Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on Tuesday 13 October 2026 at 7pm in Kelso Town Hall

**PRESENT**: Provost Gavin Horsburgh, Susan McKay, Dean Weatherston, Paul Roberts, Jenna Borthwick, June Regulski, Gail Watson, Toni Oliver, James McCombie and Harry Tomczyk

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor James Boulton

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Tom Weatherston and Euan Robson; Yvonne Oliver (Secretary/Treasurer); David Berry and Thomas Diverty

- *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

Provost Gavin Horsburgh welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above. He extended his grateful thanks to all those who had attended Shirley Redgrave's funeral on Friday 9 October 2026 (whilst also acknowledging that it had not been possible for all Community Councillors to attend). It had been a lovely service and a great tribute to Shirley.

## 2. Police Matters

(1) There was no police representative at the meeting but Gavin reported that, over the last 24-36 hours, there had been a number of break-ins at different locations in the Borders. It was thought the same group of people was responsible.

(2) Scottish Borders Councillor Tom Weatherston advised members he had received several complaints about people on electric scooters. He had reported the complaints to the Police.

## 3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this time.

## 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 8 September 2026 had been circulated and, subject to a couple of amendments suggested by Councillor Dean Weatherston, were approved.

Proposer: Councillor June Regulski
Seconder: Councillor Susan McKay

## 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

(1) Kelso Baptist Church

Gavin reported it was good to see the scaffolding at the Baptist Church had finally been taken away and the area at the front of the building tidied up. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised that Scottish Borders Council had carried out the work and was now pursuing the owners for payment of the costs. Councillor Susan McKay reported there was a large root sticking out of the pavement in front of the Church which needed to be removed before someone failed to noticed it and fell over it. Gavin agreed to contact the appropriate person at SBC to have it removed.

(2) Picnic Benches

With regard to the idea of picnic benches in The Square, Gavin said this had been a great idea from Councillor Toni Oliver. Mark Hay had very generously offered to provide the benches if the Community Council agreed to maintain them. Mark had also offered his shed for storage purposes and for the purpose of maintenance.

Toni advised she had been approached by a member of the public offering to buy a bench and Toni felt the benches should belong to the Community Council rather than to Mark Hay. Gavin advised the benches did belong to the Community Council as they would be responsible for the maintenance. It was agreed there was no problem with these benches having a memory plaque placed on them but they would be put into storage in the winter.

(3) Kelso High School

Gavin reported he had not heard anything from Kelso High School regarding pupils becoming involved with the Community Council but he would contact the Rector, Jill Lothian, in the near future.

(4) Kelso In Bloom

Members were advised that a Can-Am vehicle had been purchased with the Lottery Award for the purposes of watering the flowers. SBC Councillor Simon Mountford had raised the question of who was responsible for insurance of the vehicle to which Gavin replied that Kelso In Bloom had paid for a year's insurance. Simon thought SBC should perhaps insure it as it was an asset of the Community Council and, as such, should come under the insurance umbrella of

SBC. Gavin, however, thought if it came under the auspices of SBC, it would only be Council employees who were allowed to drive it. The current insurance was Third Party Only (which was all that was allowed) and four named drivers. The Community Council also has public liability insurance that covers volunteers.

**6. Questions from the Public:**

Gavin wanted to personally thank Mr David Berry, Chairman of Coldstream Community Council, for his tidying-up behind the Co-op in Roxburgh Street. It was very much appreciated and had made a massive difference.

**7. Questions from Community Councillors:**

(1) Councillor Toni Oliver reported there had been a black Corsa sitting behind the Cross Keys for quite some time. Gavin undertook to check this out. David Berry advised that the Police had told him if a vehicle was parked illegally on Council ground, it can be removed – it all depends on who owns the ground.

(2) Toni asked what the situation was with regard to the Gusto d'Italia sign? She was advised it was still under investigation. SBC Councillor Simon Mountford reported that SBC's Enforcement Team was quite small and covered the whole of the Borders. He also advised that the list of enforcement complaints for the Kelso area was enormous. Toni felt there should be a clear plan of what colours were allowed for shop fronts to which Simon replied it was ultimately the Planning Officers who made the final decision and they do have a certain amount of discretion.

(3) Councillor June Regulski advised she had received several complaints about people parking in front of Cullen Kilshaw and Rutherford's Micro Pub preventing wheelchair users from getting past. She thought there used to be a bollard there but it had been removed.

