

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on
Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7.00 pm in Kelso Town Hall



- PRESENT:** Gavin Horsburgh, Councillors James Boulton, Susan McKay, Toni Oliver, Harry Tomczyk, Paul Roberts, Shirley Redgrave and James McCombie; Y Oliver (Secretary/Treasurer)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Gail Watson, Dean Weatherston, June Regulski and Jenna Borthwick; Scottish Borders Councillor Tom Weatherston.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford and Euan Robson; PC Paul Owenson (Police Scotland); Mr and Mrs K MacDonald (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 February and March updates had been issued prior to the meeting and PC Paul Owenson was in attendance. He advised that Police Scotland had recently undertaken a bike-marking exercise in Kelso which had been very successful – they were also cracking down on the illegal use of e-scooters and unauthorised electric bikes.

There were no questions for PC Owenson so he left the meeting at this point.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 10 March 2026 had been circulated and were approved.

Proposer: Councillor Harry Tomczyk

Seconder: Councillor Paul Roberts

Matters Arising from the Minutes

BT Telephone Box – The Square

This matter would be deferred until the next Community Council meeting. Councillor Tomczyk intimated that there is a society somewhere in England who exist to preserve the type of phone boxes that Kelso had. The Provost will pass this information onto Councillor Weatherston.

Lack of Lighting at Waggon Inn Car Park, Kelso

Scottish Borders Councillor Euan Robson advised members that this was in hand – Council Officers would be looking to see whether the existing lighting could be enhanced (which he thought it probably could).

Councillor Robson also reported that SBC was having endless problems with lights and lighting – another bollard had been vandalised in Shedden Park which was a safety issue due to the safety cover having been damaged and lying on the ground. There had also been vandalism to some lighting round a couple of manhole covers and Councillor Robson was not sure what the current situation was. The Provost said he would find out what was going on from the person who had reported the issue to him.

With regard to the poor lighting at the steps in Bridgend Park, Councillor Robson advised that, due to a freeze on spending by SBC in January, this could not be attended to under the “Small Schemes” budget. However, he said there may be some other way of funding any improvement but SBC would have to find out what it was going to cost first.

The Provost had received an e-mail from Community Councillor S McKay regarding a light at the top of Roxburgh Street. Councillor Robson said SBC had asked Roxburghe Estates (who were responsible for this) on three separate occasions if they would cut the tree back. The Provost reported that Roxburghe Estates had indeed cut back all the trees belonging to them, apart from the one in question. They did not have the correct equipment to get to the top of this particular tree.

Councillor McKay also asked if there was any update on the Leylandii hedge at Orchard Park/Bowmont Street? Councillor Robson replied this issue was being dealt with by SBC’s Enforcement Officer who had spoken to the owner of the flat whose responsibility it was to cut the hedge back. It was noted the hedge had still not been seen to and Councillor Robson agreed to take this up again with the Enforcement Officer.

Signage at the Former Waggon Inn

SBC Councillor Simon Mountford advised he had spoken to SBC's Enforcement Team, who informed him there were a number of enforcement issues across the Ward which needed addressed. He said he would provide an update to the Community Council (which had come in the day after the meeting and was very informative).

Baptist Church Barriers

The Provost confirmed that the barriers at the Baptist Church are still up but, contrary to belief, it was not actually the roof that was the problem, but rather the large thick stones on the front of the building. Councillor Robson confirmed that the owners had been traced and the Enforcement Team was now going through the proper channels regarding this property. Councillor Paul Roberts advised there had been 2 men with a cherry-picker at the property quite recently and the barriers had been re-aligned.

Questions from the Public

Mr and Mrs K MacDonald, who were residents at Springwood Village, asked the Provost what his thoughts were following his recent walk round the Village. The Provost replied he would address this issue later in the meeting when the Provost's Diary was discussed.

Kelso In Bloom

Litter pick – Thursday 16 April 2026 – 6pm

The Provost advised that the next litter pick would take place on Thursday 16 April 2026 at 6pm with a view to having a "tidy-up" prior to the Declaration of the Kelso Laddie which was taking place on Friday 17 April 2026 at 7.30pm. Unfortunately, the litter pick due to take place in March had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Councillor Shirley Redgrave was now responsible for the rota for the flower beds and she reported that she had some new volunteers this year.

Members were advised that applications for the Greener Gateway Awards were open again – Kelso had won the Best Town Award for the last 2 years. The Provost asked that it be noted that it is not necessarily a Kelso In Bloom Award, it is a Kelso Award. It is awarded to the whole town – there are a lot of other areas involved e.g. the allotments, the High School, Broomlands and Edenside Primary Schools and residents with private gardens all getting involved. The Awards are a recognition of all the hard work carried out by everyone involved, who are all volunteers.

Provost Report:

Provost's Diary:

The Provost was invited to attend Canon Bob King's last service at St Andrew's Church on Sunday 12 April – it was a lovely send-off for Bob, particularly because of the great deal of work that he and his wife Pat had done during their time in Kelso and was very commendable. The Provost wished them both well in their retirement.

