

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 13 January 2026 at 7.00 pm in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh, Councillors James Boulton, James McCombie, Gail Watson; Jenna Borthwick (until 8.30pm), Susan McKay, Shirley Redgrave, Harry Tomczyk, Paul Roberts, Dean Weatherston and June Regulski; Y Oliver (Secretary/Treasurer)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Toni Oliver and PC Paul Owenson

IN ATTENDANCE: Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston, Euan Robson and Simon Mountford; Anne Woodcock and Gavin Brown (Tweed Foundation and Fishing Museum); Tony Abbott – Member of the Public

- *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.*
- *Councillors to make a declaration of interest prior to discussion.*
- *All correspondence to be circulated via the Secretary.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct questions through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2026.

Police Matters

The December MMWR had not been received prior to the meeting, however the following matters will be passed on to Police Scotland:

(i) **Electric Scooters**

Councillor Dean Weatherston raised the subject of Electric Scooters and the speed at which they were being ridden. The Provost stated that these scooters are illegal in Scotland (unless you are on private land). Police Scotland has previously been made aware of the problem and advised that, if they apprehend someone riding an Electric Scooter, they confiscate it. However, Dean was also concerned that the riders of these scooters seemed to favour black clothing and

that, together with no lights and no helmet, made them very difficult to see in the dark. The Provost also said he had been informed that the top speed for these machines was 19 miles per hour. He stressed the importance of reporting to Police Scotland anyone seen riding an electric scooter.

Councillor Paul Roberts also commented on the safety issue regarding bicycles which had been converted to e-bikes, stating that they could reach a top speed of 30 miles per hour.

(ii) Anti-Social Behaviour – Roxburgh Street

The Provost advised members that, on Saturday 10 January 2026, a concerned shop owner in Roxburgh Street had contacted the Community Council advising that someone in the flat above her premises was throwing live fireworks out of the window onto the street. Apart from being very frightened (thinking that it could be a gun going off), two of her customers had left the shop. Due to her premises being near Jamieson Court, she had contacted all three Housing Associations to inform them of what was going on – all three said it had nothing to do with them as the properties were not theirs. She had also contacted SBC Councillor Euan Robson who said he would report it to SBC's Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The shop owner had also expressed concern at the drug-taking that was going on in Roxburgh Street and the Provost asked if she had reported all this to the Police. She said she had not reported anything because she thought the Police weren't interested. The Provost advised her that the Police were powerless to do anything unless they knew what was going on. He had sent an e-mail himself to PC Paul Owenson and was awaiting a reply.

(iii) Police Attendance at Kelso Racecourse

Councillor Dean Weatherston advised the meeting that he had attended the race meeting which had been held over the Festive Period. He expressed concern at the fact that, despite the meeting being very well attended, there was no police presence there or in the town during or after the event. Whilst no-one was anticipating trouble, he thought that the police should have been in attendance. He also said that, on a separate occasion when he had cause to phone the police, they had advised that they could not attend due to them dealing with an incident in Hawick.

Visit Kelso

There had been no further activity since Christmas 2025.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 December 2025

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 9 December 2025 had been circulated and approved.

Proposer: Councillor Gail Watson
Seconder: Councillor Shirley Redgrave

Matters Arising from the Minutes

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised there was no further update, but he was trying to get the agent for Starbucks to appeal SBC's decision on their opening hours.

Questions from the Public

(i) **Ryan Whellans (Efforts of Borders' Community Groups recognised)**

Ryan Whellans had asked that it be minuted that Seven Community Groups in the Borders had been celebrated for their efforts to improve the environment.

The Groups were:

Duns Community Food Garden
Hawick Community Food Garden
Kelso Community Food Garden
Burnfoot Community Futures
Coldstream Community Larder
Greener Peebles
Paxton House Kitchen Garden

Duns Community Food Garden, Burnfoot Community Futures and Paxton House Kitchen Garden were also awarded a Certificate of Distinction for showing consistent improvement over the years.

(ii) **Dog-Fouling in Bowmont Street**

A member of the public had emailed the Community Council complaining about the very big increase in dog-fouling on Bowmont Street. The Provost had reported this to the Parks & Environment Department of SBC, and they had cleaned it up. More signage has been added in the hope that this will help. The lady who had complained sent her thanks for this action.

Members were also advised that there had been an increase in dog-fouling on the pavement which runs out of Kelso on Ednam Road and Kelso Racecourse. The Provost advised that the Community Council could not afford to keep filling the dog-poo bag dispensers as, unfortunately, they were being misused.

(iii) **Drop-Kerbs for Wheelchairs**

An email had also been received asking about drop-kerbs in and around the town. The Provost had asked for more details to be provided before replying. The same member of the public had also asked if the Community Council could subsidise a wheelchair-accessible vehicle/taxi. The Provost advised that Scottish Borders Council already subsidise Borders Wheels and Teviot Wheels for this purpose and any taxi firm could be asked whether they had one of these

vehicles available. It was certainly not something that the Community Council would be able to pursue.

(iv) Old Baptist Church, Bowmont Street

Mr T Abbot asked what the current situation was regarding the Old Baptist Church in Bowmont Street? The Provost replied that the barriers had been erected approximately one year ago, following Storm Arwen, due to debris falling off the roof. There had been many attempts to contact the owners but without any success to date. The matter was now in the hands of SBC's Enforcement Officers.

