

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso
Community Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 9 September 2014, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Provost John Bassett (Chair), Councillors Dean Weatherston, Harry Tomczyk, Betty Hodges, Colin McGrath and Gavin Horsburgh and Scottish Borders Councillors Alec Nicol, Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Fiona Scott and John King

Welcome

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

Notice of Motion

It was noted that the proposed member to be co-opted had withdrawn their application due to poor health.

Police Matters

The Secretary advised the June, July and August 2014 Police Scotland reports had previously been circulated.

Suzanne Howgego advised crime in Kelso was relatively low and of an opportunistic nature. She urged the public to be more vigilant and to ensure their property was securely locked. It was noted that only property on an industrial estate had been subjected to a forced entry.

Suzanne Howgego advised Inspector John Scott was moving back to the Safer Communities department but would still have an overview of Kelso and Berwickshire.

The Provost raised the issue of illegal parking in the town and advised replacement road markings were scheduled to be in place in the next fortnight. The Provost asked what enforcement would be put in place once the markings had been installed. Suzanne Howgego advised illegal parking would be targeted and each area, including Kelso would be systematically blitzed by herself and Community Officers.

Eleanor Gibson, a member of the public raised the issue of Forestfield being used as a "rat run" and asked what could be done to alleviate this. Suzanne Howgego advised speed calming measures needed to be put in place. Councillor A Nicol advised the SBC Roads Department were aware of this issue and he would follow up and report back the next meeting.

Nominated neighbour scheme

Suzanne Howgego advised she was working with the local Rotary Club on how a "Nominated Neighbour Scheme" could work. This scheme involves giving cards to the elderly and vulnerable which they could hand out to any unknown caller which would direct the caller to a neighbour. The first task was to build up a bank of people who would be considered vulnerable. Once the initiative was agreed with the Rotary Club details would be circulated to all Community Councils in the area. It was anticipated the initiative would be launched later in the year. Suzanne Howgego undertook to circulate a standard document to the Secretary.

Suzanne Howgego advised she had been approached by a lady in Abbotseat who was willing to knock on her neighbour's doors to see if they would be prepared to help. However, it was noted this area covered a significant number of homes and Suzanne Howgego asked whether any of the Councillors were prepared to help. Councillors Gavin Horsburgh and Dean Weatherston offered their assistance.

Petition – scooter rally

It was noted Councillor A Nicol had passed details of the complaints and petition to Chief Inspector Simpson who had discussed this with Inspector John Scott, Mr Wilson at the Springwood Showground and Ms Barrack. Inspector Scott gave assurances that sufficient resources would be in place in the future and they would have a policing plan in place to mitigate a repeat of events.

Chamber of Trade report

No report was submitted.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2014 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Betty Hodges and seconded by Councillor Colin McGrath.

Matters arising

a) Stakeholders Briefing

Councillor Harry Tomczyk advised there had been two meetings of the Stakeholders committee and he undertook to circulate a copy of the July minutes and a synopsis of the points raised at last week's meeting. The following points were noted:

- The vennel between the new Gap site business center and the Black Swan will be named "Market Close" and the address of the center will be Market Close , 11 Horsemarket TD5 7HE. It was noted this building had not been part of the recent Open Day event but there would be an opportunity at some point to look around the building.

There would be some form of Opening Ceremony for the streetscape works in the Square and surrounding areas and it is hoped that it will be possible to

combine this with the opening of the gapsite business center. A meeting of the Steering group is to be held on 16/9 to discuss the Ceremony

- It was noted that a resident of the Knowes had objected to works which led to a delay in the town works.
- Cleaning of the Square – it was noted that once work was complete a deep clean would be carried out by machine and cleaning would take place on a regular and permanent basis. This would be publicised to keep the public informed.
- Disabled parking – the Provost advised the designated space outside the Cross Keys was now surfaced in river cobbles and therefore not suitable for disabled drivers. It was noted another area which was covered in flat sets would be sought.

Councillor Simon Mountford advised work was due to start on the Pantwell in the near future.

It was noted the new toilets at Market Close had been vandalised. The Provost reminded members the Community Council had funds available for the installation of CCTV. Details will be brought back to a future meeting.

b) Memorial Garden/Wall

The Provost advised he had contacted the Chair of Coldstream Community Council and he advised they did not have a memorial wall.