(4) Councillor Toni Oliver commented on the cherry-picker which had recently been used to carry out work in Union Street leaving very little room for vehicles to get past. She felt it should be moved at night. SBC Councillor Euan Robson said he would speak to the Road Asset Team.

(5) Councillor Jenna Borthwick commented on the graffiti which had appeared at various sites in the town asking what could be done to remove it? Gavin replied if it was on Council-owned property, then the Council can remove it. If it was on private land, all the Council could do was speak to the owner but if they refuse to remove it there is nothing the Council can do. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised this matter was raised at the last Common Good meeting too. SBC Councillor Euan Robson said they had to be careful about getting involved.

(6) SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised members of a very large crack in the wall behind the Co-op which is gradually getting worse. He had contacted the Co-op but the Kelso Branch is not a Scotmid shop. Their headquarters are in the Manchester area.

(7) Councillor Harry Tomczyk asked if there was any update regarding the roundabout at the Jet Garage? Gavin replied the bushes had been cut back and there had been talk of the roundabout being painted. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised there had been a survey done and the figures which had come back had seemed ridiculously low (he did not have the figures to hand). Councillor June Regulski suggested mirrors be put in place but Gavin said SBC do not like mirrors. Tom was going to get figures from SBC for the Community Council.

(8) Gavin advised members the path at Bullet Loan was closed due to a fallen wall. The owners have the matter in hand and he would ask for an update for the next meeting.

(9) It was noted the Christmas tree, very kindly gifted by the Duke of Roxburghe, would be delivered sometime in November.

**8. Provost Report**

Provost Diary:-

The Provost had the following engagements:

(i) 25 October 2026 – an invite from the SWI to attend a lunch/event at Kelso Showground.

(ii) 8 November 2026 – Remembrance Sunday – he asked all those members attending to be at the War Memorial for 10.40am.

**9. Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

(i) Events/Correspondence

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

Yvonne drew Members' attention to the Review of Non-Financial Support to Community Councils – the report had been circulated to Members for their attention.

(ii) Up-to-Date Account Balances

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| Kelso In Bloom | £8,035.97 |
| Special Interest-Bearing Account | 2,686.23 |
| Memorial Account | 1195.74 |

(iii) Paths Grant Application
Gavin reported he had been asked by the Heritage Society to apply for this Grant, which he would do.

## 10. Consultations

National Customer and Stakeholder Survey 2026

Yvonne drew Members' attention to this Survey.

## 11. Scottish Borders Councillor's Report

(i) Grouting within Kelso Square/Cobbled Setts

Gavin advised Members he had been requested by the Kelso Laddies Association and Steven Jack, (for the Farmer's Market) regarding some cobbled setts within the area in front of the Town Hall where large gaps have appeared. There is no longer any grout in place and concern was raised over people tripping over them. SBC Councillor Simon Mountford agreed to raise this with the appropriate department.

Gavin also asked Simon if he would raise the issue of the sinking of the cobbled setts outside the Co-op in Roxburgh Street.

(ii) SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised the meeting that some of the lights in Shedden Park weren't working and some of the barriers had been damaged again. He couldn't understand why people wouldn't just leave them alone.

(iii) Euan also advised the meeting that there was another report coming before SBC regarding the remuneration for Community Councils – he said there had not been an increase for at least 10 years. Gavin commented he thought it would be a good idea if Community Councils had access to funds for community schemes.

SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston reported that, with regard to wind-farm applications and the recent application for a data centre (which SBC had objected to), if these applications were successful there was a vast amount of money contributed to the local area.

(iv) With regards to the banking at Bridgend, Euan reported there was now ornamental grass and trees growing and they would need to speak to the owners with a view to getting something done about it.

(v) Tom notified Members that 21 affordable houses had been identified for the vacant site at Station Road.

## 12. Licensing applications

Variation of Premises Licence – Red Rocks, Vault Square, Kelso – **No objections**

## 13. Consideration of Plans

(i) 26/01398/FUL – Replacement windows and installation of roof-mounted solar Photo Voltaic Array – Priorbank, Hermitage Lane, Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7AN **- No objections**

## 14. Any Other Current Business

(i) Councillor Jenna Borthwick asked if the Street Lights at Oakfield Court could be looked at. Scottish Borders Councillor Tom Weatherston intimated that street lights can be reported, if the lamp-post number is passed on.

## 15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will take place on Tuesday 10 November 2026 at 7pm.