

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 9 June 2015, at 7.00 pm**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland) Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade), Scott Forbes and team from Kelso Heartbeat Charity.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Dean Weatherston and Fiona Scott

- 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 of the Council, press, members of the public, ex Provost Margaret Riddell and Scott Forbes to the meeting.

The Provost commented the Police Report would be taken as the first item on the agenda as a small number of local parents had attended the meeting to voice their worries about a convicted sex offender living in the town.

Police Matters

Suzanne Howgego advised the May 2015 report had previously been circulated and highlighted the following –

A Summer Drink Drive campaign had been launched which will be rolled out across the Border region.

A road crime and road safety strategy has been developed to support operational focus of keeping people safe whilst working towards the Scottish Government's 2020 casualty targets.

Ward priorities -

- Dishonesty
- Road Safety
- Drug Dealing and Misuse of Drugs
- Antisocial Behaviour

There were no questions on the Police Report which was noted. The Provost welcomed a group of local mothers to the meeting who had attended to voice their worries about a convicted sex offender living in the town.

It was noted the Southern Reporter had reported a man, believed to be a category 3 offender was being accommodated in the town. One mother advised various postings had been made on social media sites highlighting the issue and she asked for clarification on the individuals monitoring process as she felt he was acting in a threatening manner and on more than one occasion had been seen intoxicated in the town. She wanted to know why he couldn't be stopped from buying alcohol as it was felt this made him a bigger threat.

PC Suzanne Howgego advised the individual had been placed in Kelso on a temporary basis (28 days) and there is a multi-agency set of arrangements (MAPPA - Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements for Sex Offender) for supervising the man but these did not prevent him from buying or consuming alcohol. She advised the local authority has a key role to support sex offenders in the local community by providing appropriate accommodation. A full risk assessment had been completed for the individual before being placed in Kelso.

PC Howgego advised the main priority is to keep people safe and the individual is managed by an experienced officer, with a level of management appropriate to the risk he may pose. She advised she understood the feelings of the community and asked people to observe his activities and if anyone is unhappy they should report the matter immediately to the police. The police did not want a vigilante group. PC Howgego advised that if the individual was in breach of the peace or displaying threatening behaviour it must be reported to the police who could deal with the matter appropriately.

The Provost advised he had spoken with many local pub owners who had agreed not to serve the man.

In response to a question Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC were involved in the multi agency process and as much evidence as possible about the man's behaviour needed to be gathered to justify having him moved on. Councillor T Weatherston suggested the Community Council to write to MAPPA voicing their and the public's concerns.

Kelso Heartbeat Charity

The Provost thanked Scott Forbes and members of the team for attending the meeting to give an overview of the Kelso Heartbeat Charity.

Scott Forbes stated that the registered charity was a voluntary organisation which aims to save lives in the Kelso area through the provision and maintenance of defibrillators and training of basic life support. The main aim of attending tonight was to raise public awareness and encourage the public to take up the offer of training.

Scott introduced Fiona Hall (Cardiac Specialist Nurse) who emphasised the importance of everyone knowing how to resuscitate as the level of survival of those living in a rural area was extremely low (1.8% survival rate). Fiona advised currently only 1 in 5 people will attempt basic life support. She advised cardiac arrests affect children as well as adults and there was no legal restriction in using a defibrillator.

Kelso Heartbeat's initial aim is to install three defibrillators at the Town Hall, Kelso Swimming Pool and the Rugby Club which will have 24 hour access.

Scott advised there had been an excellent response to their fund raising appeal and there was no set target. Funds raised to date will enable the three defibrillators to be purchased and maintained.

The Provost advised SBC had community funding available for projects such as this and suggested Kelso Heartbeat make an approach for funding.

Although there are several defibrillators located in the Kelso area at various locations, the Kelso Heartbeat Charity aims to improve signage and awareness of these. It was noted that some of these are located within secure premises which cannot be accessed at all times.

Councillor Bassett requested the Kelso Heartbeat Facebook page be shared on the Kelso Community Facebook page.

Chamber of Trade report

Alan Livingstone advised 65 hanging baskets had been displayed within Kelso town centre. Some of the baskets will need to be replaced next year.

