

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 10 May 2016, at 7.15pm**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: George Young (Acting Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Peter Cooper, Alan Hall and Shirley Redgrave (Secretary).

Welcome

The Provost welcomed members to the meeting and member of the public Allison Saleh. The Provost expressed his sadness at the death of Shirley Redgrave's husband since the last meeting. It was agreed that flowers should be sent to Shirley when she returns to the town.

Police Matters

PC Howgego had intimated her apologies for the meeting but submitted a written report which is appended to this Minute.

With regard to parking, Provost Bassett intimated that a report on parking had been sent to Scottish Borders Council but as yet the Scottish Borders Councillors had not yet seen this. It was understood that the report would be going to the full Council for consideration. Councillor Nicol stated that the Police were currently pursuing the traffic restrictions in the town, the main problem currently being in Bridge Street. Councillor Horsburgh stated that the major problem seemed to arise on Saturdays and that there was a lack of Police in attendance. It was felt that parking issues should be a Police priority. Councillor Bassett stated that it was not necessary to go in too heavy handed as it could discourage trade in the town. Councillor T Weatherston stated that there was a need for new yellow lines to be painted as these were chipping up. Councillor Nicol will take this up at SBC.

Councillor Horsburgh intimated his concern about the number of references made about youths in respect of anti-social behaviour. He felt that this could give the impression that the Police were against the youths of the town. It was stated that this had been a priority put forward by members of the public.

Chamber of Trade Report/Visit Kelso

Councillor D Weatherston intimated that there was nothing to report. Councillor Nicol asked if it was known who was going to occupy the Wine House Shop next to the TSB. Councillor Thomas intimated that she understood that it was to become a giftware and

hardware shop. Councillor Horsburgh stated that Freda's Shop in Horsemarket had also been tenanted although the nature of the business was unknown.

Minute of the meeting held on 12 April 2016

The minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 April 2016 was approved subject to page 3 correspondence – letter from Kelso Laddies Association should say Stewards instead of Stewarts and at page 5 referring to Kelso High School update should state that the High School completion date was due to be December 2017 not September 2017. The minute was proposed by Councillor McGrath and seconded by Councillor King. With regard to an enquiry as to what would happen to the fittings in the old High School the meeting was informed that these would be sold off and not transferred to the new School.

Matters arising

a) **Twinning Opportunities**

Councillor Bassett stated that he had been in contact with the Mayor of Kelso USA but no further arrangement had been made.

b) **Memorial Wall**

Councillor Tomczyk intimated that the business plan was progressing and talked through the planned actions. He had contacted Kelso Life but as yet there was no reply. Alan Livingston of the Chamber of Trade had been asked if it would be feasible to put up notices in shops about the Memorial Wall proposals but he was not enthusiastic about promoting it in such a manner but would put it to his members. Councillor Nicol stated that he had not yet obtained photographs of the Memorial Wall at Mortonhall but would do so when next in Edinburgh. He had visited Border Aggregates and it was suggested by them that XL Paving could undertake the design. He had met them on site and they had undertaken to prepare a proper design and quote an itemised price which Border Aggregates will then build. Councillor Nicol stated that he and the other SBC Councillors will try to persuade the Council to do the on-going maintenance work although there was a reluctance to undertake this without a formal lease being in place. He felt there would be no problem getting grants for the work to be done. Councillor T Weatherston enquired as to whether the plaques on the wall would be restricted to people who had died from when the wall was created. It was however intimated that the intention was that part of the wall would be available for plaques for people who had died in the past and part of the wall for the future. Councillor Nicol expressed concern about the prices which may be asked for the plaques which would be erected by Robertsons. It was felt that the cost would be less than that of a Crematorium for a similar plaque on a temporary basis as compared with the permanent ones proposed.

c) **Town Hall – 200th Anniversary**

Provost Bassett intimated that the activities in relation to the Anniversary were being organised by Friends of Kelso Museum. The next event would be held in the Cross Keys with a Music Night also being organised in the Town Hall.

d) **Kelso in Bloom**

Councillor Hodges intimated that she had met with A Finnie and S Young of SBC to see what can be done in the short-term. She found them very helpful and a

decision was made as to what would be done. The two flower beds on the Jedburgh Road entrance would be planted with wild flowers. The plot on the Coldstream Road entrance would be dealt with by pupils of Kelso High School and the plots at Springwood Bank would be undertaken by the residents there. The Kelso in Bloom meeting provided a very cohesive Committee and they have made plans for a Kelso calendar which was thought to be a feasible proposition. They had agreed to meet in August or September to discuss a rolling programme. She had also discussed with Jim Mackie of Kelso Rotary Club about the possibility of further bulb planting.

