

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 9 December 2025 at 6.00 pm in Kelso Town Hall



- PRESENT:** Gavin Horsburgh, Councillors James Boulton, James McCombie, Toni Oliver, Gail Watson; Jenna Borthwick, Susan McKay, Shirley Redgrave, Harry Tomczyk, Paul Roberts (from 18.25) and Dean Weatherston; Y Oliver (Secretary/Treasurer)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor June Regulski; Scottish Borders Councillor Euan Robson.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston and Simon Mountford; PC Paul Owenson (from 18.44).

- *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.

Police Matters

The November MMWR had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was total surprise at the sheep-rustling incident which had taken place at Friars Haugh, Kelso – PC Owenson advised there was no update on this matter.

Following a request by Councillor H Tomczyk on an update regarding the problems at Broomlands School, PC Owenson advised that he had been at the school on 3 separate occasions to see for himself the concerns raised regarding cars dropping off and picking up schoolchildren and the dangers this was causing to those people trying to cross the road.

Concern was raised that, following a break-in at the Jet Garage, the proprietors had been unable to open for business whilst waiting on forensic officers to arrive. PC

Owenson advised that, unfortunately, the officers had to travel from elsewhere to the scene and were unable to attend immediately.

Councillor Paul Roberts expressed concern that the speed cameras in the Borders were no longer in use. SBC Councillor Simon Mountford said Scottish Borders Councillors had been told there was no longer any use for them.

Councillor Jenna Borthwick asked whether any action had been taken regarding the incident whereby a lady from Roxburgh Street/Winchester Row had complained that drugs were being taken illegally in nearby premises. PC Owenson said he had no record of this complaint but Police Scotland worked closely with the Housing Associations in this regard.

Visit Kelso

Councillor Jenna Borthwick advised that the Xmas Fayre had gone extremely well. The stallholders had been very pleased with the footfall on the Saturday, with some excellent entertainment, whilst Sunday had not been quite so busy.

The Provost advised members that a suggestion had been made as to combining Visit Kelso's Xmas Fayre with the Switch-On of the Christmas Lights event. It was noted that the Fayre would need to operate from 10am-3pm and be finished in time for the Switch-On Event to commence at 4pm. Further discussion would obviously be required if this were to go ahead.

The Provost commended all the shops which had taken place in the Xmas window-dressing competition this year. He thanked Councillors Toni Oliver and Gail Watson for acting as judges and announced that this year's winner was Tweeddale Furnishings.

He also thanked those shops which had taken part in the Xmas Elves Competition (26 in total) and advised that the Visit Kelso website would have a note of those shops opening on the Sundays in December (prior to Christmas Day).

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 November 2025

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 11 November 2025 had been circulated and approved.

Proposer: Councillor Toni Oliver
Seconder: Councillor H Tomczyk

Matters Arising from the Minutes

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that the Waterloo lights, which had been damaged in Storm Arwen, should be ready by January/February. He would provide

an update on the lights/lanterns on the flowerpots in The Square at the January meeting of the Community Council.

Questions from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

Kelso In Bloom

Members were advised that a “catch-up” meeting had been held but there would be nothing to report until the Spring.

Provost Report:

Provost’s Diary:

- (1) The Provost advised members that there was to be a concert on Friday 12 December 2025 in the Tait Hall given by members of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Proceeds from ticket sales would go to Poppy Scotland.
- (2) He was attending the Over-60’s Christmas Lunch in Ednam House (as a guest!) on Saturday 13 December.
- (3) The Provost was also attending an Over-60’s Xmas Lunch in Kelso Rugby Club on Wednesday 17 December 2025.
- (4) Members were advised that the Duke of Buccleugh Hunt would be leaving Kelso Square at 12 noon on Friday 26 December 2025 (Boxing Day). The Provost sends them on their way and requested that as many Community Councillors as possible be present to assist him.

Abbey 900 Meeting

The Provost advised he had attended the recent meeting of the Abbey 900 Group and said it had been very good and the basis of an official Committee had been formed. Susan Turnbull (Acting Chairperson) said the Group was looking for various office-bearers e.g. Treasurer, Committee members, etc. The next meeting would be held on the last Wednesday in January 2026 (28th) and the Provost encouraged anyone who is interested at all in the Abbey 900 Group to attend. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised the meeting that SBC has trained staff to deal with this type of event – he will provide a contact to the Provost. He said these people can also help with applications for funding.

The Provost reminded members of the Consultation on Historic Buildings which was currently ongoing and encouraged everyone to complete it.

Secretary’s Report

Events/Correspondence

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

Consultations

- (i) The Provost drew attention to Scottish Borders Council's Budget Consultation and asked all members that they respond individually (available on-line).
- (ii) He also asked that members respond to the recent Cemetery Strategy which had been issued on 7 November 2025 (also available on-line).

Scottish Borders Councillor's Report

Shop Fronts (5 Roxburgh Street, Kelso)

The Provost advised he had received various complaints about the change of colour to the premises at 5 Roxburgh Street, Kelso and also to the replacement window. He said this had been reported to Scottish Borders Councillors. Councillor Euan Robson undertook to investigate this matter.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

- (i) **25/01670/LBC** – Replacement windows – Flat 1, 10 Roxburgh Street, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7DH – **No objections**
- (ii) **25/01708/FUL** – Alterations to dwellinghouse – 1 Waverley Lodge, The Knowes, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7BH – **No objections**
- (iii) **25/01705/LBC** – Alterations to dwellinghouse – 1 Waverley Lodge, The Knowes, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7BH – **No objections**

Any other business

Councillor Shirley Redgrave asked if there was any update with regards to the provision of a Starbucks? SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston said they were very unhappy with SBC's proposed opening hours for them and he was seriously worried that they would simply withdraw their application.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will take place on Tuesday 13 January 2026 at 7pm.