

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community  
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso  
on Tuesday 11 October 2016, at 7.00pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Bassett (Chair), Tamzin Thomas, Betty Hodges, Colin McGrath, Alan Hall, Peter Cooper and Harry Tomczyk. Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford and Alec Nicol.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** George Young (Acting Secretary) Alan Livingstone Chamber of Trade, Sergeant Jacqui McGuigan.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Fiona Scott, Dean Weatherston and John King, Scottish Borders Councillor Tom Weatherston and Shirley Redgrave.

**Welcome**

The Provost welcomed members to the meeting.

**Police Matters**

A Police Report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Sgt. McGuigan highlighted the fact that 26 parking tickets had been issued in the central area of the Town over a two day period. Such checks will be ongoing as the problems with parking in the centre of Town were not going away. Councillor Nicol stated that Hawick were encountering similar problems and a letter drop had been proposed. In Hawick the restriction on the High Street is only half an hour compared to Kelso's two hours. He stated that he hoped that a system of disc parking could be introduced. It was noted that the parking problem in Bridge Street was particularly bad and it was noted that the yellow lines were disintegrating but Sgt. McGuigan stated that this did not stop people being booked. Sgt McGuigan also stated that there had been two fires in the Town, one where a bale had been set on fire and another where a jump at Hendersyde had been set alight. It was understood that youngsters were the culprits and enquiries are ongoing but the situation should be sorted out. Councillor McGrath asked if the Police were still trying to recruit Special Constables and he wondered if they could be used to assist in dealing with the parking problems. Sgt. McGuigan confirmed that the Police were still recruiting but the main aim however was to implement night time cover. Provost Bassett thanked Sgt. McGuigan for her attendance.

**Chamber of Trade Report/Visit Kelso**

Alan Livingstone reported that there had been a Chamber of Trade meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October at which a new Constitution had been passed which was more user friendly, particularly in respect of raising funds. A new Secretary and Treasurer, Nicky Allman was appointed. A meeting of Visit Kelso had also been held on 7<sup>th</sup> October. The Committee had been busy on funding and had submitted the first stage of Leader funding and were in the process of submitting a second stage. One of the aims of this funding is to pay for a part-time individual for 15 hours per week. Match funding was also being raised in order to apply for a grant to upgrade the website.

Mr Livingstone went on to say that plans are afoot for the distribution of a Christmas flyer and Visit Kelso stickers to be put up in shops. There was also the hope that they would circulate 10,000 flyers as a promotion for the Town. A joint venture between Visit Scotland, SBC and Scot Rail has been developed to promote day trips to Border Towns at Christmas by providing buses on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December from the Railway Station and visiting various Border Towns. This project was very much to test the market to see if a better planned operation can be put into place in the future. Alan Livingstone said that with regard to buses the Chamber of Trade were investigating the fact that buses for Kelso were leaving prior to arrival of the trains at Tweedbank.

### **Minute of the meeting held on 13 September 2016**

The minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 September 2016 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Hodges and seconded by Councillor Cooper. Councillor Mountford did however add that for clarification on page 6 of the Minute in relation to questions to SBC Councillors, Councillor Mountford suggested that Councillor McGrath raised his concern at the future Area Forum meeting which was being held on the next day. Councillor McGrath stated that his request to put an item on the Agenda at the following meeting had been declined.

### **Matters arising**

a) Memorial Wall

Councillor Nicol stated that a meeting was fixed for Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October and anyone interested was welcome to attend. The meeting would be held in Under the Sun Café in Roxburgh Street. The purpose of the meeting was to create a submission to be inserted in Kelso Life.

b) Community Council Network

Councillor McGrath stated that the AGM of the Network had been put off until 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

c) Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Hodges stated what the Sub Committee were planning for next year. As well as concentrating on a calendar a meeting was fixed to decide on the photographs to be included in the calendar. On each photograph there will be an inset. Kelso in Bloom have taken a table at the Farmers Market in November in an effort to try to get volunteers to assist as well as trying to sell the calendar if it was ready in time. Another litter pick is planned for end of October. Councillor Hodges stated that she was hoping to meet with Councillors about the possibility of obtaining grant money for Kelso in Bloom. With regard to the detailed planning for next year there will be an emphasis on the entrance to the Town on the Coldstream Road.

d) Men's Shed

Provost Bassett stated that Scottish Borders Council were continuing to look for premises. Until such time as premises are obtained nothing further can be done.

## **Correspondence**

- a) Secretary intimated that the Annual General Meeting of 'The Bridge' will take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7pm in the Buccleuch Arms Hotel, St Boswells. Councillors Hodges and McGrath agreed to attend.
- b) A letter had been received from the Senior Ranger at Scottish Borders Council enquiring if the Community Council would be interested in organising and hosting the Scottish Borders Walking Festival in 2018, 2019 or 2020. The letter pointed out that Scottish Borders Council can provide support in the form of an Officer to act as a link/information source on how to organise the event and give advice on sourcing funds (typically £10,000 required per year). The Council did not want to pursue this at this juncture.
- c) Information had been received that the Scottish Borders Community Council Network will be holding its Annual General Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 at SBC Headquarters. There will be a small buffet and a number of information stalls available from 5.30pm with the AGM commencing at 7.00pm.

