

Minutes of the Meeting of Kelso Community Council held on
Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 7:00 pm in Kelso Town Hall



PRESENT: Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Councillors James Boulton, Shirley Redgrave, Paul Roberts, Toni Oliver and Gail Watson; Yvonne Oliver (Secretary); Scottish Borders Councillors Tom Weatherston and Euan Robson

APOLOGIES: Councillors Peter Cooper, James McCombie, Owen Adams, Christine Stewart and Colin McGrath; Scottish Borders Councillor Simon Mountford

- *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

PC Paul Owenson (Police Scotland) was currently on annual leave and had submitted his apologies. The March MMWR had not been received. PC Owenson had advised the Provost 80 letters had been issued to residents and businesses within the Town Centre regarding parking and he was pleased to report that the issue of staying more than the allotted 2 hours had vastly improved. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston advised the meeting that there was no longer a CAT (Community Action Team) but the number of Police Officers remained the same. SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised the meeting that a Working Group had been set up to look at the issue of parking throughout the Borders.

SBC Councillor Weatherston reported that there had recently been a group of travelling people on the Industrial Estate. Whilst they had now moved on, they had left behind a great deal of rubbish. SBC are looking at who is responsible for the land, as the rubbish is not on SBC land. He said it was imperative that Scottish Borders Council found a permanent site for travelling people.

The Provost reported that there had been incidences of people emptying rubbish at the vennel near the Co-op that leads down to the Cobby in Roxburgh Street.

Visit Kelso

The Provost reported, on behalf of Visit Kelso, that their new leaflet was almost ready and would be distributed shortly. Applications had gone out for this year's hanging baskets. Visit Kelso was intending to hold a 'Meet and Greet' for all members as the group is 10 years old this year.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 March 2025

The Minutes of meeting of Tuesday 11 March 2025 had been circulated and were approved. The Minutes were proposed by Councillor Toni Oliver and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts.

Matters arising from the Minute

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Questions From The Public

(i) Berrymoss Court – Trees between Sydenham Court/Berrymoss Court (SBHA)

Councillor Gail Watson asked if there was any update with this issue? SBC Councillor Euan Robson advised that he was having a meeting with representatives from SBHA and this was top of the list.

It was also reported that there had been an old sofa lying at the bottom of Kelso Ice Rink car park for some considerable time – SBC Councillor Robson advised that, although this was not a Scottish Borders Council issue, they did try to flag these things up to SBHA.

Kelso In Bloom

The Provost advised that the next litter-pick would take place on Thursday 17 April 2025 at 7pm to which all were welcome to take part. He had hoped for Kelso in Bloom to fill the edges of Bridge End Island with topsoil and sow grass seed to bring the edges back out to the kerb edge. Repairs to the kerbs have now been completed by SBC Roads Department, with the Provost's thanks.

SBCCN

There was no further update at this time.

Provost Report

(i) VE Day Commemorations

The Provost advised that plans for the VE Day Commemorations were coming along nicely. He and Councillor McCombie had met with Jenny Wilkinson from SBC and advised that an area in front of the Cross Keys, Kelso would be cordoned off on the day for various displays and activities, etc. The Parade would start from the Tait Hall, moving along to The Square, then back to the Tait Hall. There would be 3 Pipe Bands; the Lord Lieutenant (or his Depute) and the Minister of State for the Army would both be giving a speech. The activities in The Square would be finished by 4pm with the Beating of the Retreat being held at Floors Castle. As the Provost will be on holiday during this time, Vice-Chairman Councillor James Boulton will deputise.

(ii) Time Capsule (Wednesday 9 April 2025)

Members were advised that the bullring had been opened up in readiness for the re-burying of the Time Capsule the next day (10 April). He had received various items to bury together with those items recovered when the bullring was opened up, following King Charles' coronation in April 2023.

(iii) Kelso Community Council Elections Advice

The Provost had spoken to Fiona Henderson, Scottish Borders Council, who confirmed that the Community Council elections will be held in September/October 2025 with the present Kelso Community Council's final meeting being held on Tuesday 9 September. The Provost proposed that SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston act as Returning Officer for the elections and this was seconded by Councillor James Boulton. SBC Councillor Weatherston agreed to undertake this duty.

Secretary's Report

Events/Correspondence

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

(a) Kelso Laddie Declaration Night – Friday 18 April 2025

The Provost confirmed that he now had the names of all Community Councillors who had accepted the invitation to attend the Kelso Laddie Declaration Night on Friday 18 April 2025.

Consultations

(i) SBC Sport and Physical Activity Strategy Consultation

Members were advised that the closing date for comments for this consultation had been 26 March 2025.

(ii) Draft Development Plan Scheme 2025

It was noted that the closing date for representations for the Draft Development Plan Scheme 2025 was 6 May 2025.

(iii) Publicising Engagement Sessions for the Culture Strategy

Members were advised that the closing date for comments for this consultation had been 23 March 2025.

Scottish Borders Council Report

(i) Roxburgh Street Pavements

Councillor Toni Oliver commented that the state of the pavement in Roxburgh Street from Lindsay's, Opticians to the Co-op was dreadful and she knew of at least 2 people who had tripped and fallen on the uneven surface. SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston stated that this had been reported and will be down to the specific utility companies to repair.

(ii) Union Street

SBC Councillor T Weatherston advised members that he had been told the skip must be removed by the end of the month (April) and the road re-opened.

(iii) Trinity Church

The Provost advised that the owners of Trinity Church were now back living in the caravan, and he had written to them for an update on the refurbishment of the church.

(iv) Baptist Church

SBC Councillor Robson advised that there had been 2-3 people looking at the Baptist Church and he had asked the Estates Department of SBC to investigate.

(v) Rosebank Cemetery

SBC Councillor Robson informed members that the paths at Rosebank Cemetery had been inspected and work will be done to upgrade them (hopefully during this new financial year).

(vi) Lighting at various locations in Kelso

SBC Councillor Robson advised that some of the low lights in Shedden Park had been vandalised again. As these lights cost £1,000 each, he said that, should they be vandalised a further time (after repair), he feared they would not be replaced again.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no Licensing applications for consideration at this time.

Consideration of Plans

(i) 25/00327/FUL – 13 Bridge Street, Kelso – Change of Use

No objections

(ii) 25/00304/LBC – Broomlands House, Ednam Road, Kelso – Replacement Windows

No objections

(iii) 25/00331/FUL – 39 Horsemarket, Kelso – Change of Use from Retail to Food and Drink Establishment with Indoor Seating

No objections

Any other business

(i) 900 Anniversary – Kelso Abbey

Members were reminded there would be a public meeting regarding the 900th Anniversary Celebrations of Kelso Abbey on Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 7pm in Kelso Town Hall. As the Provost would be on holiday on this date, Councillor James Boulton had agreed to deputise.

(ii) Annual Accounts

Councillor Shirley Redgrave advised members that Adrian Clarkson had kindly agreed to audit the Community Council's Annual Accounts, prior to the AGM.

(III) Annual General Meeting

As it was discovered that the next meeting of the Community Council, due to be held on Tuesday 13 May 2025, would be inquorate, Provost Horsburgh

proposed that the May meeting be cancelled and the Annual General Meeting be held prior to the June meeting, scheduled for Tuesday 10 June 2025. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Toni Oliver. The Provost would clarify this action with Fiona Henderson, Scottish Borders Council (subsequently agreed by Fiona and members advised by email).

Date of next meeting

The next Kelso Community Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 10 June 2025 at the Town Hall, Kelso (following the Annual General Meeting).