The Provost, together with Councillor Paul Roberts, had walked round Springwood Village on the afternoon of Saturday 11 April 2026, accompanied by Marion and Barry, two of the Village residents. It was a very good insight to the Park itself, particularly regarding visitors to the Holiday Park. The Retirement Village and the Holiday Park are two separate entities and that, together with the fact that the road belongs to yet another owner, is causing some difficulties. However, discussions are ongoing with regard to clearer signage which will perhaps help to alleviate the difficulties encountered by all concerned.

The visit also gave a new insight to the planning application currently with Scottish Borders Council for 4 new apartments/lodges (wrongly described as caravans in the application).

Overall, the Provost was delighted with the collaboration between Kelso Community Council and the Residents' Association of Springwood Retirement Village.

New Powers for Scotland's Community Councils

Councillor Harry Tomczyk had requested this item, following receipt of an email relating to Empowerment of Community Councils. The Provost invited comments from members regarding the content of the email. He reminded members that Kelso Community Council is affiliated to Scottish Borders Council and has to abide by the Scheme of Community Councils.

On the subject of Community Councils, and in connection with the recently introduced 34-34A Bus Service, the Provost had contacted Wooler Parish Council and thanked them for their assistance with this matter. They, like Kelso Community Council, were really enthusiastic about the boost to tourism for both towns this new bus service would encourage.

Gas Lamp from Rennie Bridge

The Provost advised the meeting he had discovered that the gas lamp from Rennie Bridge, which had been storm damaged some time ago, was still lying in pieces in the blacksmith's workshop at Newtown St Boswells. He had contacted SBC Councillor Simon Mountford, who, following investigation, reported the repairs were going to cost in the region of £1,000 and there was now no money in the appropriate budget for these repairs. He had contacted the Heritage Officer who agreed that it was an excellent heritage project and should definitely be repaired but, unfortunately, there was just no money at this particular time. It was important for Kelso's Scheme of Place but, in the great scheme of things, not important enough at this present time.

SBC Councillor Euan Robson suggested that an approach be made to the Common Good Fund by way of an email from Kelso Community Council requesting funding for the repair – the Provost agreed to email Fiona Henderson at SBC.

Secretary's Report

Events/Correspondence

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

Declaration of the 2026 Kelso Laddie – Friday 17 April 2026 (6.45pm)

The Provost reminded members of the forthcoming Declaration of the 2026 Kelso Laddie which was taking place on Friday 17 April 2026. He asked those Councillors who were attending the event to be in the Council Chambers no later than 6.45pm – the Laddie would be introduced to the public at 7.30pm.

Review of Financial Support to Community Councils – Call for Nominations

An email had been received (and circulated) from Claire Malster, Community Engagement, Scottish Borders Council inviting a nomination from the Cheviot Ward for a member to sit on a Working Group to review financial support to Community Councils. Members were advised that the next review will take place in 2026/27 with a view to any changes being implemented in 2027/28. Councillor Dean Weatherston had put his name forward and the Provost had submitted Dean's name to Claire.

Consultations

There were no Consultations pending at this time.

Scottish Borders Councillor's Report

Lights not Working At Kelso Skatepark

This item had already been discussed at the meeting (lighting at Shedden Park).

Damage to Pavement at Bottom of Roxburgh Street, Kelso

Councillor Robson advised members of the ongoing problem with HGV's being forced on to the pavement at the bottom of Roxburgh Street thereby causing damage to the kerbstones. He had met with SBC's Roads Engineers and had requested that yellow lines be put in. Considerable discussions were being held with the aim of trying to make progress. The Provost had suggested that either (a) road signs be erected outside the town directing HGV's to use the bypass, rather than go through the town, or (b) 3-5 traffic cones be put down as a temporary measure.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

- (i) **26/00406-FUL** – Erection of dwellinghouse with access, parking, landscaping and associated works – Garden Ground of Orchard House, Bowmont Street, Kelso – The First Roxburghe Discretionary Trust – **No objections**

- (ii) **26/00512/LBC** – Removal of ATM and signage – Halifax Bank of Scotland, 8-9 The Square, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7HQ – **No objections in principle (to the signage being removed) but object to removal of ATM due to there then being only 3 ATMs in the vicinity.**
- (iii) **26/00468/FUL** – External alterations to dwellinghouse, 2 Waverley Lodge, Maxwell Lane, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7BH – **No objections**
- (iv) **26/00386/FUL** – Change of use of amenity land to garden ground and erection of fence, Land East of 8 Ferniehill Court, Ednam Road, Kelso, Scottish Borders – **No objections in principle to amended Planning Application. However, it should be stressed that the applicant remains responsible for the 2.7m gap between the fence and the pavement, and this should be maintained.**

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 12 May 2026 (immediately following the Annual General Meeting, which will take place at 7pm).