Councillor Hodges intimated that the litter pick will take place on Sunday 14th May and it was hoped that volunteers will gather at 10am in the Square. Volunteers will be suitably equipped. Arrangements are currently on hold for a bag pack at Sainsbury's which would be a further fund raiser. It was hoped to insert an article in Kelso Life about the activity. Councillor D Weatherston stated that further donations had been received and current funding for Kelso in Bloom now stood at £1,113.60. Proposals for fund raising on line had been put on hold until a definitive programme had been put in place. Councillor Hodges intimated that not only had donations of money been received but plants and seeds had also been received. A proposal was also put to the Community Council that because the planting work undertaken by the Rotary Club of Kelso had been so successful a section of the road could be named 'Rotary Way'. It was agreed that the suggestion should be made to the Roads Department at Scottish Borders Council. It was agreed that approval should be sought from Scottish Borders Council.

Councillor Hodges intimated that Allison Saleh who was in attendance at the meeting had agreed to go onto the Kelso in Bloom Committee. She had served on a similar Committee in Ulverston prior to moving to Kelso. Provost Bassett congratulated Councillor Hodges on the work that she had undertaken.

e) Questions from the Public

i. Men Shed

Provost Bassett stated that he, along with two nurses from the Community Health Team had visited a Volunteer Centre in Galashiels to research how the 'Men Shed' had been developed there. He intimated that during the visit 15 men aged from 30 to 80 had been working in the shed which had previously been used as a Council Workshop. The equipment including tools etc., had been donated and during the course of the visit wood from a redevelopment had been delivered by Eildon Housing. The volunteers had been making bird boxes and items that could be sold at craft fairs.

Provost Bassett stated that he had identified workshops at the Abbey Row Centre which were vacant and intended to investigate the possibility of utilising these for a similar project in Kelso. With regard to tools it was hoped that some of the Technical Department equipment at Kelso High School which was not being moved to the new School could be utilised.

Provost Bassett stated that the Gala Workshop was open from 10am until 4pm three days a week and it was hoped that this could be extended. The creation of such a shed would be the ultimate responsibility of the

Community Health Team hopefully supported by a Committee and he was looking for the Community Council to support such a project. He intended having an article on the Facebook page as well as a report in Kelso Life.

Councillor T Weatherston wished him well in progressing the project. He felt that it was essential that the group which would be created would be properly formed with a Constitution and a proper Committee. Provost Bassett stated that he would want to convene a public meeting to see if people were interested in such a project. The premises concerned were owned by Scottish Borders Council and Councillor Nicol stated that discussion should be had with Neil Hastie to ensure that the premises were in fact available.

ii. Green Dog Walkers Armband

Councillor Tomczyk referring to an article circulated wondered if something should be done about this. Councillor Bassett stated that there would a cost involved in securing the packs. Councillor King expressed concern that dog owners could sometimes be very aggressive when they are questioned about dog fouling.

Correspondence

There were no outstanding matters of correspondence.

Secretary's Report

It was reported that arrangements were being made for any two out of Councillor Bassett, Councillor Weatherston and the Secretary could sign cheques. The need for these arrangements arose because of the increased number of bank transactions relating to Kelso in Bloom.

Scottish Borders College

Councillor McGrath raised his concern that no courses were available in Kelso as he understood that the computer facilities at Abbey Row were not up to standard. He stated that someone from Scottish Borders College would be willing to come to speak to the Community Council. Councillor D Weatherston stated that he had an email from Scottish Borders College stating that the reason that no courses were being undertaken was that there was not sufficient uptake rather than the fact of inadequate computers. It was agreed that representatives from Scottish Borders College be invited after the summer recess. Councillor Scott stated that the uptake would be better if evening classes could be arranged as opposed to day time classes. Councillor Horsburgh stated that people want individual tuition on computers rather than in classes. Councillor Bassett felt that there may be a greater uptake when the new Kelso High School was completed which will have the ability to develop community education. Councillor T Weatherston expressed concern about the future use of the Abbey Row Centre once the new facilities at Kelso High School were created.

Scottish Borders Council Report

a) Area Forum

The next Area Forum would take place on the first Wednesday in June in Kelso.

- b) Kelso High School and Broomlands Primary School
Councillor Mountford stated that there was nothing new on Kelso High School. His fellow Scottish Borders Councillors were meeting with the Rector on Wednesday 11th May. He understood that the Broomlands Primary construction was currently at the procurement stage. It was intimated by Morrisons, the contractors at the High School that they had a vacant Secretarial post. Scottish Borders Councillors stated that there was no update on the use of the current High School.
- c) Jedburgh/Edinburgh Bus
Councillor T Weatherston stated that there was no change to services at the moment. He intimated that £400,000 was to come off the bus service budget which will have an effect on services but he had no indication as yet which services were at risk.
- d) Fence on Jedburgh Road
Councillor Nicol stated that he had spoken to the Council as to the next steps which could be taken with regard to the problem fence on the Jedburgh Road. He stated that officers were currently thinking how they will approach the residents who were felt to have the responsibility for the fencing.