Alan advised there had been a meeting of some traders regarding encouraging tour coaches to come into the town. They are working with Floors Castle and had issued an advert to over 150 coach and excursion companies. He advised he did not anticipate many additional visitors this year but hoped the tour operators would schedule visits to Kelso next year.

He reiterated one of the main issues with attracting visitors to Kelso was the provision of adequate car parking. The Secretary advised she had written to SBC requesting Glebe Lane is included in the Local Delivery Plan for the provision of additional car parking. A response had been received stating that a number of issues would need to be addressed and they would get back in due course.

The Provost reminded Councillors that with the introduction of the one way system additional parking spaces had been created.

Alan asked what the timescale was for decriminalising parking and Councillor Nicol commented this was not known and suggested the Community Council and the Scottish Borders Community Councils Network write to SBC voicing their concerns and requesting a timescale for implementation.

Councillors commented that although visitors travelling by buses/coaches were dropped off within the town, space was needed for the coaches to park up during the visit. Councillors suggested various options where coach parking could be provided e.g. the Borders Showground, Race course and Industrial Estates. It was also noted access to the Knowes Car Park could be altered to allow for easier access.

Alan advised there was a slight increase in membership over last year and there had been an increase to the number of hits to the Visit Kelso Website.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 May 2015 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Colin McGrath and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Matters arising

a) Car Parking

It was noted this item was discussed under Chamber of Trade above.

b) Memorial Wall

Councillor Tomczyk advised a meeting on the 26 May was attended by Councillors Alec Nicol, John King, Colin McGrath, Harry Tomczyk, Jason Hedley (SBC) and David Irvine (Kyles).

Councillor Tomczyk highlighted the following -

- SBC would not support a Columbarium or burial of ashes adjacent to the wall as they already make provision for burial of ashes. Progress should therefore be on a memorial wall as originally envisaged.
- SBC would not take ownership so it needs to be a Kelso legal entity such as KCC. However actual operation could be delegated to a commercial enterprise such as Robertsons Memorials.
- Funding will need to be organised - none is likely to be available from SBC but they will assist with finding sources of funding.
- The viability of the project in terms of likely demand needs to be established and a number of ways of doing so were discussed including holding an "Open Day" and Kyles researching their contacts and a business plan produced. SBC will help with this.
- It was noted Kyles have had increasing numbers of people whose families do not live in the Kelso area so a relatively maintenance free monument is important.
- The consensus view was that memorial should be permanent and not for a limited term.
- It was noted that any contract for the memorial to a private company would need to include on-going maintenance.

- Jason Hedley suggested there may be suitable space in the Rose Bank Cemetery which has no existing burials and will not be required by SBC for equipment, maintenance etc in the future. The committee visited the suggested space and agreed that it would be very suitable for the purpose.
- Hawick have gone down a similar route but the project has stalled.

Actions from meeting –

- Councillor Nicol to arrange a meeting for the committee to meet Hawick SBC Councillor Stuart Maxwell and Community Councillor Marion Shaw. Councillor King to update Jim Walker.
- David Irvine to research likely demand and Councillor Nicol to arrange a meeting with Jean Robertson, Senior Grants Officer of SBC, to investigate funding.

c) Public Toilets (Wee Gallery, Knowes Car Park)

Councillor McGrath advised a meeting had taken place with Andrew Drummond Hunt from SBC. Councillor McGrath advised SBC would allow a year for the Community Council to put together a business plan for reinstating the public toilets at the Knowes Car Parking. It was confirmed that during this period the Wee Galley would only be let on a short term basis. Councillor McGrath advised there was a lot of local support and he was optimistic the public toilets could be run on a voluntary basis if SBC paid for the cost of reinstating them.

d) Cinema

Councillor Cooper advised he needed to gauge public support to push forward this project. It was suggested he used the Council Facebook page, Visit Kelso web pages, Kelso Life and local community notice boards.

e) Litter bins

This item was deferred due to Councillor D Weatherston's absence.

f) Questions from the public

The Provost asked if SBC could provide additional resources to empty litter bins when functions were being held over the weekend, eg. Scooter weekend. Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC would be happy to review this.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave the following update:

- A letter had been sent to Alan Niven inviting him to a meeting to update Councillors on licensing issues in the Square. Mr Niven had written back to advise SBC were organising workshops later in the year aimed at updating Community Councils on licensing issues.
- A letter had been sent to Falkirk Council to thank them for allowing Kelso to display the Kelpie Maquettes.

