

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso  
Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso  
on Tuesday 10 February 2015, at 7.00 pm**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) and Carol Turnbull (Resilient Communities Co-ordinator)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Suzanne Howego (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.

### **Welcome**

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

The Provost introduced Mr Alan Hall who had expressed an interest in becoming a Kelso Community Councillor. Alan had served for many years as a Community Councillor at Stitchill, Ednam and Berry Moss and had recently moved to Kelso.

The Secretary was asked to prepare the appropriate paperwork to co-opt Mr Hall to the Community Council.

### **Resilient Communities**

The Provost welcomed Carol Turnbull (Co-ordinator) to the meeting who gave a brief presentation on her role within resilient communities. She advised she had undertaken the role as Co-ordinator, worked for SBC and lived in Kelso. She also advised she had a deputy Claire Payne who also lived in Kelso.

Carol advised it was proving challenging to set up Resilient Communities in the bigger towns in the Borders and she was looking at a different approach. She confirmed a leaflet drop to drum up volunteers was not effective but would concentrate on working with existing voluntary groups and the High School. She advised the High School would be undertaking an emergency planning initiative later in the year and they had agreed Resilience and Emergency would be part of the third year curriculum.

Carol advised the best way forward would be to split the town into dedicated areas, she was currently updating the list of groups within the town, planning a meeting with social work and was actively working on a communications strategy.

The Provost advised Kelso already had a good neighbour scheme in place aimed at helping elderly and vulnerable people. Councillor Dean Weatherston advised people with four by fours could be identified who were willing to help transport people in bad weather.

Councillors commented there was a perception the Resilient Communities initiative was seen as volunteers undertaking the work of SBC. The Provost recommending Carol use Kelso Life to communicate this initiative as the booklet is delivered to every household in Kelso.

The Provost thanked Carol for her presentation and advised the Kelso Community Council undertook to give its full support to this initiative.

### **Police Matters**

The Secretary advised the January 2015 Police Scotland report had been circulated. The Provost reminded Councillors that if they witnessed any criminal activity they should send photographic evidence to Suzanne Howgego.

### **Chamber of Trade report**

Alan Livingstone had tendered his apologies and advised there had been no meeting of the Chamber of Trade last month therefore there would be no report.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 January 2015 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor John King.

### **Matters arising**

#### a) Memorial Wall

Councillor John King advised little progress had been made but he would continue to work on the project. The Provost advised in the first instance a business plan would be needed and suggested he worked with Councillor Colin McGrath (Chairman Churches Working Together). Councillor McGrath advised although Churches Working Together were enthusiastic about the project they were not prepared to run the initiative.

Councillor Mountford advised SBC would be prepared to offer assistance but due to budgetary constraints, they would not be in a position to take on a new asset and pay maintenance costs.

Councillors agreed the way forward would be for an organisation to run the initiative on a commercial basis. Councillor King agreed to contact David Ervin at Kyle Brothers to seek his views.

b) Gallipoli Memorial

The Provost advised he had received confirmation from SBC that a grant of £1,350 had been awarded towards the cost of the memorial.

The Provost thanked SBC for their support and advised the memorial would be unveiled on 12 July 2015. The Provost confirmed additional donations had been received from Mr James Turnbull Sanderson and Lt Col (Retd) A Middlemiss. He also advised Kelso Farmers Market would be making a donation. Councillors were reminded any surplus in the memorial fund would be used to fund S3 pupils of Kelso High School with the Battlefield Tours.

The Secretary advised SBC had requested Kelso Community Council adopt an Equal Opportunities Policy to ensure compliance with the requirements of equal opportunities legislation. The Secretary had circulated a suggested draft to Councillors. This was proposed by Councillor J Bassett and seconded by Councillor H Tomczyk.

c) Questions from public

There were no questions from the public but Councillors asked for an update on the snagging exercise and this is covered later in the agenda under SBC report.

### **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. Other correspondence received –

The Secretary advised she had also received notice regarding Traffic Regulation Order – Disabled Persons' Parking places in Kelso.

A request had been received from a resident of Lardy, just outside Paris to twin with a town in the Borders. It was noted Kelso already had a twinning arrangement with Orchies in France and an association with Kelso in America and Gelnhousen in Germany.

