

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 7.14pm in Kelso Town Hall (immediately following the Annual General Meeting)



PRESENT: Provost Gavin Horsburgh, Councillors James McCombie, Susan McKay, Toni Oliver, June Regulski, Dean Weatherston, Jenna Borthwick and Harry Tomczyk.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gail Watson, James Boulton, Paul Roberts and Shirley Redgrave; PC Paul Owenson

IN ATTENDANCE: Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston, Simon Mountford and Euan Robson; Y Oliver (Secretary/Treasurer); (Members 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 apologies were noted as above.

Police Matters

The April update had been issued prior to the meeting. The Provost commented that there had been several incidents, although very few in Kelso. He reminded everyone to contact Police Scotland in the event of any concerns they may have.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 14 April 2026 had been circulated and were approved, subject to the following amendment:

New Powers for Community Councils

Councillor H Tomczyk wished it to be minuted that, although it was Scottish Borders Council, under the Scheme of Community Councils, who regulate the remit of the Community Council, he was of the opinion that it would be beneficial for all Community Councils to have greater powers than they do at present.

Proposer: Councillor Harry Tomczyk
Seconder: Councillor Toni Oliver

Questions from the Public

- (1) The Provost advised members he had been contacted recently by 2 shopkeepers in Roxburgh Street, Kelso following a disturbance outside their premises. Two arrests had been made and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with this. The Provost commented it was very frustrating that this was happening when Kelso had visitors to the Town, there were children walking with their parents, etc – this was not the image the Town wanted to project.

Councillor Jenna Borthwick advised members that it had taken Police Scotland at least 45 minutes to respond to the call for help. The Provost said in instances like these, it was best to dial 999 (as opposed to 101).

- (2) Val Mitchell, a resident of Grovehill, asked the Provost who was responsible for the state of the walkway that runs between the top of Grovehill and Bowmont Street. She said the pathway was disgusting in that it was covered in dog dirt and there was also a lot of broken glass lying about. The Provost asked the SBC Councillors if they would raise this issue with the appropriate departments of the Council.

Ms Mitchell also raised concerns at both the speed that vehicles were driving up and down Grovehill and also the parking issues. These issues had been raised at least 2 years ago when there had been a suggestion that white lines would maybe help – however nothing had been done.

With regard to the parking of vehicles, owners had recently been using the car park at the recently-vacated Factory Shop. However, following news that the premises were soon to be taken over, SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston had asked the owners of these vehicles to move them to allow the trees, etc to be trimmed. It was not known whether the vehicles would be allowed to park after the premises were up and running.

With regards to the speeding issue in Grovehill, the Provost said he remembered this issue being raised a couple of years ago and he thought that Scottish Borders Council had carried out a survey which showed the average speed had been 11 miles per hour. Councillor Toni Oliver asked whether it was worth considering “sleeping policemen”? SBC Councillor Simon Mountford said the problem with these was that they were very noisy when vehicles went over them. SBC Councillor Euan Robson also commented that the Emergency Services vehicles do not like these “bumps” – they make access very difficult. The Provost suggested asking PC Owenson if he could draft a letter to put through residents’ letter boxes asking them to reduce their speed and pointing out what

might happen if they did not. Councillor Robson said he would speak to the Roads Safety Department and see what they could suggest.

- (2) The question of “pigeon poo” was also raised – it was noted that the Square and Henderson Court were particularly affected with this problem but unfortunately there was not a lot could be done about it.
- (3) Mr Kenneth MacDonald, a member of the public attending the meeting, raised the topic of the Vape Shops and whether anything had been done to address the problem since the fire in Glasgow? The Provost replied that Councillor Paul Roberts had raised this issue following the fire, but it was up to the Scottish Government to introduce legislation regarding the Vape Shops and this had not happened yet. This was probably due to the recent Scottish Government elections which had obviously taken priority but hopefully something would be done in the near future.

Kelso In Bloom

Members were advised that Kelso Community Council, on behalf of Kelso In Bloom, had applied to Charity Begins At Home for an award, under CBAH’s Annual Awards Scheme. The Provost was pleased to report that Kelso In Bloom had been awarded £2,000 for which they were very grateful. The allocation consisted of £1,500 for plants, etc and £500 for a year’s supply of dog-poo bags. The Awards Ceremony is taking place on Sunday 14 June 2026 in Kelso Rugby Club at 2pm.

Councillor Dean Weatherston suggested that it might be prudent to advise the public, by way of the Facebook page, that Kelso In Bloom had suffered a slight deficit in funds this year, due to many of the flowerbeds having had to be replaced and more money than usual having to be spent. The Provost agreed that this was a good idea. He also said that, occasionally, Kelso In Bloom held a “Just Giving” scheme, which usually brought in a fair amount of money from members of the public. The last appeal had raised just over £1,000.

Provost Report:

Provost’s Diary:

The Provost had been invited, on 19 May 2026, to attend the Border Union Schools’ Countryside Day. This was held at the Borders Exhibition Centre and was for Primary 5 pupils from all over the Scottish Borders. He advised it is usually a brilliant event and said the invitation also included another 2 members of Kelso Community Council should anyone wish to attend. Over 1,100 pupils from the Scottish Borders will explore a wide range of countryside industries. Any member of the Community Council who would like to attend should give their name to the Provost at the close of the meeting.

