Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 9 June 2026 at 7pm in Kelso Town Hall

PRESENT: Provost Gavin Horsburgh, Councillors James Boulton, Susan McKay, Toni Oliver, Dean Weatherston, Paul Roberts, Gail Watson and Harry Tomczyk

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jenna Borthwick, James McCombie, June Regulski and Shirley Redgrave; PC Paul Owenson; Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston and Euan Robson

IN ATTENDANCE: Scottish Borders Councillor Simon Mountford; Y Oliver (Secretary/Treasurer); Lorna Horsburgh; Katrina Tait-Logan and Carin Tait-Logan; 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.*

1. Welcome

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

2. Police Matters

The May update was still awaited. The Provost advised the meeting of an e-mail received from the landlord of the Black Swan in which he raised the issue of the opening hours of the public toilets. He said that some members of the public, on finding the public toilets closed, were either using his premises and setting off the alarm when they try to sneak out without being seen or they are using Market Close as a urinal. Councillor Dean Weatherston asked who was responsible for keeping this area of the town clean and tidy? The Provost thought that the bus shelters and Market Close were cleaned approximately every 4-6 weeks when the large street cleaning vehicle was in the area. SBC Councillor Simon Mountford said he would raise this issue with the appropriate department of SBC.

The Black Swan landlord also said his hotel guests were complaining about the noise from motor vehicles revving their engines in the evening whilst they were in Horsemarket. He asked that these matters be referred to Police Scotland – the Provost agreed to pass these comments to the Police.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12 May 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 12 May 2026 had been circulated and were approved.

Proposer: Councillor Harry Tomczyk
Seconder: Councillor Susan McKay

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Harry Tomczyk asked if there was any update regarding the sale of Maxmill Park, Kelso? Scottish Borders Councillor Simon Mountford advised that the sale was going ahead and was currently in the hands of each party's legal representatives.

6. Questions from the Public

Ms M Galbraith, addressing the meeting as a member of the public, advised that, whilst she agreed in principle with the idea of gifting every Primary 3 pupil a scooter for the purposes of going to and from school, she felt that the method of distribution had been dealt with wrongly, leading to discrimination against disabled pupils. She also raised concerns regarding the storage of the scooters during school hours.

The Provost said he totally understood Ms Galbraith's concerns but advised the meeting that a pilot scheme had been trialled in Hawick and had been very successful. Scottish Borders Councillor Tom Weatherston, by email, had advised the Provost that the idea was to try to cut down the number of motor vehicle journeys being made to and from school. Members were asked to note that it was not Scottish Borders Council who was providing the scooters but Transport Scotland.

SBC Councillor Simon Mountford advised he would report the concerns raised at the Community Council meeting to the Director of Education.

7. Provost Report:

(i) Provost's Diary:

The Provost reported that he would obviously be very busy in the next month or two, particularly relating to Kelso Civic Week activities.

He advised members that he had been invited to perform the opening ceremony at the new "Poundstretchers" shop, which had previously been "The Factory Shop". This would take place at 9am on Wednesday 17 June 2026.

(ii) Unveiling and Presentation of Kelso Brooch

The Provost advised the meeting that, four years ago, during an event held jointly between Kelso and Jedburgh (the Morebattle Ride) he noticed the Jedburgh Provost's wife was wearing a lovely brooch, commemorating Jedburgh's Festival Week. He thought it would be an excellent idea if, in the future, the Kelso Provost was a female, she would be able to wear the brooch when the full civic regalia was not required. Alternatively, the brooch could be worn by the Provost's wife. The Provost raised this idea with Lady Jane Grosvenor, who also thought it was an excellent idea and agreed to fund the purchase of such an item, in recognition of the women of Kelso. He had approached Katrina Tait-Logan, a local jewellery designer and maker, and, in collaboration with Mrs Lorna Horsburgh, a design had been agreed on. The brooch was now ready and he asked Katrina if she would kindly present the brooch to his wife. Katrina duly carried this duty out and also presented the Provost with a beautifully illustrated book, showing the various stages of design and preparation of the brooch. Katrina had included pages at the rear of the book in which details could be recorded of who had been presented with the brooch and when.

