

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community  
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso  
on Tuesday 10 November 2015, at 7.00 pm**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Fiona Scott and Betty Hodges, SBC Councillor Simon Mountford and Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland)

- 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**

Provost John Bassett welcomed members to the meeting.

**Police Matters**

PS Suzanne Howgego had tendered her apologies and her October report had been circulated for comments and feedback. Councillor Tomczyk commented the report appeared to include a lot of crime for the area but the Provost advised all incidents, including minor ones were included and there had not been an increase in the number of issues recorded. The Councillors noted the report.

**Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso**

Alan Livingstone reminded Councillors the traders had agreed to Sunday opening during December between 11.00am and 3.00pm and late nights opening until 6.30pm on Thursdays. An event was being organised on Sunday 20 December, to include entertainment. Alan advised 7,500 flyers had been widely circulated to advertise these events. The Provost asked whether a Christmas Community Fair could be organised next year.

Alan commented the recent open meeting had been poorly attended and the main issue raised was car parking in the town. Alan advised a letter would be issued to all traders next week requesting they did not park around the Square all day

Councillor Horsburgh advised a fund raising event for Christmas Lights had recently been organised and despite being well advertised, it failed to attract many

participants. It was noted Heiton community events were well attended and lessons could be learnt from them.

Councillor T Weatherston commented the weekend the Kelpies were situated in the Square had attracted a lot of visitors and asked Councillors and the Chamber to Trade to consider alternative affordable suggestions.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 October 2015 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor John King.

### **Matters arising**

#### a) Neighbourhood Operations Review

It was noted the Council's response had been submitted. The Provost asked for the Council's thanks to be placed on record for the work Councillor D Weatherston had given to pull the response together.

It was noted the response had been submitted which would be considered by SBC when developing their proposals. The Council had been advised SBC would engage with relevant stakeholders and they would welcome further feedback.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the current Neighbourhood Operations Review. The Council welcomed SBC comments that they would engage further with relevant stakeholders and it was presumed this will be prior to submission to the Area Forum for a decision.

Councillors were concerned the tight timescale had not allowed a proper engagement with the public.

Councillors asked whether efficiencies could be made at SBC and asked what efforts were being made to save money rather than cutting back on the provision of services.

Councillors also asked when proposals were put forward for approval that a breakdown of individual cases be provided.

Although Councillors liked the idea of the provision of wild flower meadows, where appropriate, they wondered how this would be achieved as they were concerned this would not happen and the grass would just be allowed to grow.

SBC Councillors advised ultimately they would be required to vote on any recommendations and they would want to see the detail of the cost savings.

#### b) Car Parking

The Provost advised SBC Councillors had taken on board the Community Council's concerns. The question of decriminalising parking was raised and Councillor Nicol advised this would only happen if all towns in the Borders wanted

it. Councillors discussed the option of employing a traffic warden, as currently happened in Galashiels. Councillor T Weatherston reminded Councillors there was no money available in the budget to finance traffic wardens and their cost could not be paid out of future fines. It is not clear as to how the Galasheils wardens are financed.

SBC Councillors stated the local Police needed to play a more proactive role in dealing with parking issues.

c) Memorial Wall

Councillor Nicol advised progress was being made and it was agreed a survey needed to be undertaken to gauge support, this would be via Kelso Life and The KCC Facebook page. It was noted the cost of providing plaques needed to be established. The Provost asked for this item to remain on the agenda.

d) Cinema

Councillor Cooper advised he had been in discussion with colleagues at Duns who were interested in piloting the Film Scotland venture. It was agreed the preferred venue for staging a cinema would be at Tait Hall. Councillor Cooper advised Film Scotland had proposed a publicity campaign took place on the lead up to Christmas, advertising a new feature film like Star Wars. If there was enough interest a public meeting would take place in January with Film Scotland showing a film to demonstrate the quality of the production.

Councillor Cooper advised to breakeven 140 people would need to attend each event at a cost of approximately £7.00 per head.

Councillor Cooper asked if the Community Council could act as sponsor and the Provost advised this was not allowed under the constitution. It was suggested if this venture went ahead an organisation like the British Legion, Rugby Club or Kelso Community Events should be the sponsor.

