gifts of books and a cushion. It was agreed these should be kept in the museum section of the local library. Everyone he met was really enthusiastic and interested in forming links with Kelso. They already have links with Kelso in Japan which they call a Sister City.

After discussion it was agreed the best way forward would be to set up informal links with the local School, Church and Rotary Club in each town. Sandy undertook to provide contact details. It was also suggested if Kelso USA had a Facebook page this should be linked to ours.

The Provost thanked Sandy for his informative presentation.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone tendered his apologies but reminded Councillors the traders had agreed to Sunday opening during December between 11.00am and 3.00pm and late nights opening until 6.30pm on Thursdays. An event was being organised on Sunday 20 December, to include entertainment.

Councillor D Weatherston advised Visit Kelso would be launching a new site in the New Year.

Councillor S Mountford advised he attended a presentation by Visit Scotland which expressed interest in meeting colleagues from Visit Kelso in the new year.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 November 2015 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor John King.

Matters arising

a) Neighbourhood Operations Review

The secretary advised Alistair Finnie SBC had been in contact requesting a list of stakeholders who had contributed to our response. The secretary advised the term stakeholder was used to cover those people who had posted comments on Facebook and made verbal comments to Councillors. Councillor Mountford advised this could be raised at tomorrow's Area Forum.

b) Memorial Wall

Councillor Nicol reported progress was being made and had met with Neil Pringle and a Landscape Architect, from the Council, who would produce a drawing of a Remembrance garden containing the Memorial Wall. Councillor Tomczyk would draft a questionnaire to gauge support. This would be via a flyer in Kelso Life, KCC Facebook page. It was noted the cost of providing plaques needed to be established. The Provost asked for this item to remain on the agenda.

c) Electricity Generation

Councillor Tomczyk asked whether there was any interest in generating electricity from the River Tweed. Councillor Mountford advised he was aware of a project at Galashiels and he would pass on the details. Councillor T Weatherston commented that although SBC owned land on opposite sides of the Tweed they received no revenue from the fishing rights as these belonged to individuals.

d) Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

The Provost raised the subject of inviting a youth representative from the Kelso High School to sit on the Community Council. Councillors welcomed the idea and after discussion it was agreed the best way forward would be to invite a representative to attend in a similar way to the Chamber of Trade. The Provost agreed to speak to the High School and report back.

Transport Connections

Councillor Tomczyk stated there was no reason why the campaign to get the line extended from Tweedbank through to Hawick and on to Carlisle, should not include examination of the case for the Kelso branch line being re-opened. He asked whether there was a demand for a rail connection to Kelso from the public and stated he felt this would be better than just improving road links. He also stated this would help attract more visitors to come to Kelso

The Provost stated it was more important that local roads were improved. Councillor T Weatherston stated that while it was possible the line would eventually reach Hawick he doubted whether Kelso would see a rail link again due to the enormous cost of crossing the river.

Councillor Nicol advised there was an initiative to improve transport links from the railway to Border towns and members from Visit Kelso were involved.

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 SBC regarding Traffic Regulation Orders – Speed Limits on the A699 Springwood area. Councillors welcomed the introduction of extending the 30mph limit in the Springwood area.

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. A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 19 January 2016 at 1900. The Secretary was asked to contact SBC for background information and support.

The Kelso Horticultural Society had written to advise the BUAS would no longer be able to provide funding for the purchase of plants at Bridge End. The cost of winter / spring planting was £350 plus VAT which had been funded jointly by BUAS and the Farmers Market. The Secretary advised she had contacted Charity Begins at Home to see whether they could provide funding.

Scott Forbes had been in touch to organise a training session at the Kelso Community Fire Station on Wednesday 27 January 2016 at 19.00. The following Councillors had confirmed their availability - Provost John Bassett, Cllrs Peter Cooper, Harry Tomczyk, Betty Hodges, Tamzin Thomas, Dean Weatherston, Alan Hall, Gavin Horsburgh, Colin McGrath and John King.

A request had been received from Ann Underwood who would like to present her Fathers photo (Mr Ferguson who was Provost in the 1960s) at our February meeting. She would like to provide sherry and canapés for the Community Council and all councillors were welcome.

Scottish Borders Council

Car Parking

The Provost advised this had been covered under the Police report.

Area Forum

Councillor T Weatherston advised the next Area Forum meeting would take place at Kelso High School on Wednesday 9 December and extended an invitation to Councillors. Councillor Tomczyk advised that he would be unable to attend as he would be in Edinburgh.

Kelso High School and Broomlands primary school update

It was noted a recent press release had confirmed the European funding ruling had been resolved and the development of the new Schools would be going ahead. SBC Councillors advised no timescale was available at this time. Responding to a query made by Councillor Tomczyk Councillor T Weatherston advised local contractors would have an opportunity to place a tender for the work and arrangements were in place for small traders to apply.

Springwood Terrace / Jedburgh Road

Councillor Hodges asked for an update on the broken fence and advised that it was now a health and safety issue. Councillor Nicol reported it appeared to belong to two private houses, who would be responsible for the cost of repair. He would arrange for an Officer to visit the fence and if it was a health and safety issue they would contact the two owners to rectify the fence.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor Thomas asked for an update on the light at the end of Bridge Street and Councillor Nicol advised although the wall had been fixed there appeared to be an issue with the road.

Councillor Tomczyk asked whether SBC had considered charging people to enter local museums which currently are free of charge. Councillor Mountford advised charging entrance would restrict access and from the 1 April 2016 local museums would be run by the Culture Trust and not SBC.

Councillor King advised several drains in the town were blocked.

Councillor T Weatherston reported funding had been secured to operate the Visitors Centre for the next twelve months.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Change of use from Use Class 2 (Financial, Professional and other services) to Use Class 3 (Food and Drink) with ancillary Sui Generis (Hot Food Takeaway) for William Hill Organisation, 36 – 40 Horsemarket, Kelso. The Council had no objections but requested additional waste bins were provided if the change went ahead.
- b) Replacement windows 15 Shedden Park Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- c) Extension to dwellinghouse Wedderburn, Abbotsford Grove, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- d) Replacement windows 2 Mayfield, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

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 12 January 2016 at 7.00pm