Councillor Nicol stated that the resolving of this matter will take time and it was agreed that Councillor Nicol will ask to put the matter on the agenda when he has something to report.

- e) Parking/Traffic Management
- i. Highcroft between 7am and 6pm
Councillor Scott stated she had asked for this matter to be put on the agenda as buses which were having to use this route because of on-going work on the by-pass are struggling to get round the roundabout because of parking on the pavement. She did however state that she understood the problem had been resolved for the time being. Councillor T Weatherston stated that he had reported the problem of parking on the roundabout to Police on numerous occasions. It was felt that such parking could subject owners to penalties.
- ii. Edinburgh Road/Bowmont Street
Problems which had arisen earlier in the year encountered similar problems on the days of Kelso 7s.
- iii. State of road surfaces
Particular reference was made to a hole which had developed on the junction of Union Street with Roxburgh Street. Scottish Borders Councillors stated that they had been pushing Eildon Housing to see when they are going to start on the site development in Roxburgh Street as they will be digging up the road in preparation for the development and consequently it would not be logical to undertake the resurfacing work until this had been done. It was felt that the hole in the road was getting larger and a temporary repair was essential. Councillor Mountford will investigate this. It was also pointed out by Councillor Horsburgh that there

were parts of the Jedburgh Road which were requiring urgent attention which Councillor Tomczyk fully supported.

iv. Inchmyre

Councillor T Weatherston stated that he had raised the question of the cutting of trees in Inchmyre. It was pointed out that this was the responsibility of SBHA.

v. Mayfield

Councillor Nicol stated that complaints had been received about the parking of Motor Homes in the Mayfield Car Park. He had been looking at the possibility of putting up a sign similar to that which is in the Knowes in this car park. He stated that it would be a difficult task to get a 'No Overnight Parking' sign erected in the car park. Discussion followed on the necessity for such signs and the lack of facilities in Kelso for parking overnight which other Borders towns have and Councillor Nicol agreed that he will speak to the resident complaining about the parking to get a clear idea of the nature of the problem.

f. Questions to Scottish Borders Councillors

i. Councillor Thomas asked why the timings had not been given for the arrival of the Flying Scotsman at Tweedbank Station. It was pointed out that a Press Release had been issued that day by Scottish Borders Council setting out the details of the planned event but not the arrival and departure times.

ii. Public Toilets. It was pointed out that the closing of the public toilets were currently still on winter hours. It was felt that the hours of opening should have been extended from Easter. Councillor T Weatherston asked that Community Council should make a list of specific events during the winter period when they felt it would be appropriate for the toilets to be open later. The Community Councillors agreed to make an appropriate list to forward to Scottish Borders Council.

iii. Councillor Horsburgh stated that it was over a year since the wall had been damaged at Teviot Bridge and he wondered when the repair will be undertaken. Councillor T Weatherston will make further enquiry on this.

iv. Councillor Tomczyk asked who the Returning Officer at the Election was employed by. He was informed that the Returning Officer was an employee of the Government on that occasion rather than SBC.

v. Allison Saleh expressed concern about the state of the Trinity North Church and the risks which it posed. Councillor Mountford stated that this was a Grade B Listed Building and the Council appreciated the risk and had been corresponding with the owners but no reply had yet been received. The risks were on safety issues, eyesore issues and the state of the roof. The Council were continuing to have a dialogue with the owners. Councillor Weatherston stated that if no response was received then the Council would take action to undertake the essential work and charge the

owners and to this end a report is going to Planning Committee in this regard.

- vi. Councillor McGrath stated that the stained glass window which was previously in the Old Hospital was being accepted by the Doctors Surgery who will install it within the Surgery.
- vii. Councillor Nicol intimated that Mark Entwistle is retiring as a Newspaper Correspondent. Mark has reported many Community Council meetings over the years.
- viii. Skate Park. It was intimated that Aly Hay is currently raising money for new Skate Park facilities.
- ix. Councillor D Weatherston stated that the Residents Association at Rodger Fish Garden have created eleven allotments on part of the ground between the development and the Riverside pathway, nine of which have been rented out. The Residents Association wish to utilise the other piece of the land as a Community Garden but they are encountering difficulties in as much as they apparently require change of use from an allotment to Community garden. They have developed a design and have the labour and materials organised. Councillor D Weatherston understood that if the Planning Application is done through the Community Council the cost of the application will reduce from £400 to £200.

The Council agreed that if it is legal for the Community Council to make such an application then they would agree to make the relevant application.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will take place on 14 June at Kelso Town Hall at 7pm.