- A generous donation of £500 had been received from Mr W Quarry towards the memorial fund.
- A letter had been sent to SBC asking the Glebe Lane be included in the Local Delivery Plan for the provision of additional car parking. A response was received advising the proposal raises a number of issues to be addressed (e.g. funding, means of access, the site is allocated as protected key green space in the proposed LDP). SBC will get back in due course to see if there is a way to progress this.
- A letter of thanks had been sent to the Cricket Club for renovating the bench.
- A cheque had been sent to Cheviot Youth. It was noted Ian Randall and Chairman David Harvey will attend the September meeting to give a brief update on the Cheviot Youth project.

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. In addition the following correspondence was received:

- A letter from SBC advising they were undertaking a review of the process that leads to the delivery of the Council's Winter Service. This will examine aspects of the winter service including the treatment of the road network and provision of salt bins. As part of its review the Council is looking to define a secondary salting network of roads for implementation in winter 2015/16. Councillor A Nicol advised members that a "red line" on the map indicated where a road is currently included within the existing primary salting route and there would be no change to these routes. A "blue line" indicates a road which officers consider should be included within the secondary salting network. Councillor Nicol urged members to give consideration to the review and feedback comments by the 3 July 2015 deadline.
- A letter from the Kelso Laddies' Association inviting members to the Kirkin of the Laddie on Sunday 12 July at 6.45pm in Kelso Old Church and the Laying of the Wreath at the War Memorial at 6.00pm. Also an invitation to attend the Bussing Ceremony on Wednesday 15 July at 6.45pm.
- The Bridge newsletter.
- Connections – the Borders Railway newsletter.
- An invitation from Kelso Cricket club to attend the Sponsor's day on 13 June – Kelso playing St Boswells.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Area Forum

Councillor T Weatherston advised an Area Forum in Jedburgh was well attended. The Cheviot Area Forum were piloting a new layout for Area Forums to make them more attractive for members of the public to attend and participate. He advised that with the introduction of the Community Empowerment Bill, Community Councils will

have a bigger input into local decisions. Councillor McGrath had attended the Area Forum and reminded members of the community funds available. Councillor Mountford reminded members that funding for Kelso also included the Kelso District area. Councillor Tomczyk advised he had attended Area Forum meetings previously and felt more needed to be done to make members of the public, including Community Councillors, feel part of the meeting.

Kelso High School

Councillor Mountford advised progress was being made to resolve the accounting issue and hoped building work could begin over the summer.

Pantwell

Councillors had requested an update and there was no objection to planning permission. The Secretary was asked to contact Michael Ballantyne for an update.

THI project – snagging exercise – outstanding issues

SBC Councillors advised they were aware of the outstanding issues which were being chased up.

Recycling Centre

It was noted the recycling centre is now fully open and working well. Members were asked to note that workers at the centre were happy to offer assistance to the public to offload their vehicles but they could not be expected to lift heavy items out of vehicles.

Street Cleaning

The Provost commented the programme for cleaning streets in Kelso was working well.

Road services

Councillor Mountford advised SBC were undertaking a review of roads in the area.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor Cooper asked whether plans were in place to link local buses to the new SBC interchange at Galashiels and Councillor Nicol advised plans were in place to co-ordinate local buses.

The Provost presented the three SBC Councillors with a framed photo of the Kelpies as a thank you for their involvement in bringing the Kelpies to Kelso.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Installation of illuminated signage at the Royal Bank of Scotland, 6 The Square, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

Consideration of Licenses

The Council considered the following application:

- a) Grant provision premises licence to Mayfield Garden Centre, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) Variation of licence for the Cross Keys Hotel, 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 8 September 2015 at 7.00pm