A request had been received from Film Mobile Scotland, an independent cinema company that specialised in working with existing film clubs to see if there was interest in Kelso to set up a Film Club. Councillor McGrath advised he had spoken to Film Mobile who confirmed they were working with 19 towns to set up this initiative. The Provost advised the Royal British Legion, Heiton Village Hall and Kelso Rugby Club were potentially interested and had been put in touch with Film Mobile.

Councillor T Weatherston advised the new High School at Kelso was also considering a community cinema facilities.

NHS Borders – Out of Hours service – it was noted the period for comment had been extended to 28 February 2015. It was agreed if Councillors wished to provide feedback they should do it on an individual basis.

The Provost advised a very positive posting had been placed on Facebook regarding a recent visitor experience in Kelso.

### **Secretary's Report**

Welfare Reforms – The Secretary advised she had written to The Citizens Advice Bureau and they would be giving a presentation on how welfare reforms would impact on local people at the March meeting.

Concerns regarding Forestfield road – The Secretary had written to SBC raising concerns about drivers using Forestfield as a "rat run" and the potential danger to pedestrians. It was noted this road which was an Access Only one had no pavements and therefore there was a high potential risk to pedestrians being harmed. The Kelso Community Council recognised this was an area of concern and potential risk to pedestrians and had previously discussed it at their meeting in September 2014. The Kelso Community Council fully supported the introduction of a traffic calming system albeit recognising the financial constraints on the Council, however, recommended SBC implement the introduction of speed humps which will hopefully alleviate the problem. Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC were currently looking at possibilities to introduce a ramp at the entrance to Forestfield, similar to Inch Road, and better road signage.

### **Scottish Borders Council Report**

Area Forum – Councillor T Weatherston advised an Area Forum meeting had been held in Kelso the previous week and it was disappointing no members of the public had attended. The next meeting would be held in Jedburgh. Councillor Weatherston urged Councillors to put forward agenda items.

Bus Service 20 – Kelso/Jedburgh/Hawick – Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC was aware of the concerns of residents and hoped to have a response next week. He will report back at the next meeting.

Traffic Wardens/Parking - It was noted feedback from the Working Group was outstanding.

New High School – disabled facilities – The Provost advised he had spoken to the Rector at the High School and it was confirmed disabled access was 100% compliant. Disabled people will be able to access all areas of the school.

### **Questions to SBC Councillors -**

Feedback from Snagging Exercise – Councillor Nicol advised the three SBC Councillors and the Provost had walked around the town and identified areas that needed to be addressed and could be improved. It was noted yellow lines were breaking up and grouting needed to be addressed.

Councillors advised they would welcome more local signage in the town. Councillor Nicol advised he would see if there was any budget to cover this but it was important to identify areas that needed signage.

Councillor King asked whether the sign by the taxi rank could be removed but it was noted this was wired up to electrics.

Councillor McGrath commented that more litter bins were needed in the town, in particular near Bridge End and Wood Market and Horsemarket. The Secretary was asked to write to SBC for comments.

The Wee Gallery – Councillor McGrath advised there was a need for better toilet facilities within the town and with the tenancy on the Wee Gallery being relinquished he asked whether there was an opportunity to reinstate the public toilets. Councillor T Weatherston advised there was no budget to reinstate the toilets and commented the toilets had to be closed due to continued vandalism. Councillors expressed their disappointment but wished to place on record the need for additional toilet facilities.

Councillor Cooper asked for an update on the Scottish Tapestries project and was advised SBC had approved the decision to invest £3.5m in a capital build project to house the Scottish Tapestries at Tweedbank. Councillor Tomczyk asked SBC to rethink this decision and commented he felt it was not an appropriate use of public monies.

SBC Councillors advised this investment was aimed at bringing tourists to the Borders area which would be of benefit to all towns. Councillor Scott asked that SBC consider building tourist attractions for families and children.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Erection of sign board land south of Ornamental Iron, Spylaw Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) Replacement of existing single glazing to slimtec double glazing 5 Maxwellheugh Terrace, Station Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- c) Erection of 8 flats with associated parking (amendment to previous consent 05/--184/FUL. The Council had no objections.
- d) Alteration to dwellinghouse, 8 Abbotsford Grove, Kelso. 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 10 March 2015 at 7.00pm