



**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall,
Kelso on Tuesday 14 March 2017, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett (Chair), Dean Weatherston, Harry Tomczyk, Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh, Colin McGrath, Alan Hall, Fiona Scott and John King and Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston and Alec Nicol.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Friends of Kelso Museum (Derek Robeson and Hazel Woodsell) and Police Scotland Suzanne Howgego.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Betty Hodges, SBC Councillor Simon Mountford and Chamber of Trade Alan Livingstone.

- 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, representatives from Friends of Kelso Museum and member of the public Ross Watson.

Police Matters

Suzanne Howgego represented the March 2017 Police Scotland report which had previously been circulated based on the Kelso and District Multi Member Ward Policing Plan. She highlighted two topical issues – Sheep worrying warning to dog owners and Penalty and fine increase for mobile use while driving.

Suzanne commented there were ongoing thefts from local supermarkets and the Co-op supermarket were improving their layout and looking at preventative ways to deter shoplifters. Suzanne highlighted the current activity of telephone scams and urged everyone to be cautious. The Provost advised he had highlighted this in the current Kelso Life. Under Road Safety Suzanne advised there had been some minor road accidents in the town and the Police continue to monitor parking. Suzanne advised she would be writing to shop owners to remind them of local parking regulations. Regarding the break in at the Church Suzanne advised the Police were following positive lines of enquiries.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the handling of a vandalism incident in the town. Suzanne advised the Police were aware and were investigating it. Suzanne advised Jacqueline McGuigan was Acting Inspector in John Scott's absence on sick leave.

Presentation by Friends of Kelso Museum

Councillor H Tomczyk declared an interest as a member of the FOKM Committee.

Derek Robeson (Chairman) and Hazel Woodsell (Secretary) attended to ask the Kelso Community Council to consider two proposals from the Friends of Kelso Museum.

The planting of an orchard of 20-40 fruit trees in one or both of the vacant green spaces at the foot of Glebe Lane (at the entrance to the Garden Centre) to re-create a small areas of what was once the Kelso Abbey Orchard. Under the Community Empowerment Bill they would seek to form a partnership of Kelso community groups that would apply for funding to purchase and plant the orchard. The community group would be responsible for the ongoing tree maintenance and SBC would be asked to continue cutting the grass.

Secondly to clear the scrub that is growing from the path, steps and walls of the area known as Skinners Brae. Funding would be applied for to the SBC Community Paths maintenance fund to engage a contractor to undertake the work. Derek advised this area has historic significance as it once provided access for skinners to wash their hides and access to a possible ferry crossing. The wall itself may be part of the Kelso Abbey precinct wall and therefore medieval in age.

Councillor T Weatherston advised the land in Mayfield Lane had been identified by SBC as a site that could be put up for sale and the Mayfield Garden Centre were looking to expand their car park. Councillor Nicol advised it would be useful for Friends of Kelso Museum to have a discussion with Alistair Finnie at SBC.

The Provost thanked Derek and Hazel for attending and confirmed Kelso Community Council supported in principle the proposals from Friends of Kelso Museum.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Post meeting Alan Livingstone tendered his apologies and submitted the following report.

The AGM of the Chamber of Trade was held on the 6 March and was very poorly attended. There was no change in the office bearers who remained himself as Chairman, Mark Hay as Vice Chairman and Nicky Allman as Secretary / Treasurer. After discussion and to try and encourage membership, it was unanimously agreed to leave subscriptions for the forthcoming year at £40.00. They are currently looking for funding to replace hanging baskets, many of which are looking well past their best and also for funding to update the website. Visit Kelso

continues to go from strength to strength and is making great inroads into promoting Kelso as a place for tourists to visit.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Gavin Horsburgh.

Matters arising

a) **Memorial Garden**

Councillor A Nicol asked that this subject be held in camera as the discussion contained sensitive commercial information. This discussion would take place at the end of the meeting.

b) **Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition**

In Councillor Hodges' absence the Secretary advised the bed at the Coldstream entrance to the town had been marked out and plans had been submitted to Alistair Finnie for funding. The Secretary advised she had approached Charity Begins at Home for funding for the main beds.

c) **Men's Shed**

The Provost advised he had a meeting with the owners of the store where he anticipated the Men's Shed would be located and a local solicitor had offered his assistance with legal matters concerning the lease. The Provost advised they had now registered with the Scottish Men's Shed Association and there would be a gathering of Borders Men's Sheds in the Tait Hall on the 30 March. Councillor Nicol advised it would be useful to contact the Innerleithen recycling centre as they were working closely with their local Men's Shed to recycle items. The Provost advised he would report back at the next meeting when he anticipated matters being finalised.

d) **NHS/Social Services integration**

Councillor McGrath advised he was working on a layman's guide to Integration. He advised progress was slow as decisions needed to go through various committees - there was an Integrated Joint Board consisting of senior managers from NHS and Social Services, a Strategic Planning Group which met every three months (on which he was the elected member representing the Community Council Network) and a Locality Group which met monthly. Councillor McGrath raised the concern that the public were not getting involved in this important project.

Councillors Cooper and Scott advised there needed to be some mechanism to raise the profile of this project and engage with the public, which appeared to be a national problem.

e) Consultation on the future of the Scottish Planning process

It was noted the meeting held on the 7 March was attended by Councillors Bassett, Tomczyk, Hall, Hodges, Weatherston and Cooper. These Councillors agreed to arrange a separate meeting to complete feedback on behalf of the Community Council.

f) Questions from the public

Councillor McGrath advised he had attended a meeting regarding the Scottish Government's new two year £18.9 million Aspiring Communities Fund which is currently inviting applications for the first funding round. It was noted the funding round closes on the 7th April 2017. The Fund will help enable community bodies and third sector organisations in the most deprived and fragile communities to develop and deliver long-term local solutions that address local priorities and needs, increase active inclusion and build on the assets of local communities to reduce poverty and to enable inclusive growth. Councillor McGrath advised he was disappointed about the tight timescale but the details had been circulated to the Councillors for information. It was noted that this funding was targeted at disadvantaged communities and as such would not be available for Kelso.

