

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 7.00 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 and Dean Weatherston.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Paul Roberts and June Regulski; PC Paul Owenson (Police Scotland)

IN ATTENDANCE: Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston, Simon Mountford and Euan Robson.

- *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 September and October MMWRs had been circulated. Councillor S Redgrave said it was good to see that the recurring issue of parking in Kelso Town Square was being addressed but she was very concerned at the amount of mental health-related calls the Police were having to deal with.

Visit Kelso

Councillor Jenna Borthwick advised that plans for the Christmas Fayre were coming along nicely with many entertainers expressing an interest in performing in The Square.

The Provost said the children's window competition this year was "Elves in the Windows" with many shops expressing a desire to take part.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2025

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 21 October 2025 had been circulated and were approved, subject to a slight amendment on Page 5 relating to the problems people were having crossing the road at Broomlands School (the painted drop kerbs):

Proposer: Councillor Shirley Redgrave

Seconder: Councillor H Tomcyck

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes at this time.

Questions from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

Kelso In Bloom

Members were advised that the next meeting of Kelso In Bloom was taking place on Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 7pm in The Cross Keys Hotel, Kelso.

Provost Report:

Provost's Diary:

The Provost reported that he had attended the Remembrance Day Parade and Service at Kelso War Memorial and thanked all those Community Councillors who had been present. He was delighted to say the event had been very well represented by all the Services and also members of the public and it had been a lovely service as also had been the one he attended at Kelso High School.

Whilst the Provost was at Kelso High School, he had been interviewed by members of HM Inspectorate of Schools who had been visiting the High School at that time. Both the Provost and Colin Henderson answered questions put to them by the officers. Gavin had taken great delight informing officers of the involvement of school children of the Skatepark Lighting Project and that pupils took turns to litter-pick at the Skatepark at lunchtimes.

The Provost reminded members that they had all received an invitation to attend a demonstration of the new public space town centre CCTV system which would be done online via Microsoft Teams.

Provost's Report

- (i) Code of Conduct: With regard to the Community Council's Code of Conduct, the Provost asked all members if they agreed to abide by it – there was unanimous agreement by all present to adhere to the Code.
- (i) Community Councillor's Committees: The Provost intimated that he would send out a link to Community Councillors to seek which other committee's and groups they also form part of, which can be useful for each persons expertise.

Secretary's Report

(i) Events/Correspondence

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

(ii) Community Council Meeting Dates - 2026

The Secretary drew members' attention to the list of Community Council Meeting Dates and events, up to the Summer Recess, which had been circulated previously.

Consultations

- (i) Members had received an invitation to join a growing national movement to oppose Energy Corridor Industrialisation in the Borders and Councillor S Redgrave requested that Kelso Community Council respond to this. Councillor H Tomczyk said that the Borders was not going to benefit from it. Scottish Borders Councillor Tom Weatherston advised that the Scottish Government, together with the British Government, had already agreed to this being carried out and the question was rather where would it go, rather than if it would happen. He also told members that it was 6 times more expensive to put cables underground. There was general agreement that the Community Council would not reply directly.
- (ii) The Provost drew attention to Scottish Borders Council's Budget Consultation and asked all members that they respond individually (available on-line).
- (iii) 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

(i) Condition of Paths and Pavements in Kelso

Community Councillor J Regulski had asked that this subject be put before the Scottish Borders Councillors for discussion. SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised members that SBC had been detailing every footpath and pavement in its area and had a long list of required repairs. A consistent plan is required to

deal with the issue. The next step is to cost it all out and, once the budget is known for 26/27 a decision would be made as to which footpaths and pavements would receive attention first. He confirmed that this issue is in hand but warned that the project would likely take up to 2 years to complete. For members' information he confirmed that the recurring problem with the road at the entrance to Broomlands Primary School was being addressed and advised that the cost of repairing the footpaths at Rosebank Cemetery was in the region of £40,000.

With regard to a complaint about "dirty road signs", SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised that SBC has never cleaned the signs. However, it may be possible to get the Community Payback Team involved with this project.

(ii) Upkeep of Gardens in SBHA's properties

Councillor J Regulski had requested this item be put on the agenda for discussion. Members were advised that SBHA's policy was to write to the tenant initially asking them to tidy up their garden – if no action is taken by the tenant, SBHA do the work and charge the tenant.

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that he was delighted to report that the trees in Sydenham Court had now been removed with the exception of one which was found to have its roots firmly embedded in Ice Rink ground and therefore it was not possible to remove it.

(iii) Light on Rennie Bridge

SBC Councillor Euan Robson reported that the damaged light was currently in premises at Newtown St Boswells undergoing repair.

(iv) Lights in Kelso Square

SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that he had originally raised this issue in October 2024 but, to date, had received no response but will chase this up.

(v) Replacement Telephone Box in Kelso Square

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston reported to members that he has not given up his quest for a replacement Telephone Box in Kelso Square.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

- (i) **25/01513/LBC – Replacement of windows to rear extension, Poynder Apartments, Poynder Gardens, Kelso – Eildon Housing Association – No objections**

- (ii) **25/01545/FUL – Erection of Jockeys’ Weighing Room and associated facilities – Kelso Racecourse – No objections**
- (iii) **25/01349/FUL – Installation of stone relief structures to gable, Smithy House, 6 Simon Square, Kelso – No objections**

Any other business

- (i) Members were advised that the next meeting of the Abbey 900 Group would take place on Wednesday 26 November 2025 at 7pm in Kelso Town Hall.
- (ii) Councillor Shirley Redgrave asked if there was any further news regarding the Starbucks application? SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston said that Starbucks has not yet decided whether to appeal the opening hours granted by Scottish Borders Council.
- (iii) The Provost advised members that he was intending to ask Kelso High School pupils to attend Community Council meetings. More appropriately, the Senior Head Team.
- (iv) Councillor Shirley Redgrave suggested that a representative from Destination Tweed be invited to attend a future meeting of Kelso Community Council. SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that Sprouston Community Council was intending to do the same so it would be beneficial for this to be combined.
- (v) Councillor Toni Oliver asked what the current situation was with the planning application at Ferniehill Drive, Kelso and, in particular, the heras fence which currently surrounded the garden? SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised that the fence was to be removed, and the area put back to its original condition, after the application of appeal was rejected.
- (vi) Councillor S Redgrave informed members that the 2026 Walking Festival was being held in Jedburgh and she was attending a meeting the following week.
- (vii) Following an inquiry from Councillor S Redgrave regarding the status of the Live Borders Report, members were advised that the report was due within the next week.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will take place on Tuesday 9 December 2025 at 6pm. **Please note the earlier start of this meeting.**