

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
HAWICK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the HAWICK
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE held
in the Tower Mill, Heart of Hawick on
16 October 2012 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors A. Cranston, Z. P. Elliot, D. Paterson, G. Turnbull.
Apologies:- Councillors S. Marshall, R. Smith.
In Attendance:- Legal and Licensing Services Manager, Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell),
Property Officer – Hawick, Committee and Elections Office (F. Walling).

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

1. This being the first meeting of the Hawick Common Good Fund Sub Committee the first item to be considered was the appointment of chairman and vice-chairman. Councillor Turnbull, seconded by Councillor Cranston, moved that Councillor Elliot be appointed as chairman.

DECISION

AGREED that:-

- (a) **Councillor Elliot be appointed as Chairman of Hawick Common Good Fund Working Group; and**
- (b) **in view of the absence of two Members of the sub committee, the appointment of vice chairman be considered at the next meeting.**

COMMON HAUGH CAR PARK

2. There had been circulated copies of an extract from the Draft Minute of 18 September 2012. Before Members continued the discussion on the funding of work to resurface the Common Haugh Car Park the Legal and Licensing Manager gave a résumé of the situation. She reminded Members that although the car park site was on Scottish Borders Council's list of car parks that were "adopted for maintenance purposes" the view of Environment and Infrastructure officers was that, having regard to the finite budget available, the re-surfacing of this car park would not be carried out in the current year. Therefore there would be no contribution at the present time or retrospectively towards the cost of this work, the cheapest quote for which was £14,250. Members strongly disagreed with the view that the surface of the car park was safe and maintained that the damage was not simply cosmetic. Concern was expressed that should no action be taken there would be a significant possibility of claims being made against the Council for damage to persons or vehicles. It was agreed that these concerns be taken to the Council's Administration for consideration. However it was felt unanimously that in the meantime the resurfacing work should not be delayed. This was for reasons of safety in addition to the recognition that the appearance of the Common Haugh Car Park was of great significance to the town in terms of attracting visitors. It was also the view that the work should be carried out as soon as possible before further deterioration of the surface which would be likely with the onset of winter weather. The Senior Financial Analyst confirmed that there was a balance of £22k in the Common Good Fund budget for property maintenance for the remainder of the financial year but that most of the planned maintenance had already been completed. The Property Officer confirmed that if the decision was made to carry out the work to the car park, at the quoted amount, the remaining balance within the budget should be sufficient for any other maintenance work required before the end of March 2013.

DECISION

AGREED that:-

- (a) Members raise their concerns with the Council's Administration about the decision not to prioritise and resurface the Common Haugh Car Park from the Council budget at this time; and**
- (b) re-surfacing of the Common Haugh Car Park be funded from the Common Good Fund budget and that the Property Officer raise an order and arrange for this to be carried out as soon as possible.**

The meeting concluded at 5.50 pm