The Provost had also received an invitation to attend the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, on Saturday 13 June 2026, in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend this event as also was Councillor Harry Tomczyk who had represented Kelso Community Council in the past.

Secretary's Report

Events/Correspondence

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

Auditor's Fee

Mrs Y Oliver, Secretary, advised the meeting that, previously, Mr Adrian Clarkson, Auditor, had been awarded the sum of £25 for his services to Kelso Community Council. She asked that the Committee consider increasing this amount owing to Adrian's considerable assistance, particularly this year, when she had just taken over from Councillor Redgrave as Treasurer. She added that Adrian did not seek any payment but donated his fee to charity. The sum of £50 was suggested and this was agreed as follows:

Proposer: Councillor Toni Oliver
Seconded: Councillor D Weatherston

Secretary/Treasurer's Honorarium

The Provost asked for the Community Council's permission to pay the Secretary/Treasurer's Honorarium of £700. She advised that this sum would not be paid out until Scottish Borders Council had awarded the Community Council their annual grant. This was agreed as follows:

Proposer: Councillor Toni Oliver
Seconded: Councillor D Weatherston

Councillor's Code of Conduct

All members of Kelso Community Council agreed to abide by the terms of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

Consultations

There were no Consultations pending at this time.

Scottish Borders Councillor's Report

(1) Speed of Vehicles at Roundabout situated at Station Road/Jet Garage

This issue had been raised by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and the Provost advised that a member of the public had also approached him regarding this same issue. Councillor Tomczyk said it was not specifically the speed of the vehicles but that the roundabout was dangerous. If you are driving up Station Road, you must drive very slowly in order to see what is coming from the right – the wall on the right-hand side obscures the traffic coming down the Jedburgh Road. The problem is not quite so bad coming down Station Road but it is still

not good. Councillor Tomczyk asked if there was something which could be done to alleviate the problem e.g. signage?

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised he had received an email confirming that all white lines will be redone the next time the appropriate team are in Kelso. However, he said that he had emails going back at least 10 years regarding this self-same subject and, whilst he had approached someone at SBC, he had been advised that a solution would not be easy.

The Provost wondered if a constructed roundabout, rather than simply a painted roundabout, would be more beneficial or, could a survey be done perhaps?

Councillor Weatherston agreed to take this up with SBC.

(2) Abbey Painting

Councillor Harry Tomczyk advised that the Bank of Scotland had contacted Kelso Heritage Society to ask if they would like the painting of Kelso Abbey which had been displayed in the Bank's premises in The Square? Councillor Tomczyk had the painting with him and the Community Council unanimously agreed that it should be displayed in the Council Chambers – the Provost would arrange for this to be done.

(3) Route 34/34A Bus

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised there had been a failure of communication in the last couple of days with regard to the Route 34/34A Bus due to roadworks. Some people had unfortunately been waiting on a bus which didn't arrive and Councillor Robson apologised for this.

(4) Review of Community Council Finances

SBC Councillor Euan Robson reported there was going to be a review of Community Council finances within the next 3-4 months. He wondered if Kelso Community Council would be agreeable to carrying out certain functions if the finance was provided? The Provost thought this was an excellent idea. Councillor Robson said it would just be a pilot scheme to begin with.

(5) Bike Pole at Skatepark

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that the bike pole, having previously had the tools stolen from it, had now been vandalised and required to be removed completely. It will not be replaced due to the heavy financial cost.

(6) Enforcement Team – Signage in Town

SBC Councillor Simon Mountford advised that the Enforcement Team was dealing with various complaints regarding signage in the town. A procedure had to be followed and this was in progress.

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston said he felt that enforcement had been a grey area for many years, e.g. regarding the colour scheme of shops in the town, etc. The colour palette hadn't been updated for a number of years.

(7) Maxmill Park, Kelso

Members were advised that the sale of Maxmill Park, Kelso is imminent.

(8) Starbucks

There was no current update on the situation with regard to the Starbucks proposal.

(9) Nursery Places for Pre-School Children

Councillor Jenna Borthwick asked SBC Councillors why a large number of children were not getting nursery places? SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that Ednam Nursery had picked up 3-4 children who would have gone to Broomlands. Yetholm Nursery has also picked up some places. He also advised that there was no catchment area for nursery school children. The problem is the facilities available and also there could be staffing problems. Councillor Robson stressed the importance of making SBC Councillors aware of the problems encountered to enable them to address the issue.

(10) Land at Shedden Park Road, Kelso

Councillor June Regulski advised she had received a couple of complaints regarding the fenced-off area at Shedden Park Road – it was quite simply an eyesore and could nothing be done about it? Unfortunately, it was up to the owner to deal with this matter.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

26/00666/FUL - Change of Use from Class 11 Fitness Studio to Class 4 Light Industrial Use – KD Fitness Studio, Sprouston Road, Kelso, TD5 8EU – **No objections**

(Provost declared an interest in the following application owing to his daughter attending the Dance Studio)

26/00683/FUL - Change of Use and Alterations to Form Dance Studio and Erection of Light Industrial Unit – Factory, Solomon Way, Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate – No objections but it should be noted that this will cause additional parking problems to what is already a heavily-congested area.

Any Other Current Business

There was no other current business at this time.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will take place on Tuesday 9 June 2026 at 7pm.