

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall,
Kelso on Tuesday 13 December 2016, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett (Chair), Dean Weatherston, Harry Tomczyk, Peter Cooper, John King, Betty Hodges, Colin McGrath and Scottish Borders Councillor Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) and Police Scotland Inspector John Scott

APOLOGIES: Councillor Alan Hall, Fiona Scott, Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade) and SBC Councillors Simon Mountford and Alec Nicol.

- 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 thanked Inspector Scott for attending.

Police Matters

Inspector John Scott advised the November Police Scotland report had previously been circulated based on the Kelso and District Multi Member Ward Policing Plan.

Inspector Scott highlighted the important information regarding air weapon applications which from the 31 December 2016 would mean it would be an offence to use, possess, purchase or acquire an air weapon in Scotland, without holding an air weapon certificate. He advised there would be significant sentences if a holder was not in possession of a licence. The Provost advised the information had been published on the Kelso Facebook pages and also in his article in Kelso Life.

Inspector Scott highlighted the Christmas Initiative – during December and early January local officers will be undertaking a Festive Campaign aimed at prevention of offences in line with the areas of the Multi Member Ward Plan. Officers will be engaged in road checks, foot patrols of town centres checking retail outlets and licensed premises and carrying out parking patrols where practical. Inspector Scott advised six people had been prosecuting for drink driving offences the previous weekend in Berwickshire

Inspector Scott advised the two recent serious incidence in Kelso were being dealt with and thanked the public for their positive support in giving evidence.

Commented [HT1]: I think that this was in Berwickshire so do we want to say that?

Councillor D Weatherston commented he welcomed the Police presence in the local pubs and felt it was a positive influence. He also highlighted there was a local football Derby on New Year's Day and several Kelso pubs already had a ticket only policy in place.

Commented [HT2]: Is this right? I thought that it was the Rangers v Celtic game in Glasgow that was being referred to.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone had tendered his apologies but asked members to shop locally and support the traders with their extended Christmas opening hours.

Councillor H Tomczyk asked for an update on the Tweedbank bus arrangement to encourage more visitors into Kelso and Councillor D Weatherston advised it had not been successful as it had not been properly marketed. Councillor King advised the Border train had put on extra carriages to convey passengers. Councillor T Weatherston reminded members Tweedbank was the "Park and Ride" station and people wishing to use local buses needed to go Galashiels. Councillors suggested announcements be made on the train to inform passengers of this.

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 2016 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Dean Weatherston and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Matters arising

a) Memorial Wall

Councillor H Tomczyk advised the questionnaire is under consideration to assess demand for the facility. The survey would be printed as a standalone item, be distributed at events or on a Community Council stand and in Kelso Life. It would also be included in the Kelso Facebook page. The options will be to complete a paper form or respond electronically. Councillor Tomczyk advised he had discussed the project with Heather Batch at The Bridge and further discussions will take place.

Commented [HT3]: No it hasn't!!

Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC produced a quarterly brochure which was distributed to all households in the Borders and this could be a useful tool to promote the project. Councillor T Weatherston undertook to check the frequency and viability of using it. It was noted there would be no cost to use this.

Councillor D Weatherston undertook to see what cost would be involved in using Facebook to undertake a survey.

The Provost advised he had been approached by Morrison Construction (builders of the new High School) to see what community projects/initiatives they could become involved with and felt this was an ideal project to put forward to them. A representative of Morrison Construction would be attending the January 2017 meeting. The Provost suggested Councillor Tomczyk contacted them prior to the meeting to highlight the Memorial Wall project.

The Provost reminded Councillors the Community Council had a separate bank account already for fund raising projects.

Councillor Tomczyk highlighted the likely costs involved in producing the survey and analysis it and asked the Community Council for financial support. Councillors agreed in principle to give £250 towards the project and additional funding would be sought from grants and Future Kelso.

This subject would be brought back to the January meeting for discussion.

b) Community Council Network feedback on National Park

Councillor McGrath advised this subject would be discussed at a meeting of the Council Network on 11 January and he would report back at the February meeting. Councillor McGrath advised the public meeting in Jedburgh to discuss the National Park had been well attended and the majority of participants were in favour of a National Park. It was noted SBC had not voiced an opinion on the National Park.

