

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town
Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 11 March 2014, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Provost John Bassett (in the Chair), Councillors Betty Hodges, Harry Tomczyk, Dean Weatherston, John King, Fiona Scott, Gavin Horsburgh and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade), Shirley Redgrave (Secretary) and George Young

APOLOGIES: Councillor Colin McGrath, SBC Councillor Alex Nicol and PC Suzanne Howgego

Welcome

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

The Provost reminded Community Councillors to treat the information they receive via email from Scottish Borders Council as confidential and it is not to be disclosed unless it appears on the SBC's website.

After discussion it was felt that this should only be the case if it was marked confidential.

The Provost confirmed the Kelso Community Council minutes were made public once they had been approved.

Police Matters

Apologies had been received from PC Howgego. The Secretary advised the January 2014 Police Scotland report had previously been circulated.

Chamber of Trade report

The Provost welcomed the new Chamber of Trade Chairman, Mr Alan Livingstone to the meeting. Mr Livingstone advised he had no report to make as this meeting.

Councillor Horsburgh asked whether there was any funding to provide "false" windows to the empty shops in Kelso. Councillor Tom Weatherston advised an area would need to be deemed as a serious problem and this was not the case in Kelso. He commented funding had been made available in Hawick due to the number of empty shops.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2014

Councillor Tomczyk asked for clarification on the response to the Walking Festival and the Provost confirmed a response had been sent to advise that due to the volume of work currently being undertaken in Kelso town centre and surrounds it would not be feasible to entertain the project this year but it was something to be considered at a date in the future.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2014 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Gavin Horsburgh and seconded by Councillor Harry Tomczyk.

Matters arising

a) **Resilient Communities**

The Secretary confirmed the Emergency Planning Officer at SBC was currently drawing up a list of stakeholders to invite to a meeting later in the year.

b) **Gallipoli Memorial - funding**

The Provost commented he had included information on the Gallipoli Memorial in his article in the recent edition of Kelso Life. He advised the plan was to unveil the memorial on the 12 July 2015, one hundred years to the day that the men were killed at Gallipoli. The Provost advised the Kelso Museum had pledged their support to fund raising for the memorial.

The Provost would discuss with George Young the submission of a grant from SBC. Councillor Tom Weatherston advised SBC officers were available to help with the bid and it was important to include emphasis on educational aspects. The Provost confirmed he had already drafted a booklet which would include local photographs.

c) **Caravan Park provision**

As Councillor McGrath had given apologies for this meeting the Provost asked for this item to be placed on next months agenda so Councillor McGrath could give an update on the provision of caravan parking in the Kelso area and confirmation on whether the Race Course would be prepared to apply for a licence for 20 spaces all year round.

d) **Stakeholders Briefing**

Councillor Tomczyk advised the unconfirmed minutes of the Stakeholder meeting held on 30 January 2014 had been circulated.

Councillor Tomczyk confirmed the public art had arrived in the Square and this had created some publicity. Councillor Tomczyk confirmed work was on schedule, with completion due by Civic Week and carving of local names would start in April. It was anticipated a ceremony would take place during Civic Week to recognise the stone. Councillor Tomczyk advised there was an outstanding question on who was responsible for liability insurance while work was in progress.

Correspondence

The Secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors during the month and she had compiled a summary schedule which would be attached to the minutes as an Appendix. In addition the following correspondence was received –

The Bridge newsletter for February 2014.

An invitation from SBC to enter the Scotland's Floral Gateway Competition 2014. It was agreed due to the ongoing works in the town centre it would not be feasible to enter the competition this year. The Secretary would write to SBC to this effect.

An invitation from SBC for membership to the Scottish Borders Local Licensing Forum. Unfortunately no Councillor had the spare capacity to attend this Forum. The Secretary would write to SBC to this effect.

An invitation from the Kelso Laddies' Association to meet the 2014 Kelso Laddie when he is declared on Friday 18 April 2014. All Community Councillors expressed an interest in attending. The Secretary is to email Councillor Scott and McGrath with the details.

Secretary's Report

- a) Framed photo of previous and current Provost for Town Hall
It was noted this was still outstanding and would be chased up.

- b) Alastair White
The Secretary confirmed she had purchased a local book to be presented to Alastair White later in the year.

Area Forum Report

It was noted there was no report to make. Councillor Tom Weatherston confirmed the next Area Forum would take place in Jedburgh and urged Councillors to submit agenda items.

Councillor Mountford advised SBC would be making funding of £20,000 available to Area Forums for use on "Quality of Life" issues. This funding would be informally divided between Kelso and Jedburgh and he asked Councillors to submit applications. Councillor Scott asked what the remit was and Councillor Mountford advised this had not be defined but would welcome suggestions on how to use this funding. The Provost suggested this be discussed at the next Kelso Community Council meeting.

Councillors discussed the recent Government Advanced Driving Licence initiative and it was confirmed applicants needed to pay the £136 fee upfront and then this was reimbursed once they had completed the course. It was agreed successful applicants would benefit from reduced insurance premiums if they had completed the course.

Scottish Borders Council Report

- a) New Kelso High School
Councillor Tom Weatherston confirmed this project is ongoing and final plans would be made available soon.

- b) Youth Club
It was noted this project was ongoing and funding was available for the next three years. The Provost advised if the changes to the school week went ahead, whereby the school finished on a Friday afternoon, this would provide a good facility for working parents.

Councillor Tom Weatherston confirmed all previous groups would be encouraged to come back to the centre.

c) Memorial Garden

It was noted that this was an issue Councillor Nicol was responsible for and he would be asked to clarify the position at the next meeting.

d) Signage in Kelso Square

Councillor Mountford confirmed dialogue was ongoing regarding the signage in the Square.

e) Green Waste collection

Councillor Mountford confirmed he had been given assurances an interim scheme would be put in place between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 when the new recycling centre would be open. It was not known at this stage what this would be and its frequency but Councillor Mountford undertook to report back at the next meeting.

Future Kelso

It was noted due to Councillor Nicol apologies there was no update.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) From Mr and Mrs Peter Rhodes – alterations to dwelling flat and access ramp to 3 Mayfield Gardens, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) From Mr Tacettin Atici – internal alterations to form residential flat at 34 Woodmarket, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- c) From RG Licence – new illuminated signage at the Cross Keys Hotel, The Square, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- d) From Mr Dennis Fortune – demolition of existing garage and shed and erection of replacement double garage and alterations to boundary wall. The Council had no objections.
- e) From Mrs Sara Humphries – internal alterations and external redecoration to shop – Greggs, The Square 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 April 2014 at 7.00pm