

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 7.00 pm in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh, Councillors James Boulton, Gail Watson, Susan McKay, Toni Oliver, Harry Tomczyk, Paul Roberts, Dean Weatherston and June Regulski; Y Oliver (Secretary/Treasurer)

APOLOGIES: Councillors James McCombie, Shirley Redgrave and Jenna Borthwick; Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston and Simon Mountford; PC Paul Owenson, Police Scotland

IN ATTENDANCE: Scottish Borders Councillor Euan Robson; Anne Woodcock (Fishing Museum); 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 January MMWR had been issued prior to the meeting – the February report was still awaited.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10 February 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 10 February 2026 had been circulated and approved, subject to members being advised that the light covered by trees in Roxburgh Street was still to be dealt with and had been reported.

Proposer: Councillor Paul Roberts
Seconder: Councillor June Regulski

Matters Arising from the Minutes

- BT Telephone Box – The Square

The Provost reported that an e-mail had been sent by BT to Scottish Borders Councillor Tom Weatherston (which had been circulated to members). As Councillor Weatherston was not in attendance to advise if there was any further update, this matter would be deferred until the next Community Council meeting.

Questions from the Public

1. Anne Woodcock addressed members, thanking those who had attended the opening of the Tweed Salmon Fishing Season. She reported it had been very successful and thanked everyone for their kind words regarding the event.

She also advised that the Fishing Museum now had new Trustees who were very experienced and with whom she had a good working relationship. It was hoped to eventually update the Museum, but it would cost a great deal of money. The Museum would be open from Easter and then would be regularly open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (the same days as the Registrar). Councillor James Boulton asked how the Museum was funded to which Anne replied there was a current bank balance and it was hoped to have several fund-raising activities. Anne herself was employed by the Museum 1½ days per week, and she would be working in conjunction with the Tweed Foundation. She also advised there was a Donation Box in the Museum.

Members were advised that all the plants currently planted in the boat outside the Town Hall were all plants that can be found growing on the riverbank. It was thought that this would help those people who were unable to access the riverbank to see for themselves.

2. Mr and Mrs K MacDonald, residents at Springwood Village, Kelso asked members if they were aware of the current Planning Application for 4 extra lodges at Springwood Village? The Provost replied that a letter of objection had been submitted to Scottish Borders Council on behalf of Kelso Community Council.

Kelso In Bloom

Litter pick – Sunday 29 March 2026 – 3pm

The Provost advised that the next litter pick would take place on Sunday 29 March 2026 at 3pm. Councillor Regulski asked how the areas for litter picking were chosen and the Provost replied that it depended how many volunteers turned up on the day.

Provost Report:

Provost's Diary:

- (1) The Provost reported he had a very successful “meet and greet” at the recent Farmer’s Market. Amongst the issues raised were (1) the sign at the Waggon Inn (23 complaints about its size) – Scottish Borders Councillor Euan Robson advised that this had been reported and was in hand with SBC; (2) dog-fouling in the town (which still seemed to be a worrying issue). He had also received many good reports about Kelso Town itself and said the many volunteers involved should be commended for its upkeep.
- (2) The Provost had recently attended the Ex-Coldstreamers’ Dinner where he had been invited as a guest speaker to address the Ex-Coldstreamers – a good night had been had by all, and he had received many good reports about Kelso and Kelso Civic Week.

Wheelchair/Mobility Aids Difficulties within the Town Centre

The Provost said he still intended to take a couple of wheelchairs from Kelso Hospital round the Town centre and felt the problem was not as bad as it was 15 years ago, since there were now crossing points around the square.

Town Plan – Meeting Monday 23 March 2026 – 7pm – Town Hall, Kelso

Under the Provost’s Report in the recent edition of Kelso Life, the Provost issued an invitation to all members of the public to attend a meeting to discuss the implementation of a Kelso Town Plan. He also invited the Community Council members who would be interested in creating a Steering Group for the Plan. The Provost explained that a Town Plan was a document which contained the most important aspects of the Town, e.g. what Kelso has to offer, what is attractive to tourism in Kelso, the architecture, the Square and ideally, what the people of the town would like to see in the future. Once it’s on your Town Plan, i.e. what you want to look for in the next 10 years, that then opens more avenues for Community Funding etc. The Plan then goes to Scottish Borders Council for approval.