Councillor McGrath advised there was a Scottish Government initiative to raise tourism in the Border area. It was noted the Borders region lacked a brand image.

c) Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

Councillor Hodges gave the following update:

- Kelso in Bloom calendars were selling extremely well and lots of positive feedback had been received and requests for this to be done again next year. Councillor Hodges wished for her thanks to Jimmy Fleming be placed on record.
- The stand at the Farmers Market in November had been successful in raising awareness and selling calendars. Several potential volunteers had been identified.
- The Sainsbury's bag pack had been successful with over £550 raised towards funds.
- Councillor Hodges, D Weatherston and the Secretary were meeting the SBC Councillors to discuss possible grants on 18 January.
- The Kelso in Bloom sub-committee were meeting the following day to discuss the Coldstream entrance plans.
- Good links were being forged with partners and particular the Rotary Club.
- Councillor Hodges has secured discounts for sourcing plants from a landscape gardener who is a member of the sub-committee.
- She had met with the suppliers who had planted the wild flower beds at the Border Union Showground and they were happy to offer a discount for seeds.
- Councillor Hodges was working with SBC colleagues Alistair Finney and Stuart Young on the Coldstream entrance proposed plans.

Councillor H Tomczyk asked for thanks to be recorded to Councillor Hodges and the Secretary for their work on the project.

Councillor T Weatherston advised it was important proposed estimates were brought to the meeting in January to discuss possible grants.

d) Questions from the public

There were no members of the public present.

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 which were tabled

- SBC Public Consultation on Draft Supplementary Guidance: Housing. The consultation period is 5 December to 30 January.
- The Bridge Newsletter
- Response from Councillor Parker on Decriminalised Parking.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised she had approached the Farmers Market for a community stall at the April Farmers Market. This would be used to promote the Kelso Community Council elections, Kelso in Bloom and the Memorial Wall Project. She also advised eight storage boxes of archive material had been moved to the Town Hall and thanked Friends of Kelso Museum who had agreed to go through the material.

Kelso Christmas lights and tree

Councillor D Weatherston advised the Christmas lights switch on had been a successful event and well attended. It was acknowledged thanks were due to SBC for providing the tree but members of the public had expressed disappointment that it was not up to the normal standard. Councillor Weatherston commented members of the public wanted something extra ie lights going across the street. Councillor T Weatherston advised there were health and safety issues and significant costs involved with this.

Borders Railway

Councillor Tomczyk advised he noticed Langholm are now campaigning to have a railway extension go via them and wondered whether Kelso should raise the issue of an extension coming to Kelso. Councillor T Weatherston advised Network Rail were keen to get a link between Carlisle and Edinburgh. After discussion it was agreed Councillor Tomczyk should raise the issue with Calum Kerr [MP](#) and John Lamont MSP in the first instance.

Commented [HT4]: I think that MSP John Lamont was also mentioned

Scottish Borders Council

The Provost advised statements would be given by SBC Councillors if there was an update. The Provost reminded Councillors that if they wished to raise specific

questions with SBC these should be submitted to the Secretary 7 days in advance of the meeting.

Area Forum

Councillor T Weatherston advised the Area Forum held on Wednesday 7 December in Kelso had been poorly attended by the public. It was generally felt that the format did not lend itself well to public participation. It was noted the Community Empowerment Bill provides a legal framework that will promote and encourage community empowerment and participation. A percentage of the SBC budget would be allocated to community projects.

Disabled toilets in Market Place

Councillor T Weatherston undertook to arrange for a new handle to be fitted on the disabled toilets.

Availability of Carers

Councillor T Weatherston advised he had made enquiries about the availability of carers but had received no response. He undertook to chase this up.

Questions to SBC Councillors

There were no questions to SBC Councillors, however, Councillor Tomczyk raised the issue of the proposed SBC three per cent increase in Council Tax following a nine year freeze. It is estimated that such an increase will raise £1.5million towards the cost of funding Council services and would result in Band D Council Tax rising by £32.52 per year. There will also be a proposal around a change to Council Tax charged on second homes. In addition the Scottish Government is also making changes to Council Tax charges for more expensive properties. The result of this will be that properties in Bands E to H will experience an increase in Council Tax, in addition to the proposed three per cent increase by SBC. Most of this additional money would not be spent locally. Councillor Tomczyk strongly opposed this.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

- (a) Change of use from gallery to form education centre. Gallery, The Knowes, Kelso. The Council had no objections to the plans.
- (b) Internal and external alterations. Bank 21 – 23 Woodmarket, Kelso. The Council had no objections to the plans.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 7.00pm.