(v) Opening of the Salmon Fishing Season

Anne Woodcock addressed the meeting, advising members of the various activities involved in this year's opening of the Salmon Fishing Season, which will take place on Monday 2 February 2026. An invitation would be issued to the Community Councillors in due course.

The Fishing Museum will be open to the public and the Post Box in Woodmarket will be decorated with a knitted theme. There will also be a "Best-Dressed" Window Competition. The BBC/ITV and Fishing TV will all be in attendance and Countryfile, with Sammi Kinghorn and Matt Baker, are dedicating a whole programme to the Opening of the Salmon Fishing Season on the River Tweed.

Kelso In Bloom

Members were advised that an email had been received from the Borders Forest Trust, advising of the availability of a grant from the Borders Tree Grant Scheme. This scheme enables community groups and private landowners to apply for up to £1,000 worth of funding to plant trees on community or privately owned land. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Community Council to allow members to digest the contents of the email.

Provost Report:

Provost's Diary:

- (1) The Provost advised members he had attended the Duke of Buccleuch's Hunt on Boxing Day and thanked those members who had also attended. He said there had been some good, and some bad, publicity – there had been approximately 300 attendees.
- (2) As previously discussed at the meeting, the Opening of the Tweed Salmon Fishing Season was taking place on Monday 2 February 2026 and the Provost would be attending that. An invitation to all Community Councillors would be issued in due course.

Provost's Report:

Black Swan/Parking

The Provost had sent the landlord of the Black Swan a couple of emails and had also attempted to make contact with him, to no avail, with regards to the parking of vehicles outside the Black Swan and Greggs, Bakers and also the condition of the outside of the building. The landlord had denied all knowledge of any parking restrictions, despite PC Owenson having visited him and tickets placed on his vehicles. He also said no-one from the Community Council had been in to the premises to welcome him to the town – this was not true as the Provost had visited the premises three times and left messages with the staff, leaflets and his card to advise the landlord that he had been in to see him. The landlord said he would get the work to the outside of the building done when the weather improves.

Points of Interest

- The Waggon Inn was currently closed for refurbishment and was going to open as an Italian Restaurant
- Dickson's of Ednam had ceased trading
- Paterson's Paint are relocating to what had been Swan's Shoe Shop
- Pitman Computers are relocating to what had been A Hume, Paint Shop
- Kitty and Gus are relocating to what had been Hume Outfitters, Ladies Clothing Shop
- The Factory Shop is in administration

Secretary's Report

Events/Correspondence

Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary was attached to the Minute.

Consultations

- SOSE – Community Benefit from Onshore Wind Consultation

The Provost advised that, in the past, it had been difficult to get a Community Council perspective and joined up thinking on consultations. Therefore, he had sent out forms for this Consultation to each member and thanked those who had completed them and returned them to him. There was unanimous agreement that the Provost submit a response on behalf of the Community Council.

Scottish Borders Councillor's Report

- (1) Shop Fronts (5 Roxburgh Street, Kelso)

Complaints had been received to the Community Council an SBC Councillors regarding the colour change of the shop front at 5 Roxburgh Street and the fact that they had replaced the window with a different style. These had been forwarded to SBC's Planning and Enforcement Departments. It has also been brought to the Provost's attention (and other Community Councillors' attention) that the shop is selling sleeves and pouches of cheap tobacco, energy drinks and vapes to under-16's (which is against the law). This is a Trading Standards issue as well as a Police issue and PC Owenson and Trading Standards at Scottish Borders Council are aware of the situation.

(2) Lighting Bridgend Park

Councillor Toni Oliver had requested this topic, asking if there could be similar lighting in Bridgend Park to that in Shedden Park. SBC Councillor Euan Robson reminded members that Shedden Park had received money from the Skatepark Project and doubted very much whether there would be money available for a similar project in Bridgend Park. (It was agreed to put this item on next month's agenda if requested by Councillor Oliver).

(3) Lamps on Bridge Street

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that the lights which were not working on Bridge Street had been reported. The lamp from Waterloo Bridge was still in for repair at SBC.

(4) Street Lighting

Councillor Dean Weatherston advised that, amongst those already mentioned, there were three lights not working on Broomlands Path, whilst some others were on all day. SBC Councillor Euan Robson agreed to report all these to SBC.

(5) Inchmyre Refuse

Councillor June Regulski advised members of rubbish lying outside the flats at Inchmyre, opposite the Health Centre. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised this was an ongoing problem, however he would speak again to the refuse department.

(6) Post – Edenside Road

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that the damaged post (bus stop) in Edenside Road would be replaced.

Consideration of Licensing applications

- (i) Application for 'Provisional' Premises Licence for Wilson's Farm & Kitchen, Cowbog Farm, Cowbog, Kelso, TD5 8EH – **No objections**

Consideration of Plans

- (i) **25/01802/FUL** – Formation of car park, access road and footpath – QME Care Queen's House, Angraflat Road, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7NS – **No objections**

Any other business

- (i) Abbey 900 Meeting – 26 January 2026 – 7pm

The Provost advised members of the next meeting of the Abbey 900 Meeting and said all were welcome to attend. There had been many great ideas suggested with various groups involved.

- (ii) The Cobby

The Provost advised members that he had been sent a photograph of youths playing on the ice at the Cobby. He said this was a very dangerous thing to do and stressed that everyone be vigilant to this practice and report any further incidences to the Police.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will take place on Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 7pm.