

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held in the Town Hall,
Kelso on Tuesday 8 November 2016, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors John Bassett (Chair), Dean Weatherston, Fiona Scott, Harry Tomczyk, Peter Cooper and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Alec Nicol and Tom Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade) and Police Scotland Suzanne Howgego

APOLOGIES: Councillors Alan Hall, Betty Hodges and John King.

- 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.

Police Matters

Suzanne Howgego advised the October Police Scotland report had previously been circulated based on the Kelso and District Multi Member Ward Policing Plan.

Suzanne advised there had been two serious incidents in the town recently, one an attempted murder and the other a serious assault which the Police were currently investigating. She commented the Police had put on extra patrols to undertake a public reassurance exercise and urged anyone with information to contact her. She also commented there had been a serious shoplifting incident at Superdrug. In response to a question were the CCTV cameras working in Kelso, Suzanne confirmed they were and a request had been submitted for servicing them.

She also advised the Police had responded to complaints regarding fireworks and eggs being throw at windows and local retailers had been spoken to re selling eggs to youths.

Suzanne reminded Councillors from 30 December 2016 any person who wished to be in possession of an air weapon would be required to apply for an air weapon certificate.

Regarding illegal parking Suzanne advised 27 tickets had been issued last month and the Police continued to patrol and issue tickets, resources permitting.

Suzanne reassured Councillors there were no plans for Police Scotland to close the Hawick Police station as a result of recent media reporting and inaccurate

speculation about the future of police stations in the Scottish Borders. Suzanne advised Police Scotland is currently reviewing its estate to ensure buildings support modern operational policing and are fit for purpose.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone advised Kelso had won The Dog Friendly Awards 2016 - Best Town/City. This is a campaign run by the Kennel Club which aims to encourage non-pet businesses and public places across the UK to adopt a dog friendly attitude for the benefit of the nation's 8m dogs and their owners.

Ian advised 10,000 flyers promoting Kelso Christmas shopping were currently being widely distributed to encourage additional footfall. He advised the traders had mixed feelings towards Sunday and late night opening and the Chamber of Trade and Visit Kelso were making a push to encourage shops to participate.

Councillor Dean Weatherston advised Visit Kelso were working with Destination Scottish Borders to tie in with the Borders Railway to encourage visitors.

Councillor T Weatherston the SBC Executive Committee had delayed making a decision on street signage and banners as he felt there needed to be more consultation with the Kelso traders.

Councillor H Tomczyk commented he was disappointed that the new Visit Scotland area manager interviewed on the TV programme Border Life talked about Dumfries and Galloway but hardly mentioned the Borders despite apparently being interviewed in Kelso.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2016

Subject to minor amendments the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 October 2016 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Provost John Bassett.

Matters arising

a) Memorial Wall

Councillor H Tomczyk advised a constructive meeting had been held and he had redrafted the questionnaire which was currently out to comment to the subcommittee.

Councillor Tomczyk advised the subcommittee would like to use an online survey tool called Survey Monkey to capture and analyse responses in addition to using a flyer or tear out section in Kelso Life. Councillor Tomczyk advised to use Survey Monkey up to 100 responses were free of charge but as there were likely to be more there would be a charge of £200. There is also the cost of printing questionnaires which is estimated at £200. He proposed the cost of funding Survey Monkey be split between Visit Kelso and Kelso Community Council.

Councillor F Scott advised the issue needed to be handled in a very sensitive manner.

In principle the Councillors agreed to the use of Survey Monkey subject to finalising the questionnaire. The Provost advised it would be useful to circulate a copy of the proposed final questionnaire in advance of the next Kelso Community Council meeting so a decision could be made.

Once the questionnaire had been finalised it would be placed on the Kelso Community Council Facebook pages and arrangements would be made for hard copies to be returned to e.g. Browns newsagents.

b) Community Council Network feedback

This item was deferred due to Councillor McGrath's absence

c) Kelso in Bloom – Floral Gateway Competition

The Secretary on behalf of Councillor Hodges gave the following update:

- The Calendar is at the printers and delivery is imminent. Thanks were extended to Jimmy Fleming for his dedication to the project.
- Jimmy Fleming had produced a photo board for the KHS Flower Show (5 Nov) to try to encourage volunteers.
- The Secretary has arranged a table at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 26 to promote the KIB project and hopefully encourage people to volunteer.
- Councillor Hodges and Wattie Young helped the Rotary plant crocuses at the Coldstream Road entrance on 23 October.
- Bridgend flower beds were cleared and KHS members planted up the spring bedding wallflower cleared the bed at the Coldstream entrance and also planted it up with wallflower.
- Robin, Jim and Jimmy had a site meeting at the Coldstream entrance to discuss possible planting schemes for 2017 and will hopefully report back with some ideas for discussion and costing - we can then apply for grants/sponsorship funding.
- Shirley is in communication with Sainsburys regarding another bag-packing day in December.