Councillor James Boulton asked Scottish Borders Councillor Euan Robson if there was still funding available for the creation of a Town Plan? Councillor Robson said he thought it was still available. The Provost advised that Roddy Martin, the Scottish Borders Council Community Engagement Officer, was always keen to come to these meetings as is Fiona Benton of Borders Community Action. It would be beneficial to invite both people to the meeting of the proposed Town Plan.

Secretary’s Report

Events/Correspondence

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

Naming of Street in Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate – Proposed Hastie Court

Scottish Borders Council had proposed the naming of a street in Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate in recognition of the late Arthur Hastie, an ex-Kelso Laddie and all his endeavours with Civic Week, Kelso Rugby Club, etc. Scottish Borders Councillor Euan Robson advised members that the request had come from the businesses situated at Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate. Councillor Dean Weatherston asked whether Mrs Buntly Hastie had been asked what her thoughts were on the suggestion and Councillor Toni Oliver undertook to ask her. There were no objections from the Community Council to the suggested name.

Proposer: Councillor Paul Roberts
Seconder: Councillor June Regulski

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

All Community Councillors had received an invitation, on behalf of the Kelso Laddies Association, to attend the Declaration of the 2026 Kelso Laddie. The Kelso Laddie is declared to the public in The Square at 7.30pm. Those members wishing to attend the ceremony were requested to be inside the Council Chamber of the Town Hall **no later** than 6.45pm – the Kelso Laddie will be sworn in by the Provost, introduced to the Community Council and the Lady Bussers and then we toast the new Kelso Laddie.

New to the itinerary this year is an informal reception at the Tait Hall for all Community Councillors and guests of the evening. No ticket is required. However, at 9pm, at the conclusion of the reception, there will be a disco which requires a £5 entry fee.

Consultations

There were no Consultations pending at this time.

Scottish Borders Councillor's Report

- (1) Lack of Lighting at Waggon Inn Car Park, Kelso and Bridgend Park, Kelso
(items requested by Councillor Toni Oliver)

Councillor Oliver advised that one of her clients attended an evening class at the M-Pulsive Dancing School, across the road from the Waggon Inn. She said that the lighting at the car park outside the Waggon, where she parked her car, was very poor.

Councillor Oliver also said that she had occasion to be at Bridgend Park recently and agreed that the lighting on the steps was very poor.

Scottish Borders Councillor Euan Robson said he would arrange for the lighting at the Waggon Inn Car Park to be assessed to see if the lights could possibly be enhanced.

Regarding the lighting at Bridgend Steps, he thought that there was a possibility of adding another 2 lights under the "Small Schemes" in the next financial year.

Councillor Robson advised members that some Councils were adopting a trial scheme whereby the street lighting was switched off during the night and he wondered if the Community Council would consider this course of action. The Provost said this was all well and good if there could be some sort of sensor to allow people on shift work to see where they were going.

(2) Signage of the former Waggon Inn

This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

- (3) Councillor Euan Robson advised members of a new bus service and highly recommended that the public use it. The route was Kelso-Sprouston-Wooler-Duns and return. Northumberland County Council was partly funding this service. Councillor Dean Weatherston said he knew people from Wooler were having a day out in Kelso and suggested that Visit Kelso be asked to publicise this service in Wooler, to alert more people to it.

(4) Site of Old Wallace Works, Bowmont Street, Kelso Works, Bowmont Street, Kelso

Councillor Harry Tomczyk asked what was happening with the site of the Old Wallace Works in Bowmont Street, Kelso? He thought that there had previously been a Planning Application approved for houses on the site but there were still a lot of cars parked on the ground and the Used Car Sales business still seemed to be operating. The Provost replied that there had indeed been a Planning Application for 11 houses approved in 2019 but, due to Covid, nothing had happened. The Application had recently been renewed but he was not aware of the current situation. He had heard that the lease had expired.