On behalf of Kelso Community Council, Katrina was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

8. Secretary's Report

(i) Events/Correspondence

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

(ii) Invitation to War Memorial and Colour Bussing – Kelso Civic Week

Mrs Y Oliver, Secretary, thanked members for replying to her email regarding the invitations to attend the War Memorial Service and the Colour Bussing Ceremony, in connection with Kelso Civic Week. She drew their attention to the fact that, following proceedings at the War Memorial, the Church Service was being held in St Mary's Church, Bowmont Street, Kelso (opposite the Old Kelso High School). Yvonne asked members to let her know if, for any reason, they were unable to attend either of the ceremonies.

(iii) Application Form for Scottish Borders Council's Grant to Community Councils

Yvonne advised members that the Application Form from Scottish Borders Council, in connection with the Grant awarded by SBC to Community Councils, had been received and would be completed and returned for processing.

9. Consultations

(i) Local Development Plan – Residents invited to help shape the future of the Scottish Borders

The Provost advised members that, if they let him have any comments they may wish to make regarding this Consultation, he would put them all together and make one submission to Scottish Borders Council, on behalf of Kelso Community Council.

(ii) Non-funding Support to Community Councils

Members were advised they could either submit their comments to the Provost or, alternatively, submit their views directly to Scottish Borders Council.

10. Scottish Borders Councillor's Report

(i) Free scooters and helmets offered to all Primary 3 pupils in the Borders

This item had already been discussed (under "6. Questions from the Public").

(ii) The Cobby Riverside Walk

Councillor Paul Roberts advised he had received complaints about the long grass and nettles at The Cobby Riverside Walk, as well as an abundance of dog poo. He asked why SBC had stopped cutting the grass and whether it was possible for it to go back to the way it was before, i.e. regular cutting of the area? It was a lovely area of the town and, although Councillor Roberts knew it was part of "Buglife", he felt that it was being spoiled by not getting proper attention. SBC Councillor Simon Mountford agreed to take this up with the appropriate department.

(iii) Charging Points

Councillor James Boulton said the charging point in the Knowes Car Park was not working – again, SBC Councillor Mountford said he would raise this issue.

(iv) Horsemarket, Kelso

Councillor Gail Watson advised the meeting she had received complaints about how much pavement room the Antique Shop near the bus stop in Horsemarket was taking up. She said that people getting on and off the bus do not have enough room to walk on the pavement due to some of the Antique Shop's goods being displayed outside. The Provost agreed to have a word with the shop's owner.

(v) Coldstream Road, Kelso

SBC Councillor Simon Mountford advised members he had received a request from residents of Riverside Drive, Kelso as to whether there could be "3-2-1 Chevrons" on the Coldstream Road coming into the town? He asked if the

Community Council would have any objections to this course of action if SBC agreed? The Community Council had no objections.

(vi) Floodlights at Kelso Abbey

SBC Councillor Mountford told members that it would cost £24,000 to replace the existing lights at Kelso Abbey with LED lights. In addition, if the bulbs were to be replaced then the cabling would also have to be replaced, thereby costing even more money. He was disappointed to report that Historic Scotland had refused to contribute at all.

(vii) Damaged Light on Rennie Bridge

The Provost commented that it was good to see that the light damaged by Storm Arwen had been repaired and put back on to the bridge. He advised that the Common Good Fund had paid for its repair and reinstatement.

(viii) Trampoline at Shedden Park

The Provost had received a message from SBC Councillor Euan Robson to the effect that a new see-saw will be situated where the trampoline used to be in the Children's Play Area of Shedden Park. The barriers round the fenced-off area will be removed once the see-saw is in place.

(ix) Trees on Edenside Road, Kelso

Ms L Lawrie, speaking from the Public Gallery, advised that there were a lot of "hanging trees" on Edenside Road blocking the street lights.

11. Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

26/00797/LBC – Replacement of 2no. French Doors – Flat 7, The Old Granary, Abbey Row, Kelso - No objections

26/00753/FUL – Alterations and Extension to dwellinghouse – 7 Kings Croft, Kelso – No objections

Any Other Current Business

Councillor Dean Weatherston asked SBC Councillor Simon Mountford if he knew whether SBC was reviewing their use of technology in education? The reason for him asking this question was that he was concerned at the availability of various websites

to quite young children. Only very recently, the Director of Public Health for the NHS had raised concerns regarding what websites children are allowed to access whilst at school. SBC Councillor Mountford asked Dean to put his concerns in an email to him and he would raise this with the Director of Education at SBC.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will take place on Tuesday 8 September 2026 at 7pm. The Provost advised he would be on annual leave at that time and Councillor James Boulton agreed to chair the meeting.