

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
HAWICK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the HAWICK COMMON
GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE held in the
Tower Mill, Heart of Hawick, on
19 February 2013 at 4.00 p.m.

Present:- Councillors Z. Elliot (Chairman), A. Cranston, S. Marshall, D. Paterson.
R. Smith, G. Turnbull; Mr D. Nuttall (Hawick Community Council).
In Attendance:- Legal and Licensing Services Manager, Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell),
Estates Surveyor, Property Officer – Hawick, Democratic Services Officer
(F. Walling).

MINUTE

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 20 November 2012.

DECISION

APPROVED the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

BUDGET AND MONITORING REPORT 2012/13

2. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer setting out details of transactions for the 9 months to 31 December 2012 and projections of the annual outturn with variances from the final budget, with resultant requested budget virements and the projected effect on Revenue and Capital Reserves at 31 March 2013. Expenditure was projected to be greater than the approved budget by £24. Income was projected to exceed budget by £2,481. Appendix 1 to the report showed key information on the performance and activities of the Common Good Fund. Appendices 2 to 5 provided details on the Revenue budget in an expanded form, Grants paid and payable, Revenue and Capital reserves and the performance of the Property Portfolio. Appendix 1 indicated an improved position in terms of the projected funding required from reserves. With regard to Grants and donations it was indicated that the remaining budget available was £9,303 for the rest of the financial year. The Senior Financial Analyst drew attention to Appendix 3 which listed the donations and contributions paid and approved in 2012/13. He advised that commitments that had not been claimed by the applicant had been removed.

DECISION

- (a) **AGREED the financial performance for 2012/13 as shown in Appendix 2 to the report; and**
- (b) **NOTED:-**
 - (i) **the key figures shown in Appendix 1 to the report;**
 - (ii) **the Grants Analysis provided in Appendix 3 to the report;**
 - (iii) **the projected balances on Revenue and Capital Reserves as shown in Appendix 4 to the report; and**
 - (iv) **the performance of the Property Portfolio as shown in Appendix 5.**

REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

3. There was tabled at the meeting a list of all the Grants and Donations awarded by Hawick Common Good Fund for every year from 2003/04 to 2011/12. This had been prepared by the Senior Financial Analyst following a request that morning by the Chairman who believed Members should have a clear account of the total amount of money awarded to

the organisations in the past in response to repeat applications. She felt this information should be taken into account when considering applications particularly in view of the fact that the amount of money available for financial assistance from the Common Good Fund would be likely to decrease as property maintenance costs rose.

4. There had been circulated copies of an application from the Heart of Hawick Children's Book Award for financial assistance of £2000 which would be used to run the Animation Workshop and Award Ceremony at the annual ceremony in May. It was noted that the Heart of Hawick (Book Award) had previously been awarded £1000 from the Common Good Fund in 2008/09. Members were supportive of the application but discussed the legitimacy of the application in respect of the geographical area to which it applied. The Legal and Licensing Services Manager advised that, in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 an award could be made providing this 'had regard to the inhabitants of the former Burgh'. Councillor Turnbull proposed that £1500 be awarded to the applicant but no Member seconded this motion. Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Elliot, moved that an award of £1000 be made. This latter motion received the support of the remaining three Members.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £1000 to the Heart of Hawick Children's Book Award.

5. There had been circulated copies of an application from Hawick Welcome Initiative for financial assistance of £2500 towards the Hosts' salaries for the summer of 2013. The application detailed the key activities of the Initiative and the benefits of the project to the town. Members voiced their support for the Hawick Welcome Initiative which was recognised as being unique in the Borders. However Members took into account the figures previously circulated which revealed that Hawick Common Good Fund had contributed a total of £15000 to the Hawick Welcome Initiative since 2003/04. The view was expressed that there should not be an expectation that repeat grants of similar amounts would be awarded year upon year to one organisation. Members gave unanimous support to a motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Smith, that an award of £1500 be made.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £1500 to Hawick Welcome Initiative.