It was noted members felt very strongly Kelso should have a memorial wall at the cemetery where relations of people who have been cremated could put up a memorial plaque in their memory.

Councillor McGrath reported he had contacted Melrose Crematorium who advised it had no memorial wall but had a memorial garden where ashes could be scattered.

Councillor T Weatherston advised he had taken this issue back to Jason Hedley at SBC who advised there was no compelling business case for SBC to undertake this project. However, they would not object to the project and would be prepared to offer assistance. It was noted this should be community driven, delivered and managed. Councillor Weatherston advised the way forward would be for Councillor John King and other interested parties to meet with SBC.

The Provost thanked the SBC Councillors for their support in this matter.

c) Gallipoli Memorial

The Provost advised a separate Kelso Community Council bank account had been set up in order for donations to be paid in for the Gallipoli Memorial and any future memorials. He had auctioned some possessions during the summer and donated the proceeds to the fund.

The Provost said he would be pursuing funding through the Sainsbury Fund. In addition he had spoken to the manager of Sainsbury Supermarket and with the

help of local clubs a bag pack would be organised, whereby 50% would be donated to the memorial and 50% to the local club.

In response to a question the Provost advised Robertson Memorials would be commissioned to produce the memorial and had quoted a reduced price of £1600. The memorial would be of white Portland stone and a site had been identified which was agreed with the British Legion.

The memorial would be unveiled at the Remembrance Service during Civic Week.

d) Sainsbury's Fund 2014/15

The Provost reminded members this was the last year for nominations for grants from the Sainsbury's fund. This money is given out to community groups in the Kelso area.

The Scheme will offer grants to a maximum of £2,000 which can be awarded to any single project. Applications of £500 and over will require 10% match-funding in cash or 'in-kind' support (i.e., this might take the form of volunteer's time or local skills that are a direct input to the project). Grants of up to £499 can be funded up to 100%.

The Provost thanked the previous Secretary, George Young, who had agreed to administer this project for the final year. The closing date had been extended to 31 October 2014 to enable groups to submit their applications.

e) Winter planting

The Secretary advised she had received a request from Stuart Young of the Kelso Horticultural Society for funding for winter planting. Although the Kelso Community Council had paid for the cost of the summer planting, due to cost constraints there was no funding available for winter planting.

Councillor T Weatherston intimated there may be funding available from SBC.

f) Parking in Square

Members raised the issue of vehicle parking in the Square and in particular on the pedestrian area which was unsightly and dangerous for locals and visitors. The Provost said members of the public had raised this issue with him on a number of occasions. It was agreed if an event was taking place all vehicles should have access rights to the Square to offload and then move their vehicles to a public car park. The only exception to parking in the public area of the Square would be weddings and emergency access. The Provost asked the Secretary to lodge a formal letter of with SBC.

It was also noted that on occasions bric a brac stalls were not using tables to display their goods and just dumping them at the back of their vehicle. Members agreed this was not acceptable and all traders should abide by the rules, as per the Farmers Market.

Councillor D Weatherston raised the issue of road closures during St James' Fair and who was responsible for erecting signage in relation to closed bus stops and alternative routes. It was noted several vehicles had ignored the road closure notice over the weekend. Councillor T Weatherston advised it would be the responsibility of the Roads Department and if a road closure was in place there should be no exceptions, apart from emergency vehicles.

Secretary's Report

Kelso High School - the Secretary was asked to approach SBC to determine what the options were for the existing High School once it was relocated. Andrew Drummond-Hunt advised SBC Council has been undertaking some background work for the old high school site with Historic Scotland to find out what is feasible from a listed buildings perspective bearing in mind that the original art deco core of the building is considered to have a high architectural and historic value. The current thinking is perhaps residential use might be most appropriate given it is within a residential area. SBC recognises the project needs to be discussed more widely within the Kelso community and Martin Joyce, the Council's Capital Projects Director (who is leading the Kelso High School project) and Andrew Drummond-Hunt would be happy to meet with the Community Council to make them aware of the position. The Secretary was asked to invite them to the November meeting.

Resilient Communities – the Secretary advised she had been contacted by Mike Lomas, a Kelso resident, who is working as a volunteer with the Emergency Team at SBC. One of his tasks is to develop the Resilient Communities project.

After a discussion it was agreed the way forward would be for a Stakeholders group to be formed for this specific purpose if we can find a chairman.