The Community Council extended its thanks to Stewart Douglas for providing high viz vests for volunteers.

The Secretary will email Councillors regarding the Farmers Market and Sainsbury's bag pack requesting volunteers to help at both events.

d) Questions from the public

There were no members of the public present. However Councillors raised concerns regarding the forthcoming public meeting on 17 November in Jedburgh regarding the National Park. It was noted the meeting on the 17 November was primarily to put forward the benefits of implementing a National Park. Councillor

Mountford advised more information was needed to make an informed decision. Councillor F Scott asked for clarity on who dealt with legislation regarding National Parks. The Provost asked whether a discussion could be held at a future Area Forum to discuss National Parks. Councillor P Cooper advised he hoped to attend the meeting and Councillors agreed it was important someone from the Community Council should be present.

Councillor F Scott advised she attended an event on the 29 September to learn about a proposed new model of care in the Borders. This started in the Netherlands, Buurtzorg and is led by community nurses working in partnership with other professionals and the community. It has been translated as 'neighbourhood care'. Councillor Scott advised it was proposed a pilot should start in the Borders but due to current financial restraints it was unlikely to be given the go ahead.

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

- Proposed Strategic Development Plan – October 2016.
- A letter from SBC legal department regarding Traffic Regulation Order – Speed Limits Agraflat Road, Kelso.
- Royal British Legion – programme, collection of wreaths and cost.
- Kelso Music Society 2016 – 17 programme
- Help to Adapt information.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised the following:

Councillor Tamzin Thomas has resigned as required by legislation because she now lives outwith the boundaries of the Kelso Community Council. The Kelso Community Council placed on record their thanks for Tamzin's contribution and wished her well.

The Provost had attended a dedication of the new chancel at Kelso Old Parish Church on Sunday 6 November.

Kelso Community Councillors have been invited to a Tree Planting ceremony on Sunday 20 November at Bridgend to commemorate the 100th anniversary since the Battle of the Somme.

The Council had been approached by a recorder of the War Memorial Register to list the Gallipoli Memorial. The Provost has been in touch with them and the Memorial is now included on the War Memorial Register data base.

The Secretary advised she was working with the previous Secretary to identify the contents of the Community Council Archives. It was noted Friends of Kelso Museum had offered their assistance in sorting through the ten storage boxes of material.

Councillor Dean Weatherston attended a monodrama, The Silent Unseen at the Byre Theatre in St Andrews on Saturday 8th October as a guest of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh.

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 Area Forum would take place on Wednesday 7 December in Kelso and urged Councillors to submit agenda items.

Parking / Traffic management

Councillor A Nicol advised parking would be discussed at a full Council meeting later this week. Councillor Nicol advised full decimalisation of parking would not be the way forward. He summarised the recommendations - Police to be encouraged to enforce existing parking regulations and issue tickets, for the yellow lines to be properly painted and to introduce a Disc based system.

Councillors expressed concerns as it needed the Police to enforce parking restrictions and they were limited with their resources.

Councillor Nicol agreed to circulate the public paper to Councillors and report back at the next meeting.

Jubilee Tree update

Councillor T Weatherston advised funding for the plaque had been agreed and this would be installed imminently and apologised for the delay.

Trinity Church

Councillor A Nicol advised SBC Enforcement officers were currently trying to contact the owners.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor S Mountford advised funding had been secured to undertake the following resurfacing/patch works:

- Golf Course Road – carriageway resurfacing
- Kelso to Ednam – patch work

- Abbotsford Grove – patch work
- Shedden Park – dropped curves

Councillor Tomczyk reiterated the need for Jedburgh Road to be resurfaced. Councillor T Weatherston reminded Councillors they had agreed Roxburgh Street resurfacing was a priority and funding for this work had been secured and would take place after the new houses had been built in 2017. The Provost commented that there had been correspondence with SBC regarding the use of additional funding to deal with the Jedburgh Road issue.

Councillor D Weatherston commented the disabled toilets in Market Close were difficult to access as there was no door handle and the door opens outwards by having to pull on the Radar Key. Councillor Nicol undertook to investigate and report back.

Councillor D Weatherston advised from a personal point of view he had been experiencing difficulty trying to organise carers for an elderly relative and had been advised no one was available due to sickness so there appeared to be a shortage of carers. Councillor Nicol undertook to investigate and follow up.

Councillor Mountford advised Rutherford Square had been shortlisted by the Chartered Institute of Housing for an award for its refurbishing work.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no applications for consideration. The Secretary advised she had received a request from the Licensing department asking for details of the Kelso Christmas lights switch on scheduled for 26 November. The Secretary was asked to confirm that there will be no parade or march at the ceremony and the event would follow the format as previous years - fun fair and Santa grotto in Square with the usual restricted parking as already advised to the Police.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans –

- (a) Temporary siting of mobile unit to provide additional crèche/toddler facilities Bowmont Christian Centre, Bowmont Street, 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 13 December 2016 at 7.00pm.