## **Scottish Borders Council**

- a) Area Forum  
No meeting had been held since the last meeting of the Community Council. Councillor Mountford said that the next meeting will be held in Kelso.
- b) Kelso High School and Broomlands Primary School  
Councillor Mountford stated that both projects were progressing. There had been a sod cutting at the Broomlands Primary School site which had received press publicity. He went on to say that the projects were on schedule and going to plan.
- c) Parking/Traffic Management  
Scottish Borders Councillors stated that a report will come to the Council in November regarding traffic management. Councillor Nicol stated that nothing will happen in the meantime but one of the options was to decriminalise parking which will involve the purchase of a disc to put in cars. Councillor Tomczyk asked about what steps could be taken to repaint the yellow lines. Councillor Nicol stated that the lines which had been recently done were out of warranty. Councillor Tomczyk asked what steps could be taken to get these replaced. It was suggested that the Community Council write to the three Councillors or get up a petition to put forward to the Council. It was suspected that the lines which were painted after the work done on the centre of the Town were not up to standard. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Councillors in this regard.
- d) Existing High School  
Councillor Tomczyk referred back to the Minute of the previous meeting relating to the possibility of the existing High School being used for the conversion to a Hotel and the effect which it was likely to have on Bed & Breakfasts in the Town. Councillor Tomczyk stated that the Racecourse and Borders Union Showground had stated that they would be very interested in getting extra accommodation in the Town. He also made the observation that he felt that there were Bed & Breakfasts being developed in the Town and that there was no conflict between Bed & Breakfasts and established Hotels as they largely target different markets.

Provost Bassett stated that following the meeting he had obtained a list of all Bed & Breakfasts which had been put on the website. Lists of Bed & Breakfasts were also given to taxi drivers and he had agreed with the Registrar that the bottom windows on the Horsemarket side of the Town Hall would be available to put details of Bed & Breakfasts.

Councillor Nicol made the point that people do not take advantage of the electronic notice board which has been created at the new building incorporating the toilet block in the Horsemarket/Woodmarket. He understood that advertising on that was free. The Provost advised that free advertising was only available for one year and only one person had used it. Councillor Nicol agreed that it was not best sited next to the entrance to the public toilets.

e) Big Bike Revival

The Secretary read out a letter which had been received from the Cycling Development Officer of Big Bike Revival Scotland which outlined the project which was aimed to encourage and enable non and lapsed cyclists to take out bicycling for everyday journeys. This letter also stated that small grants were available to offer Community Organisations to put on Big Bike Revival Events. Big Bike Revival also aims to reach out to people who are not normally approached in cycling promotions such as people with special mobility needs.

f) Previous Dorothy Perkins Shop

Provost Bassett stated he had proposed that the premises be utilised for exhibiting Children's paintings but he understood that there may be interest in the premises.

g) Trinity Church

Councillor Mountford stated that there were no further developments.

h) Public invited to discuss local property plans

Councillor Mountford intimated that a recent news release from Scottish Borders Council invited local residents and community groups in Jedburgh and Kelso to get involved in planning how publicly owned land and buildings in the Cheviot Area could be used more effectively and efficiently. The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership which includes Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue and Scottish Enterprise will use a series of events over the winter to launch discussions ahead of the development of property plans for each of the five localities across the Borders. This includes considering how Scottish Borders Council can continue to deliver high quality services in communities into the future while faced with an ongoing financial challenge. An event to explain why the plans are being put together is being held at Kelso's Tait Hall on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm and finishing at 8.30pm. The meeting will consider the main aspects of the Community Empowerment Act which requires all public services, along with voluntary organisations to work more closely with communities to improve local services and address local needs and make the best use of increasingly scarce resources. The event will give people the chance to discuss land and buildings in their area before the plans are put together. An issue to discuss what is being done well in terms of the use of public buildings and what could be done better and where people think how the various bodies can priorities their resources when it comes to properties and land and how

communities could play a role in running the facilities and what support they would need if taking over or buying buildings and land for the community.

i) Tree at Bridge End Park

Councillor Tomczyk stated that he had observed that no plaque had been placed at the tree which was planted to commemorate the Jubilee by the Community Council. He understood that the Friends of Kelso Museum were going to commemorate the Battle of the Somme with the planting of another tree. It was understood that Councillor T Weatherson had made representations to the Council for the provision of the plaque. It was agreed that the matter should be raised with both Councillor Scott and Councillor Tom Weatherston to see if the situation can be rectified.

### **Consideration of Licence Applications**

There were no licence applications presented to the Council.

### **Consideration of Planning Applications**

The Council considered the following plans:

- a) M & J Ballantyne Ltd., for the erection of 23 dwellinghouses on land at East Broomlands Phase 3. The Council had no objections.
- b) Vermillion Ltd., for the erection of a Dental Practice Laboratory parking access, landscaping and associated infrastructure work on land south east of the Paul Burton Warehouse (Plot 9) Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- c) Mr Michael Ballantyne for the erection of replacement wood store and workshop at 24 Shedden Park Road, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Kelso Town Hall at 7pm. Councillors were reminded that the Armistice Parade will take place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 11.00am.