Framed photos – the Secretary advised those of the previous Provost, Fiona Scott, and current Provost were now displayed on the wall in the Town Hall.

Correspondence

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

A letter from John Lamont MSP regarding Vodafone's Rural Open Sure Signal Programme and requests for applications. The committee felt this was not appropriate for Kelso.

The Secretary highlighted the following documents:

- Supplementary guidance: affordable housing review - comments due by 26.9.14
- Revised scheme of establishment of community councils
- Moratorium on wind farms
- Petition for reinstatement of garden waste

- WWI Drumhead service in Edinburgh – it was noted invitations had been sent to those members of the public nominated by Kelso Community Council.
- SBCCN Annual Seminar on 1 October – Councillors H Tomczyk and C McGrath to attend
- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill. It was noted Councillor McGrath had requested an extension for comments.

Councillor G Horsburgh asked for clarity on how questions on Kelso Community Council Facebook were dealt with. Councillor D Weatherston advised he and the Provost abided by the code of conduct and used their discretion to answer questions on behalf of the Community Council, mostly by sharing information from the SBC Facebook or a news website. Positive comments had been received from the Kelso Chamber of Trade, SBC and Borders Telegraph as well as locals. If any issues arose that needed full committee approval these would be circulated to the Councillors prior to an answer being sent. It was noted there were over 850 members of the Kelso Community Council Facebook. Councillor Tomczyk undertook to attend the social media session at the SBNCC meeting on the 1 October.

Area Forum Report

Councillor T Weatherston advised the Area Forum had been cancelled due to lack of agenda items. The next meeting would be held in Jedburgh during October and Councillor Weatherston urged members for agenda items.

Members suggested a presentation on social media.

Councillor S Mountford advised the SBC website had recently been nominated the best in the UK.

Scottish Borders Council Report

New High School

Councillor A Nicol advised the plans showing the layout had been published and it was anticipated the school would be occupied in the summer of August 2016. Councillor Tomczyk commented there was no provision for a viewing gallery in the Sports Hall which would prohibit exhibition events.

Garden waste

Councillor Nicol advised to date the cost of Kelso green waste going to landfill amounted to £6,650.

Eleanor Gibson a member of the public raised the issue of garden waste no longer being collected and the only way to dispose of it was a 40 mile round trip journey until the new recycling centre was open next year and urged the Councillors to reconsider the reinstatement of green waste collection. SBC councillors advised they had done their utmost to have green waste reinstated in Kelso, but other SBC Councillors objected and they were opposed by the full SBC council. They commented they had found an alternative solution but very much regretted they had been overruled.

The Provost commented Kelso Community Council had written a letter of protest to the Leader of SBC.

Peter Cooper a member of the public asked why collections at the Knowes had been stopped and Council Nicol advised this was due to health and safety reasons.

Shedden Park hedge cutting

Peter Cooper raised the issue of Shedden Park hedge being only partly cut. Councillor T Weatherston advised SBC only trim hedges once a year but sometimes have to do parts where summer growth may be causing problems with sightlines for traffic. However the entire lengths of all hedges in the autumn/winter months will be cut.

Councillor McGrath asked for clarity on the future of Broomland School and was advised SBC had just been informed that as the Scottish Government were now paying for the new High School, SBC are hoping to use the money they have saved to build a new School at Broomland.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Installation of new shop front, 1 Bridge Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) Erection of conservatory, 125 Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections.

The following plans were approved, with no comments, over the summer months:

- R and W Charters re erection of boundary wall, fence and gates (response by 9 July 2014)
- Aitken and Turnbull Architects on behalf of The Function Room and bar area Ednam House Hotel - alternations to windows, installation of French doors, replacement patio surface and formation of water feature (response by 10 July 2014)
- Aitken and Turnbull Architects on behalf of The Orangery Ednam House Hotel – reorganisation of the ground floor bedroom suite
- Mr D Brown, Haybank, 140 Roxburgh Street, TD5 7DY – internal alterations.
- U-Store Business Unit – installation of new signage (due 24 July)
- Erection of high school and associated facilities (due 25 July)
- The Contented Vine – removal of condition no 3 from planning consent to allow person(s) not employed by the business to occupy the residential flat on the premises (due 31 July)

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 14 October 2014 at 7.00pm