



Visit Kelso held their Annual General Meeting on
Wednesday 20th September 2023. Kelso Town Hall 5.30. pm.

Minute of Meeting as follows:

Attendance: Karen Hume, June Swan, Ryan Broomhead, Jackie Suckling, Norman Anderson, Claire Mole, Lesley Rosher, Tina Newton, Gavin Horsburgh, Martha Pollard, Claire Fletcher, Steve Fletcher, Wendy Richardson, Anne Woodcock, Colin Henderson, Sue Beck, Lisa Haig, James Walker.

Apologies: Anne Scott, Louise Whittle, Susan Chatburn, Matt Thompson, Adrian Clarkson, Gail Clarkson, Rachel Thomson, Mags Clark, Gus Russell, Colin Seccombe, Linda Seccombe, Ron Hastings, Michelle Douglas, Jamie McKenzie, Lowri Huddleston, Rachel Weddell, Emma Crabtree, Catherine Mooney.

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

June Swan welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies as per the details above.

2. Minute of the Annual General Meeting minute held on 18th May 2022.

The minute of the previous meeting were proposed by Gavin Horsburgh and seconded by Tina Newton no objections were received so they were taken as a true minute and approved.

3. Any Matters arising (not on the Agenda)

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Joint Visit Kelso and Committee Report (Lesley Rosher)

Please see attached report from Lesley Rosher, Committee Member of Visit Kelso, Appendix 1

The Chair thanked Lesley Rosher for all her hard work.

5. Treasurers Report & Year end accounts for 2022 & 2023(Karen Hume)

Please see attached report from Karen Hume treasurer of Visit Kelso, Appendix 2
The Chair thanked Karen Hume for all her hard work.

6. Election of Office Bearers:

a) Chair

Gavin Horsburgh was proposed for the position of chair by June Swan and the proposal was seconded by Lesley Rosher

b) Treasurer

Karen Hume resigned as Joint Treasurer

Claire Mole and Tina Newton were proposed for the position of Joint Treasurer by Gavin Horsburgh and the proposal was seconded by Wendy Richardson

c) Secretary

Mags Clark was proposed for the position of secretary by Karen Hume and the proposal was seconded by Lesley Rosher.

The Committee including the office bearers named above for the year ahead is, Adrian Clarkson, Claire Fletcher, Steve Fletcher, Lesley Rosher, Wendy Richardson, June Swan and James Walker

It was noted that while the following were not in a position to become committee members, they would be available to help with relevant projects:
Colin Henderson, Rachel Weddell and Lisa Haig.

No objections or alternative proposals were received so all positions were appointed as noted above.

7. Visit Kelso update:

Please see attached report from Lesley Rosher, Committee Member of Visit Kelso, Appendix 1

The Chair thanked Lesley Rosher for all her hard work.

8. Any other Competent Business:

Gail Clarkson was unable to attend the AGM but asked for two points to be raised –

GC - BHS - Are there any plans as to what the balance of £8k will be spent on? Historically VK sent an email to all members seeking their views on what we would like to see in the square.

We have also had feedback from guests, suggesting that the square could be better utilized for hospitality. (they have said they have gone to Melrose so they can sit out). Would it be an opportune time to seek views of the members on this?

The Square is a working Square and events including the monthly Farmers Market, Civic Week events, Church services, Town Hall weddings etc take place in the area. There is concern that using the area when possible for hospitality would not be feasible and also take away from the existing businesses who have outdoor seating areas – Cross Keys, Rutherfords, Seasons, Cream Chimneys, Scotts etc. The GBHS fund is to be used to market and promote the town and is ringfenced and treated as restricted within our accounts. The funds will be used when it is felt we have a suitable project.

GC – Strive Digital - There is considerable expenditure against Strive Digital, do you feel this is "good value for money" or have you considered looking at other providers?

Strive Digital costs are currently £22.80 per month for web and email hosting. The extra expense in our accounts to 31st May 2024 totalling £888 was following a Digital Audit Report received as part of our successful Adapt and Thrive funding application and covered by this fund. We engaged Strive to carry out recommended updates to help improve our SEO and some functionality on our website. We are not currently looking for a new web developer, there has been some personnel changes within Strive Digital and we plan to work with them for the foreseeable future.

- Colin Henderson suggested a Pant Well but this would have to rely on Scottish Water of which there is no current plan. This idea has been suggested in the past and it could be something to reconsider.
- Colin Henderson suggested a mural in the likes of Shedden Park but this would require strict planning permission due to it being a conservation area.
- Sue Beck wanted to say thank you to the Visit Kelso Committee and said that Kelso is very lucky to have such good community groups who do a massive amount of work behind the scenes. This was seconded by Anne Woodcock.
- Colin Henderson suggested that when the Town Maps are being re-printed to look to combine the Visit Kelso and Kelso Heritage maps to avoid duplication.
- Kelso Abbey will be 900 years old in 2028, we need to start planning.
- Bridgend Park; Could this be renamed possible in line with the burial of the King Charles III time capsule.
- Banners at Glebe Park; These will be taken down and stored for future use. They may be re-used at Border Ice Rink for a while.
- Anne Woodcock (River Tweed Commission) thanked Visit Kelso for its support in 2023 and promised that the opening of the salmon fishing season in February 2024 would take place in Kelso and would be bigger and better than last year. Visit Kelso will happily support the event.

The date of the next AGM will be September 2024 with an EGM held in April/May 2024 to discuss and propose membership renewal rates for the coming year.

With no further business, June Swan thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6.45pm.