

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on  
Tuesday 11 March 2025 at 7:00 pm in Kelso Town Hall



**PRESENT:** Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors James Boulton, Shirley Redgrave, Peter Cooper, Paul Roberts, James McCombie, Owen Adams and Toni Oliver; Scottish Borders Councillor Euan Robson; Yvonne Oliver (Secretary); PC Paul Owenson (Police Scotland)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Gail Watson, Christine Stewart and Colin McGrath; Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston and Simon Mountford

- *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**

PC Paul Owenson (Police Scotland) was in attendance. The February MMWR had been received and circulated. The Provost was disappointed to notice the increase in vandalism. There had also been a couple of break-ins and incidences of mental health issues. It was also noted that people were still parking in The Square and Kelso Town Centre for more than the 2 hours allotted. The white/yellow lines required repainting. The Provost carried out a timed Parking Patrol over a recent Saturday from 9am to 5pm to gather evidence to Police that there is an issue with overstay parking – The Provost placed 55 of our approved notices on vehicles and some at 5pm were still there from 9am and passed this information over to PC Owenson.

The Provost thanked PC Owenson for his attendance and his work in the community - PC Owenson left the meeting at this point.

## **Visit Kelso**

The March 2025 Visit Kelso Newsletter had been issued to Community Council members, and they were advised that Visit Kelso was also working on an Easter Trail, similar to the Christmas Cracker Trail. They were delighted to announce that new members had recently joined, which was excellent news.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2025 11 February 2025**

The Minutes of meeting of Tuesday 11 February 2025 had been circulated and were approved. The Minutes were proposed by Councillor Paul Roberts and seconded by Councillor Shirley Redgrave.

## **Matters arising from the Minute**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

## **Questions From The Public**

### **(i) J Regulski – Berry Moss Court – Trees between Sydenham Court/Berry Moss Court (SBHA)**

It was noted that SBHA had visited the Berry Moss site but the Provost had not received a reply to his email. He asked SBC Councillor Robson if he would be able to get an update from SBHA.

### **(ii) Rutherford Square, Kelso**

Members were advised that there were still problems with the front door of Rutherford Square, Kelso but the lift was now in working order. It transpired that delivery drivers, were jamming the door open whilst delivering parcels and this was damaging the automatic door motor.

### **(iii) Chair Lift at Tait Hall, Kelso**

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that there were ongoing issues with the Chair Lift at the Tait Hall, Kelso. The wrong parts had been delivered, and the issue was in the hands of the contractors.

### **(iv) Havannah Court, Kelso**

Councillor Toni Oliver reported that one of her clients had advised her that someone had been injured and taken to hospital because they had been unable to use the disabled access to Ednam House Hotel, due to the number of parked

cars in Havannah Court. Councillor Oliver asked who was responsible for the road/pavement in this area? SBC Councillor Robson undertook to investigate this matter.

#### **(v) Union Street**

Councillor Toni Oliver asked when Union Street was likely to reopen to the public? SBC Councillor Robson advised that it was hoped that it would open shortly although it was noted that the skip was now back in the street. He undertook to investigate and report back to the Community Council.

#### **Kelso In Bloom**

The Provost advised that the next litter-pick would take place on Sunday 23 March 2025 at 3pm to which all were welcome to take part.

The next meeting of Kelso In Bloom was taking place on Thursday 13 March 2025 at 7pm.

#### **SBCCN**

There was no further update at this time.

#### **Provost Report**

##### **(i) VE Day Commemorations**

The Provost advised that he would be laying a wreath at the War Memorial to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day (8<sup>th</sup> May 2025). However, he had been contacted by SBC Councillor John Greenwell who advised that Kelso had been chosen to host an event on Saturday 10 May 2025 to commemorate the Anniversary. This event would be organised by Scottish Borders Council and involve Cadets, Veterans, the Military Band of the Regiment of Scotland, and Pipe Bands who would all march from Kelso Square to Floors Castle where the Beating of the Retreat would take place at approximately 6.30-7pm.

This is suggested to be the largest event in Scotland to celebrate VE Day and Kelso had been chosen due to its success in hosting events.

As the Provost will be on holiday during this time, Councillor James Boulton agreed to deputise.

##### **(ii) Time Capsule (Wednesday 9 April 2025)**

The burying of the Time Capsule in Kelso Square would take place at 10am on Wednesday 9 April 2025. The Provost had contacted the schools and asked them to provide him with any items they wished to be buried in the Capsule. The hole would be dug on Tuesday 8 April 2025 in preparation for this ceremony by SBC Kelso Roads Dept.

**(iii) Picnic Benches (Kelso Square)**

The Provost advised he had spoken to Steven Jack, Border Union Showground who confirmed they were hoping to trial some picnic benches in The Square and would bring some over after the next Farmer's Market, being held on Saturday 22 March 2025. It was agreed that Bridgend Park and Mayfield would also benefit from some picnic benches.