(5) Damage to Pavement at Bottom of Roxburgh Street, Kelso

Councillor Robson advised members that he was having a meeting to discuss the problem of the damage done by Heavy Goods Vehicles to the pavement at the bottom of Roxburgh Street and see if a solution could be found.

(6) Cobby Car Park

The Provost advised Councillor Robson there was a large crater which required to be filled in at the Cobby Car Park. Councillor Robson advised this ground belonged Roxburghe Estates, and he would report this to them.

(7) Lifebuoy at Mayfield

Councillor Robson reported that the missing Lifebuoy at Mayfield had been retrieved and put back up. A member of Police Scotland had spoken to the Schools Liaison Officer, and it had been discovered that the culprit had been a

Primary 7 pupil. The parents and pupil had been spoken to. The Provost suggested that a sign be erected along the lines of “This device saves lives”.

(8) Repair to wall at Glebe Field

Councillor James Boulton asked what the current situation was regarding the damaged wall at the Glebe Field? Councillor Robson replied that this would be a discussion between the new owners and the driver of the car (or their insurance company) and would probably take a long time to resolve.

(9) Signage throughout the Town

(a) The Provost reported that the sign at the bottom of the Pipewell Brae for the “Army Cadets” needs to be taken down and either replaced or repaired as it was twisted.

(b) There was a damaged metal pole in Shedden Park beside the roundabout at the bottom of the by-pass and also one on Edenside Road which both required to be repaired.

(c) Councillor Paul Roberts advised that the sign behind The Cobbles appears to have been struck by a vehicle and needs attention.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

(i) **26/00244/FUL** – Alterations to 2no. units to form 1no. unit gym (Revision to Planning Permission **25/00576/FUL**) – Land South of Border Precision Services Ltd, Solomon Way, Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso, Scottish Borders – **No objections**

(ii) **26/00151/FUL** – Formation of 4 additional residential caravan pitches – Land at Springwood Village, Kelso - **Community Council objections had been lodged with Scottish Borders Council**

(iii) **26/00287/FUL** and **26/00294/LBC** – Change of Use to form dwellinghouse from office – 6 The Butts, Kelso - **No objections**

Any other business

(1) Abbey 900 Meeting – Wednesday 25 March 2026 – 7pm

The Provost reported that the Duke of Roxburghe had agreed to be Chairperson of the Abbey 900 Group. The next meeting was being held on Wednesday 25 March 2025 with representatives of stakeholders only attending from that date.

(2) Kelso Brooch

The Provost advised that, in 2022/23, he had attended the Morebattle Ride and met the Jedburgh Provost and his wife. The Provost's wife was wearing the "Jedburgh Brooch" and it was really nice, and he thought it was a great idea for either a Lady Provost to wear (when the occasion did not merit the full Provost's Chain), or the wife of the current Provost. The Provost mentioned the idea to Lady Jane and she loved the idea so much she offered to pay for the Brooch.

After discussions with the relevant people, a design has been agreed on (which has been circulated to Community Council members), the brooch has been paid for and is now under commission. It is hoped that it will be ready to be presented prior to the 2026 Kelso Civic Week however there is no dedicated timescale.

The Brooch has been designed and commissioned by Katrina Tait-Logan a local Jeweller.

As a matter of record, the brooch will form part of the Kelso Common Good (as does the Provost's Chain) and will therefore be insured by Scottish Borders Council.

(3) Cars At Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate

Councillor Gail Watson asked if there was anything which could be done to stop the parking of so many vehicles at a business premises on Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate? The Provost replied he had asked Police Scotland about this and was told that, as the cars were parked on private land, unfortunately there was nothing which could be done.

(4) Recent Fire In Glasgow – Concerns Re Vape Shops in Kelso

Councillor Paul Roberts wanted to raise the issue of lithium batteries which Vape Shops stocked. He had carried out some research and discovered that firefighters will not go near a vape shop fire due to danger of explosives. He drew attention to the fact that Kelso had 2 vape shops round the corner from each other (Roxburgh Street and The Square). The Provost advised that there would probably be discussions at Scottish Government level so it would be beneficial to wait and see what transpires.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will take place on Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7pm.