

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHEVIOT AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTE of the MEETING of the CHEVIOT
AREA COMMITTEE held in the Town Hall,
Jedburgh on 15 August 2012 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors T. Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, A. Nicol, S. Scott, R. Stewart.
Community Councillors I. Athey, Mr Jackson, N. Jarvis, H. Oliver, R. Thomson.
Apologies:- Councillor A. Nicol, Community Councillor F. Scott.
In Attendance:- SB Local Area Manager (A. Finnie), Committee and Elections Officer (Mrs F Henderson)

Members of the Public:- Nil

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the Community Councillors who were attending for the first time. The Chairman advised that a Cheviot Area Forum would replace the Cheviot Area Committee in the future.

MINUTE

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Cheviot Area Committee of 20 June 2012.

DECISION

NOTED the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

3. With reference to paragraph 12(b) of the Minute of 20 June 2012, it was reported that the lights for the Jedburgh Abbey were progressing.

DECISION

NOTED.

4. With reference to paragraph 12(d) of the Minute of 20 June 2012, in relation to wood and rubbish being dumped within the Roxburgh Community Council area, it was reported that composting bins were to be provided.

DECISION

NOTED.

5. With reference to paragraph of 8 of the Minute of 20 June 2012, the SB Local Area Manager advised that signs regarding dog fouling could not be erected in Parks as dogs were allowed in parks as long as the owner picked up after the dog. The issue about whether dogs were allowed into children's play area was raised and the SB Local Area Manager agreed to investigate this.

DECISION

NOTED.

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS POLICE – SPOTLIGHT

6. In the absence of a police representative there was no update report.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

REVENUE, CAPITAL AND SB LOCAL WORKS

7. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure which sought approval for the proposed new SB Local small schemes. The SB Local Area Manager advised that a draft list of schemes had been prepared and outlined the schemes which would be included. The Committee were further advised that a final list of schemes would be emailed to Members in the near future. The budget for SB Local Schemes was £34,702 for 2012/13 and the schemes listed in the report were the first schemes for 2012/13. Expenditure of £3,283 on the schemes listed below would result in £31,419 being available for future schemes.

The schemes requiring approval were as follows:-

Removal of flood material, The Cobby, Kelso	£ 448
Installation of timber gate, Back Lane, Yetholm	£ 255
Remove overgrowth and replant shrubs, Chalkhaugh Terrace embankment Kelso	£ 980
Install metal seat in bus shelter, Blair Avenue, Jedburgh	£ 600
Manufacture and erect Street nameplates in the Jedburgh and Kelso area	£1000

8. SB Local Area Manager reported at the meeting that it was proposed to install a new seat at Chalkhaugh Terrace at an estimated cost of £2,815, which would be in addition to the £980 already listed, resulting in a total estimated cost of £3,795. The Chairman expressed concern with regard to this amount of money being spent without prior consultation with the local Elected Members. Councillor Mountford suggested that the additional expenditure be deferred to allow consultation between the local Elected Members and that only the initial amount of £980 be approved.

**DECISION
AGREED:-**

- (a) to approve the schemes listed above;
- (b) that the additional expenditure amounting to £2,815 for Chalkhaugh Terrace, Kelso be deferred to allow a site visit and consultation with the Local Elected Members;
- (c) that the proposed expenditure be considered again at a future meeting.

9. The clearing of drainage ditches on the verges of minor roads was raised and the SB Local Area Manager was requested to investigate the clearing of these in general and in particular between Jedburgh to Mossburn; roads around Yetholm and on the Jedburgh to Lanton Road.

**DECISION
AGREED that the SB Local Manager investigate the clearing of drainage ditches on roads in general and in particular on those list above.**

SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

10. There had been circulated copies of an application for funding from Kelso Community Events. They had requested a project grant of £4,986 towards the running costs of St James' Fair which took place annually in the town of Kelso during September. It was explained that the event was held over a weekend and hosted activities such as local music, sports and dance groups, market stall etc. The Chairman advised that the event had run very successfully since it was established in 2004, however in 2010 the entire event had to be cancelled at very short notice due to appalling weather conditions and a substantial amount of money had been lost as a result. This application was therefore seen as a one-off payment to assist with the running costs such as insurance, licenses, first aid, security, stage and lighting etc. due to the fact that reserves were low as a result of the cancelled event in 2010. The Chairman expressed disappointment that the application had not been received earlier in the year for consideration.

DECISION**AGREED:-**

- (a) to approve a grant to the value of £4,986 to Kelso Community Events towards the running costs of the St James Fair event being held on 1 and 2 September 2012.
- (b) that the organising Committee be advised that any future application must be received early in the year for consideration and certainly prior to the organisation of the event.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

11. Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn and Smailholm – Community Councillor Thomson reported that the 's' bend leaving Smailholm village was an accident black spot and requested barriers for the bend as the farmer had dug a ditch on the 's' bend and the barriers would prevent vehicles from falling into the ditch, should they be involved in an accident on that particular bend.
12. Jedburgh – Community Councillor Oliver reported that a tree had fallen on the fish ladder at the Anna Cauld, Jedburgh and requested that this be removed.
13. St Boswells – Community Councillor Jackson reported that the travellers who visited St Boswells green on an annual basis had lingered longer than usual this year and a request was made that a mechanism be devised to control this in future years.
14. The issue regarding Bus contracts was raised and it was agreed that the public consultation document would be sent to all Community Councils.

DECISION

AGREED that the Committee Officer bring the above matters to the attention of Director of Environment and Infrastructure and report back to the next meeting on 14 November 2012.

URGENT BUSINESS

15. Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chairman was of the opinion that the item dealt with in the following paragraph should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, in view of the need to keep Members informed.

KELSO CEMETERIES

16. The Chairman reported that complaints had been received with regards to the grass cutting within Kelso Cemetery. It was reported that the grass was not uplifted following cutting and

the cut grass was being sprayed onto the Headstones. There was a general consensus that the non lifting of the cut grass was an issue within many Borders cemeteries. It was highlighted that the cut grass was lifted from the grass within the Kelso War Memorial. It was suggested that perhaps a review of the grass cutting equipment was required.

DECISION

AGREED to bring the complaints regarding the non lifting of cut grass from Borders Cemeteries to the attention of the Director of Environment and Infrastructure.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17. The next meeting of the Cheviot Area Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, 14 November 2012. The venue was still to be confirmed.

DECISION

NOTED.

The meeting concluded at 7.15 p.m.