**(iv) Schools Countryside Day**

The Provost informed members that the Annual Schools Countryside Day was being held on Saturday 25 May 2025 and, as he would be on holiday, Councillor James McCombie had agreed to deputise.

**(v) Provost of Jedburgh**

The Provost of Kelso had met with his counterpart in Jedburgh and they had discussed various issues which affected both communities, e.g. parking/ dog-poo bags, etc.

**Secretary's Report**

**Events/Correspondence**

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

**(a) Kelso Laddie Declaration Night – Friday 18 April 2025**

Members were asked to note that the Kelso Laddie Declaration Night 2025 was being held on Friday 18 April 2025. This event was open to all Community Councillors and the Provost asked for the Councillors' support on the night.

**(b) Charity Begins At Home**

The Provost reminded members that the Application Forms for funding from Charity Begins At Home were now available with applications requiring to be in by 31 March 2025.

**(c) Treasurer Position**

Councillor Shirley Redgrave reminded the council that she planned to step down at the AGM in May as Treasurer. Shirley had spoken to Yvonne Oliver (Secretary) who had agreed to combine the post, as this has been done in the past – this was formally proposed by Shirley and Seconded by The Provost. Shirley agreed to look into the transfer process with The Royal Bank of Scotland and update the signatories of the Bank Accounts. The Provost (Councillor Gavin Horsburgh), Yvonne Oliver and Councillor James McCombie will be added as signatories and previous post holders (who were still registered as bank signatories) Ex-Provost Dean Weatherston and Ex-Provost John Bassett, will be removed.

## **Consultations**

There were no consultations requiring consideration at this time.

### **Scottish Borders Council Report**

#### **(i) Taxi Rank/Kelso Square**

Members were advised that it had been suggested a few months previously that the Taxi Rank in Kelso Square could perhaps be moved further down Horsemarket. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston was going to investigate this – the Provost will contact Councillor Weatherston.

#### **(ii) Baptist Church Occupancy**

Members were advised that a cherry-picker had been seen on-site to remove loose stones.

#### **(iii) “Little Food Shop”**

There was no current update on these premises.

#### **(iv) Rennie Bridge Lantern**

SBC Councillor Robson advised that the lantern which had been blown off the Rennie Bridge had been found and was now with the blacksmiths at SBC Headquarters for repair.

#### **(v) Taxi Fares**

Councillor Shirley Redgrave said she knew it had been proposed that there would be a significant rise in Taxi Fares in the Scottish Borders but wondered when this was being implemented? SBC Councillor Robson advised that the increase had been passed by SBC that morning and involved a 26-28% increase in charges. There was a full report on SBC's website. The new pricing structure will come in force in the new financial year in April.

#### **(vi) Maxmill Park**

SBC Councillor Robson advised the meeting that Maxmill Park, Kelso was now empty and on the market for sale. It was suggested that the area be sealed and fenced off.

**(vii) Lifebuoys**

Members were advised that one of the stolen Lifebuoys had been recovered, albeit without its rope. This would be replaced.

**(viii) Pinnaclehill Woodland**

SBC Councillor Robson advised that matters were progressing well and one Primary School had expressed an interest in carrying out field studies. It was noted that the project to restore the woodland would probably take about 3-4 years.

**(ix) Lighting at various locations in Kelso**

SBC Councillor Robson advised:

- Two ornamental lights for Kelso Square were still being costed;
- The lights in Shedden Park will be repaired but probably not until after April 2025;
- The light in Union Street has gone out again.

**(x) Bridgend Park, Kelso**

It was noted that the trees which were damaged during the recent storm have now been made safe by Scottish Borders Council who have also tidied up a lot of the shrubbery, etc.

**(xi) Starbucks**

There was no update on the Starbucks Planning Application at this time.

**Consideration of Licensing applications**

- (i) Grant of Provisional Premises Licence – Dicksons of Ednam - No objections**
- (ii) Variation of Premises Licence – Border Ice Rink, Kelso – No objections**

**Consideration of Plans**

There were no plans for consideration at this time.

**Any other business**

**900 Anniversary – Kelso Abbey**

Members were advised that the next public meeting regarding the 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of Kelso Abbey will take place on Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 7pm in

Kelso Town Hall. As the Provost would be on holiday on this date, Councillor James Boulton agreed to deputise.

SBC Councillor Robson advised that the meetings have been well attended, with some very good ideas coming forward for the Celebrations – e.g. a Medieval Fair; an academic series of lectures; processions; re-enactment of processions; the Coronation of James II, etc. Members were reminded that Kelso had been the centre of the wool trade in Europe at one time and it had been suggested that there should be a display based on this subject. Councillor Robson said there would probably be a “stand alone” group set up to manage arrangements and which could then apply for funding from various agencies.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next Kelso Community Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 8 April 2025 at the Town Hall, Kelso.