

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on  
Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 7.00 pm in Kelso Town Hall



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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor James McCombie

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston, Euan Robson and Simon Mountford; Paul Copson – Member of the Public; PC Paul Owenson, 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.*
- *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 apologies were noted as above.

## **Police Matters**

The January MMWR had not been received prior to the meeting, however PC Paul Owenson was in attendance to answer any questions:

### (i) **Speeding Cars in Roxburgh Street**

Councillor Paul Roberts reported that the issue of speeding cars in Roxburgh Street had exacerbated over the last 3-4 weeks and, although it was probably worse at night, it was also happening during the day. Councillor Roberts was seriously concerned that it was only a matter of time before there was a bad accident. The Provost reported that PC Paul Owenson had attended the top of Roxburgh Street over the past week and it did make a difference as the cars were seen to be visibly slowing down as soon as the drivers spotted PC

Owenson. It was noted that “Pop-Up BoB” could be quite effective but only until the public realised what it was.

(ii) Parking in Abbotsford Grove

Mr Paul Copson asked PC Owenson if he knew about the parking problems in Abbotsford Grove, Kelso (near the roundabout at Shedden Park Road). PC Owenson advised that he was aware of the situation and plans were in hand to deal with it, although it may take some time as it would require liaising with SBC for a painted line.

(iii) Anti-Social Behaviour at Orchard Park, Kelso

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston asked PC Owenson if he had any update on the recent vandalism which had occurred at Orchard Park, Kelso? PC Owenson had no further information but said he would investigate and report back to the Community Council. (PC Owenson subsequently emailed the Provost to advise that it was believed the damage had been done by a vehicle in a hit-and-run and the enquiry was still ongoing).

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 January 2026**

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 13 January 2026 had been circulated and approved, subject to a slight change of wording requested by Councillor Dean Weatherston regarding the lack of police presence due to an incident in Hawick.

Proposer: Councillor Gail Watson  
Seconder: Councillor Susan McKay

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The Old Baptist Church, Bowmont Street, Kelso

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised members that this matter was now in the hands of SBC’s Enforcement Team. The matter would now have to go through the various processes necessary prior to action being taken. The heras fencing / barrier have been in place since the storm in January 2025

**Questions from the Public**

Illegal parking of caravans at Mayfield

Mr Paul Copson raised the subject of the illegal parking of caravans at Mayfield, Kelso. SBC Councillor Euan Robson had submitted a proposal to the Community Council (and copied to Mr Copson) suggesting that the grass where the caravans are parking be allowed to grow (on the eastern/downstream side of Mayfield) to help prevent the

grossly offensive anti-social behaviour that Mr Copson had raised at a previous meeting of the Community Council.

It was felt that this approach could help to discourage antisocial behaviour in front of the residential properties, make the paths more enjoyable and varied for walkers, dog owners and families, and significantly enhance biodiversity in the area.

It was suggested that this would operate as a trial for a year and be evaluated before Spring 2027.

Councillor Robson also said he would enquire about the possibility of a “No Parking” sign being erected.

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston said the difficulty was that Kelso, and the Borders, does not have a designated site for travelling people and the travellers knew this, thereby making it difficult for enforcement to take place.

### **Kelso In Bloom**

#### Volunteer Rota

The Provost advised members that, although there had not been a meeting of Kelso In Bloom, there had been a change in personnel. Gail Watson had stood down as Rota Secretary and had been ably replaced by Shirley Redgrave. The Provost thanked Gail for her great assistance over the years and asked for any volunteers to put themselves forward.

Shirley advised she had been in contact with most people on the rota list - 28 people had confirmed they would still like to be involved. Gail provided Shirley with a further two names and Shirley said she was hoping to have the rota ready to start for the beginning of April.

The Provost has also stepped down as the Chair of Kelso in Bloom and has been replaced by Heather Robertson, both Gavin and Gail both remain part of the Kelso in Bloom committee.

#### Bird Boxes

The Provost advised that 10 Bird Boxes had been purchased with some being placed at Mayfield, some at the Old Kirk and others dotted around the town.