6. There had been circulated copies of an application on behalf of Hawick Reivers Association for financial assistance of £4000 towards costs associated with the annual Reivers Festival. Members recognised the value of business brought to the town during the festival. Hawick Reivers Festival had received a total of £10850 in grants from the Common Good Fund since 2003/04. Councillor Turnbull moved that £2000 be awarded but no Member seconded the motion. There was however support for a motion by Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor Smith, that £1000 be awarded with the additional offer that should the festival be facing significant financial difficulty the organisers could come back to Hawick Common Good Fund Sub Committee with a request for further assistance.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £1000 to Hawick Reivers Association but that the organisers be invited to return with a further request for assistance should the festival be facing significant financial difficulty.

7. There had been circulated copies of an application from Burnfoot Community Council for financial assistance of £2500 towards the cost of holding the annual Burnfoot Carnival. To support the application there had also been circulated copies of a newspaper article which appealed for volunteers and explained that the future of the Carnival was in doubt. The figures previously circulated revealed that Burnfoot Community Council had received a total of £8685 for the Carnival, from the Common Good Fund, since 2005/06. The Legal and Licensing Services Manager explained that the Carnival was not part of the Council's

Festival Scheme for financial assistance which was recently approved for years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. However she had suggested to Mr Batten, from Burnfoot Community Council, that fundraising should take place and an application put forward for the Carnival to join the Council's scheme at the next opportunity. In the meantime she advised that a grant may be possible through the Council's Community Grant Scheme.

VOTE

Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Turnbull, moved that a grant of £1000 be awarded.

Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved as an amendment that a grant be not awarded but that Burnfoot Community Council be advised to apply for financial assistance from the Community Grant Scheme.

On a show of hands Councillors voted as follows:-

Motion 3 votes

Amendment 3 votes

The Chairman used her casting vote in favour of the motion which was duly carried.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £1000 to Burnfoot Community Council.

HAWICK MOOR

8. There had been circulated copies of a letter from the Ancient Order of Mosstroopers seeking permission for the Club to use Hawick Moor, on the area beyond The Paddock for the annual Junior Gymkhana on Sunday 2 June 2013 and also for the annual Race Meeting on Saturday 15 June 2013. Members agreed to give permission for Hawick Moor to be used for both events but were advised by the Property Officer that the race course itself needed attention to bring it up to racing standard. This was to a large extent due to the extreme wet conditions of the previous year. It was agreed that an estimate of the costs be obtained and emailed to Members for agreement so that the necessary work could be carried out as soon as possible subject to weather and ground conditions.

DECISION

AGREED:-

- (a) **to grant permission to the Ancient Order of Mosstroopers to use Hawick Moor as follows:-**
- (i) **the area beyond the Paddock on Sunday 2 June 2013 for the Junior Gymkhana; and**
 - (ii) **for the annual Race Meeting on Saturday 15 June 2013.**
- (b) **that the Property Officer circulate to Members an estimate of the cost of works required to the racecourse to improve the ground conditions.**

PRIVATE BUSINESS

DECISION

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in the Appendix to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6, 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

Minute

1. Members approved the private section of the Minute of 20 November 2012.

Property Management

2. Members received an update from the Estates Surveyor and the Property Officer.

Lease of Fields at St. Leonards, Hawick

3. Members approved a report by the Chief Executive regarding lease of eight fields at St Leonards, Hawick.

New Shed at St. Leonards, Hawick

4. Members considered a report by the Chief Executive regarding a request from the tenant for consent to install a new lean-to on a farm shed at St Leonards.

URGENT BUSINESS

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 make an early decision.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were advised that a meeting of the Sub Committee would be required before the end of the financial year.

DECISION

AGREED that a special meeting of Hawick Common Good Fund Sub Committee be held on Tuesday 12 March 2013 at 2.00 p.m. at Council Headquarters

The meeting concluded at 5:50 p.m.