After discussion it was agreed no action should be taken at this point and the subject be raised again in January for a decision on the way forward.

e) Kelso in Bloom - Floral Gateway Competition

The Secretary advised she had been in contact with The Chamber of Trade, Kelso Horticultural Society, Kelso Rotary Club, Kelso High School, SBHA, Kelso Allotment Association, Hanover Housing and Eildon Housing Association. All organisations had expressed an interest in being involved and it was agreed to organise a meeting in January to take this project forward.

f) Twinning opportunities

Councillor McGrath advised there had been positive publicity regarding the potential twinning with Kelso in Washington State, USA. Sandy Devers was travelling to Kelso USA this month and would convey a letter of introduction from the Kelso Community Council suggesting potential twinning opportunities. It was noted the Kelso Pipe Band would be attending the Highland Games in 2016. The Provost advised he had written a letter to Kelso USA and included a copy of

Derek Robsons book on the history of Kelso. It was recommended Sandy Devers be invited to a future meeting of the Council to give feedback.

g) Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

**National Park**

The Provost advised a campaign has been launched to create a National Park in the southern Scottish Borders. The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS) and the Scottish Campaign for National Parks are calling for more National Parks in Scotland and believe the Cheviot Hills is one possible area that would be suitable for National Park status. The APRS is now canvassing the views of local community councils within the possible boundaries suggested for a new National Park.

Councillor Tomczyk advised he was not in favour due to planning implications and the possible adverse affect on industry and housing.

Councillor Nicol advised he would canvas fellow SBC Councillors and if was interest for Kelso to be involved he would organise for an officer to give a talk on the subject.

**Electricity Generation**

Councillor Tomczyk advised he had seen an article about a Border firm generating electricity from water and wondered whether it would be feasible for Kelso and whether it had been investigated. Councillor Cooper advised this was based on unproven technology. Councillor Tomczyk pointed out that there had in the past been several mills around Kelso and if there was any interest locally in pursuing the idea using this or an alternative technology.

**Secretary's Report**

The Secretary advised she had written to Mr Brooks asking whether he wished to continue the family tradition of providing the Stirrup Cup on New Years Day for the Buccleuch Hunt.

The Secretary had written to local organisations to see what interest there was for forming a sub committee to drive the Scotland Floral Gateway / Kelso in Bloom competition forward.

The Secretary advised she had heard from Scott Forbes, Kelso Heartbeat Charity who wished to facilitate a training session for Community Council members in January.

The Secretary advised she had received an email from Ian Lindley who could supply pot grown trees free of charge to Community Councils. It was agreed this should be directed to Mr A Finnie at SBC for action.

**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:

A letter from Help to Adapt which is piloting a scheme aimed at helping older people to live independently at home for longer.

A letter had been received from the Royal British Legion advising Kelso Community Council would need to pay for the cost of wreaths laid at the war memorial.

### **Scottish Borders Council**

#### **Area Forum**

Councillor T Weatherston asked the next Area Forum meeting would take place in Kelso on 9 December and asked Councillors if they had any subjects they wished to put on the area.

#### **Kelso High School and Broomlands primary school update**

There was no update to be given.

#### **Springwood Terrace / Jedburgh Road**

Councillor Nicol advised the broken fence appeared to belong to two private houses and to resolve the issue ownership of the fence needed to be clarified. At this stage it did not appear the fence belonged to SBC. Councillor Nicol undertook to report back to the Council.

#### **Street Lighting**

Councillor T Weatherston advised he was following up on the issue and hoped a positive resolution would be forthcoming.

#### **Questions to SBC Councillors**

Councillor King asked for an update on the light at the end of Bridge Street and Councillor Nicol advised although the wall had been fixed there appeared to be an issue with the road.

The meeting noted with great pleasure that Kelso had won the 2015 Scottish Award for quality in Planning for the Development on the Ground category for the Kelso Town Centre Regeneration and congratulated all those involved including the Stakeholders Group wivich SBC Councillors felt could be a blue print for future projects of this nature..

Councillor Nicol advised Peter Hogg's will be operating an additional bus service between Kelso and Newcastle Airport and Eldon Square before arriving at Newcastle central Station. Bus Passes can be used on this cross border route.

Councillor McGrath advised Trinity Church would be having an enforcement order served on it.

### **Consideration of Plans**

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Replacement front door and formation of French doors from window, 169 Roxburgh Street. The Council had no objections.
- b) Installation of illuminated signage and window vinyl, Lindsay Opticians, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- c) External re-decoration, Lindsay Opticians, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

Councillor T Weatherston asked the Secretary to include a more detailed response to planning requests.

The Secretary advised correspondence had been received regarding the land east of Park Lane Croft Park – erection of dwelling houses and a Notice of Review had been received from SBC concerning the decision of the Council to refusing planning permission. The Local Review Body will consider the case on 14 December in public. It was noted Kelso Community Council had submitted a letter supporting the appeal by Mr and Mrs Hewit.

### **Consideration of Licenses**

The Council had received a Variation of Premises Licence for the Waggon Inn, Coalmarket, Kelso. The Council had no objections. It was noted the Secretary had written to the Licensing Officer at SBC requesting further information.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 7.00pm