#### Trees/Planters in Kelso Square

SBC Councillor Euan Robson said he had been approached by Heather Robertson, Chair of Kelso In Bloom asking if it was possible to have a couple of moveable planters containing perhaps a Cherry Tree each in Kelso Square. These would be for ornamental purposes only. Councillor Robson was asking initially if the Community Council was in favour of this idea. The Provost replied that Kelso In Bloom had wanted trees in Kelso Square for many years but, amongst other things, the cost had been the main drawback.

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston suggested that the way forward could perhaps be by community funding. The Community Council would require to ask what the local community thought of the idea and if everyone would be agreeable to this proposal?

SBC Councillor Simon Mountford felt that the trees could be a problem for the Christmas Lights Switch-On Event, and the Farmers Market if they required to be moved around and also who would be responsible for moving them.

### **Provost Report:**

#### **Provost's Diary:**

- (1) The Provost advised members he had attended the Opening of the Tweed Salmon Fishing Season on Monday 2 February 2026 – the weather had been very mixed!! He wanted to commend Anne Woodcock and the Tweed Foundation for the vast amount of work they all had put in to the event – it had started off very small and, thanks to their efforts, had now grown arms and legs and was one of the main events on the Salmon Fishing Season calendar.
- (2) The Provost advised members that he was again going to be attending the Kelso Farmers' Market, hoping to "meet and greet" and hopefully address any issues that the public may wish to raise with him.

#### **Abbey 900 Update:**

The Provost had circulated the Minutes of the last Abbey 900 Meeting and reported that things were starting to take shape. They were almost ready to form a governing body but the difficulty was that there were so many Community Groups involved overall, e.g. Kelso Churches, Kelso Laddies Association, the Heritage Society, the Community Council, etc. All these Groups require to come together with estimated costs of what their proposals might be – the governing body would then require to apply for grants. It was noted that the Duke of Roxburgh was very keen to get involved and the Provost hoped that the Duke would be Chair of the governing body.

#### **Wheelchair Issues in the Town:**

The Provost had issued a WhatsApp and an email advising the Community Council that he had acquired the use of 6 wheelchairs for the purpose of gauging the difficulties people in mobility chairs are having in the town. He said he had been approached by quite a few people regarding dropped kerbs and he had asked for volunteers to join him just to see where the problems were and what, if anything, could be done to help these users. Kelso Hospital and Grove House had also expressed an interest in providing feedback on this issue. It was hoped to produce a report in due course for submission to Scottish Borders Council.

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised the meeting that, a few years previously, he had actually walked round the town with a wheelchair user and, following that, SBC had inserted 4 or 5 dropped kerbs. He felt, therefore, that SBC might now say there were more than enough dropped kerbs in the town.

### **Secretary's Report**

## **Events/Correspondence**

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

## **Consultations**

- **Flood Risk Management Plan**

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised the meeting that this was being circulated by SEPA, with a closing date of 22 April 2026 for comments. It dealt with, amongst other things, all-round drainage, flooding, etc and brings in Kelso and District. The Provost agreed to re-circulate this to members.

## **Scottish Borders Councillor's Report**

- (1) **Lighting Bridgend Park**

Councillor Toni Oliver had requested this topic saying that one of her clients had commented on the shortage of lights at the steps nearest to the Viewpoint at Bridgend Park. She advised that many people would rather walk round the park than risk going through it at night. The Provost asked SBC Councillor Euan Robson if he would raise this matter – he agreed to ask for a cost for more lights. The Provost also asked Councillor Robson if he would ask Neighbourhood Services whether they could have a look at the trees surrounding the lights – perhaps they could be cut back a bit to help the situation if need be.

- (2) **Give Way Signage (Orchard Park)**

Councillor Susan McKay had raised this issue and the Provost reported that the matter is now being investigated.

- (3) **Lighting/Hedge (Path from Orchard Park to Bowmont Street)**

This has also been reported and is being looked into.

- (4) **Light covered by trees – Roxburgh Street**

The Provost reported that this was still to be dealt with and has been reported.