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.

An invitation from the Kelso Ladies' Association to meet the 2017 Kelso Laddie when he is declared on Friday 21 April 2017. The Kelso Laddie will be introduced within the Town House at approximately 7pm and thereafter to the public at 7.30pm. The Provost advised that due to his absence Councillor D Weatherston would be representing him. Councillors were asked to advise the Secretary of their attendance.

Secretary's Report

Kelso Community Elections 2017

The Secretary advised she was prepared to act as the Returning Officer. This was proposed by the Provost and seconded by Councillor Dean Weatherston.

She advised nominations are invited from members of the Community whose names are on the current Electoral Registers for Kelso. The Council, which will serve for 4 years, consists of 12 members and in the event of more than 12 nominees an election will be held on Thursday, 25 May 2017. Nomination forms may be obtained

from Rennie Welch CA, Academy House, Shedden Park Road, Kelso TD5 7AL. Tel: 01573 224391 Email: mail@renniewelch.co.uk and completed forms returned by 12 noon, Thursday, 27 April 2017 and any withdrawals by 12 noon Thursday, 4 May 2017.

The Secretary expressed her thanks to Rennie Welch for their assistance with the elections and an advertisement would be placed in the Southern Reporter on the 6 April 2017

In addition the Secretary advised the following:

AGM 2017 – this would be held on Tuesday 9 May 2017 and an advertisement would be placed in the Southern Reporter on the 13 April 2017. It was noted George Young had agreed to act as Auditor.

CCTV - an update had been received and circulated to Councillors who voiced their concern about the functionality of the system. It was agreed the Secretary should write to Police Scotland to ask what value they received from the CCTV system. Once a response had been received it was agreed it would be useful to have a discussion with senior members of SBC to see how the system could be made fully functional.

Morrison Construction funding – the Secretary had written requesting an update but no response had been received.

Letters had been sent to John Lamont and Calum Kerr regarding the Borders Railways extension which had been acknowledged. Calum Kerr has replied but John Lamont is waiting for a reply from the Scottish Government which is overdue.

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 next meeting would take place on the 29 March in Kelso.

Parking / Traffic management

There was no update and Councillor Nicol advised this issue would be passed to the new SBC Council for consideration.

Trinity Church

Councillor S Mountford had tendered his apologies and advised the Secretary the situation regarding Trinity Church was more or less unchanged. He had spoken to the enforcement team and they were still waiting to hear back from the owner. The next step is likely to be a report to the Planning Committee requesting permission to spend taxpayer money on making essential emergency repairs for health and safety reasons.

Procurement from United Kingdom

The Provost advised there had been a recent article on the BBC which advised school children were eating chickens produced in Thailand and Scottish councils were spending millions importing food which could be sourced locally in Scotland. SBC Councillors advised SBC purchased goods through Scotland Excel which is a body many Scottish Councils use to gain best purchasing options through bulk buying.

It was noted an article had been circulated from Councillor Cooper regarding a Preston model which involved 12 of the city's key employers buying goods and services locally to prevent 60% of their procurement budget being spent outside the region.

Councillors recognised the cost savings of buying in bulk through Scotland Excel but acknowledged there was a need to support local suppliers.

Live Borders

The Provost advised he had received various complaints regarding Live Borders and asked for an update. Councillor T Weatherston advised Live Borders were now an arm's length operation of SBC and had the responsibility of running of community based activities (libraries, swimming pools, museums, community halls) and they were currently going through a transitional period. Councillor T Weatherston advised the grant to Live Borders had been reduced. Councillor Tomczyk asked what was the democratic control over Live Borders and Councillor Nicol advised they were answerable to SBC which was being phased out to their own Board. Councillor Scott asked whether there had been any public consultation on Live Borders democratic control.

Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC still owned the various properties but Live Borders were responsible for the running operation.

First Bus Operation in the Borders

Councillor Nicol advised SBC were informed that West Coast Motors (trading as Perryman's) is in discussions with First Bus to purchase its operations in the Borders. Both companies have now advised their staff of the situation and First Bus have issued a press release confirming the proposed sale.

Having spoken to both operators SBC are confident that, should the purchase go ahead, the existing level of services for passengers will be maintained in the short term. The Council already works alongside Perryman's, with the company taking on a number of First services last year which they are successfully operating. Councillor D Weatherston highlighted the issue of dog fouling in Duns Wynd.

Councillor F Scott wished to acknowledge the death of John Dawson (85), a former Kelso Community Councillor. He was most recently a resident of Grove House. John served on the Community Council for many years and was an athlete, journalist and proprietor of Kelso's weekly paper he was a devoted family man and a well-known person in the town.

Consideration of Licenses

An application for variation of premises licence had been received from The Queens Head Hotel. Councillor voiced no objections as the times were in line with other premises selling alcohol within the town.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

- (a) Alterations to existing window openings and replacement windows and door to Castlegate Nursery, Spylaw Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- (b) Erection of dwelling house, garden ground of Cairnbank, Sprouston Road, Kelso. After careful consideration the Kelso Community Council had no objections in principle subject to SBC being satisfied this causes no problem with the TPO
- (c) Change of use of land to commercial storage and siting of storage containers at Yard North of Howdens Joinery, Pinnaclehill Estate, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 11 April 2017 at 7.00pm