- (5) **Damaged Light on Rennie Bridge**

Councillor James Boulton asked for an update on the damaged light on Rennie Bridge. SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised it was still in the workshop but he would make further enquiries as to its progress.

Councillor Harry Tomczyk advised the group that, during his previous service as a Community Councillor, the idea had been raised regarding the electrification of the lights on Rennie Bridge. SBC Councillor Simon Mountford advised that the person who had previously held the post of Conservation Officer with SBC had been very strongly against this proposal – however, there was a new Conservation Officer in post and he would raise the matter with him.

(6) Replacement Telephone Box – Kelso Square

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston had circulated an email received from BT regarding the replacement of the damaged Telephone Box in Kelso Square. The Community Council unanimously agreed that they wished the Telephone Box to be fully-functioning (not merely for cosmetic purposes). Councillor Weatherston agreed to advise BT of the Community Council's decision, with a copy being sent to the Provost.

(7) Shop at 5 Roxburgh Street

Councillor Paul Roberts asked if the new Conservation Officer could perhaps investigate the premises at 5 Roxburgh Street, i.e. the removal of the existing window and replacement with something completely different. Both Councillors Simon Mountford and Euan Robson advised Paul that this matter was in hand with SBC's Planning Officers.

Councillor Jenna Borthwick asked what the legality of smoking illegal substances in the street was – the Provost advised that, if someone was caught in the act, they would be given a warning. If they persisted, eventually they would be prosecuted. He stressed the importance of reporting any such incidences to Police Scotland to enable the Police to build a dossier of complaints.

### **Consideration of Licensing applications**

There were no Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

### **Consideration of Plans**

- (i) **26/00129/FUL and 26/00130/LBC** – Change of Use of Second Floor Offices and Third Floor Store to form additional accommodation for First Floor Flat – 3 Woodmarket, Kelso - **No objections**
- (ii) **26/00140/LBC** – Replacement Windows, 3 Broomlands House, Ednam Road, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7SW – **No objections**
- (iii) **26/00151/FUL** – Formation of 4 additional residential caravan pitches – Land at Springwood Village, Kelso – **No objections**

- (iv) **26/00155/VAA** – Vehicular Access Application to drop kerb – 51 Hendersyde Drive, Kelso – **No objections**

**Any other business**

- (i) Fence at Ferneyhill Court, Kelso

Councillor Toni Oliver asked what the current situation was with regard to the fence at Ferneyhill Court, Kelso? SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised that it was possible that another planning application would be submitted so the Planning Officers were awaiting that before taking any action.

- (ii) Trees at Ferneyhill Court, Kelso

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised members that it had been agreed to remove three trees which were hard up against a lighting column. Unfortunately, some of the local residents wanted the trees replaced and some did not.

- (iii) Extension to Springwood Caravan Park, Kelso

SBC Councillor Simon Mountford advised the meeting that the owners of Springwood Caravan Park had applied for, and been granted, permission for an additional 36 caravan pitches.

- (iv) Berrymoss Court, Kelso

Councillor Gail Watson reported that there was a motorhome and horsebox parked at the entrance to Berrymoss Court, Kelso which was obstructing other traffic. The Provost agreed to pass this on to PC Paul Owenson.

- (v) UK Towns of Culture

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised the meeting that the UK Government was running a competition for UK Towns of Culture 2028 – SBC was thinking of putting Galashiels forward for this award. The Provost was handed literature in connection with this and agreed to have a look at it.

- (vi) Kelso High School

Councillor Paul Roberts expressed dismay at the recent Schools Inspectorate Report for Kelso High School – it had been anything but complimentary, particularly in relation to staff policy. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston said he was sure the issues raised would be addressed very quickly. The Provost reminded members that at least 99% of pupils were very well-behaved and a credit to the town.

- (vii) Town Place Plans

The Provost reminded members that he would like to start the process of creating a Town Place Plan. There have been training videos produced and these are available to view until around March. He will be looking to invite

members of the community to a meeting in March, who would be willing to be part of a Town Team to produce the Place Plan.

**Date of Next Meeting**

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