

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, Hawick on 22 August 2013 at 4.00
 p.m.

Present:- Councillors Z. Elliot (Chairman), A. Cranston, S. Marshall, D. Paterson,
 R. Smith; Community Councillor Mr D. Nuttall (Hawick Community Council)
 Mrs A. Knight (Burnfoot Community Council).

Apologies:- Councillor G Turnbull.

In Attendance:- Head of Corporate Governance, Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell), Estates
 Surveyor, Democratic Services Team Leader (L. McGeoch), Democratic
 Services Officer (J. Turnbull).

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Ann Knight as a new member of the Sub-Committee. Mrs Knight represented Burnfoot Community Council.

MINUTES

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 18 June 2013.

DECISION

APPROVED the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

MEMBER

Councillor Cranston joined the meeting following consideration of the above item.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mrs A. Knight, Burnfoot Community Council, declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the room during the discussion.

REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
CONNECTING CLASSROOMS GROUP

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 18 June 2013, there had been circulated copies of an application from Connecting Classrooms Group for financial assistance of £1,000.00 towards travel and subsistence costs for five pupils to visit a school in Sierra Leone in October this year. Links with this school had existed since 2007. As requested by the Sub-Committee, the School had sent details of their financial position as at 25 June 2013, however, the Sub-Committee requested more up to date information be submitted for their next meeting, to enable further consideration of the application.

DECISION

AGREED to request further details of the amount of funding now raised.

DRUMLANRIG ST CUTHBERT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

4. There had been circulated copies of an application from Drumlanrig St Cuthbert's Primary School for financial assistance of £346.50 to provide swimming lessons to the children in Primary 6. The fund would provide a 10 week block of lessons at the end of which the children would have the opportunity to sit the Aquatics Certificate. The school would also be supporting the Teviotdale Leisure Centre by using their facilities and encouraging continued use by the children when their swimming lessons had finished.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £346.50 to Drumlanrig St Cuthbert's Primary School.

HAWICK SALVATION ARMY CHURCH

5. There had been circulated copies of a letter from Hawick Salvation Army Church for financial assistance for the cost of the hire of Hawick Town Hall for the 2013 Christmas Eve Carol Service. The Hawick Common Good Fund had covered the cost of the hall hire in previous years on the basis that all income from the Service was donated to local charities. The cost of the hall had been £172.00 in 2012.

DECISION

AGREED that the cost of hiring Hawick Town Hall be met for the 2013 Christmas Eve Carol Service.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillors Elliot and Smith declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the room during the discussion. Councillor Marshall took the Chair for the following item.

HAWICK RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

6. There had been circulated copies of an application from Hawick Rugby Football Club for financial assistance of £2,000.00 to assist with the event costs of a match between Edinburgh Rugby Club and Newcastle Falcons to be held on 30 August 2013. Mr Thorburn was in attendance at the meeting to answer questions. It was expected that the event would attract 500 – 600 spectators. The Club had already raised £2,000.00 towards the event and would retain the gate money. Members discussed the possibility of awarding some money now with an additional sum if the Club were left with a shortfall after the game. The Senior Financial Analyst advised that if there was a shortfall, detailed costs relating to the event should be supplied to enable the Sub-Committee to consider awarding a further grant. Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Cranston, proposed that an initial grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to Hawick Rugby Football Club and that should there be a shortfall in funding the club could then re-apply for a further grant to a maximum of £1,000.00, subject to detailed costs being provided. This was unanimously approved.

DECISION

AGREED:-

- (a) to award a grant of £1,000.00 to Hawick Rugby Football Club; and
- (b) that in the event of a shortfall in funding the club could submit a further request for funding up to a maximum of £1,000.00, subject to detailed costs being provided.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Elliot declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the room during the discussion. Councillor Marshall remained in the Chair for the following item.

MINTO GOLF CLUB

7. There had been circulated copies of an application from Minto Golf Club for financial assistance of £15,000.00 to assist with the Club's finances as visitor numbers and membership had dropped. Mr Elliot, Club Captain, was in attendance to answer questions. Members were advised that the club lay outwith the boundary of Hawick and that support in the past from the former Roxburgh District Council should not be considered as a precedent in this case. Members acknowledged that they had supported an application from Hawick Golf Club, however, the Sub-Committee had a direct interest in this club as owners of the land. Councillor Paterson, seconded by Councillor Smith proposed that the application be refused and this was unanimously approved.

DECISION

AGREED that the application for a grant in respect of Minto Golf Club be refused.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

8. The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

PROPERTY UPDATE AND SUMMARY

9. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Head of Corporate Governance updating the Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee on the property maintenance and responsibilities following the site visits in May 2013.

Hawick Moor

10. It had been agreed to carry out substantial remedial works to the road surface which had deteriorated. The tarring works on the road cost £6,500.00. A new plastic running rail had been installed to the inside of the racecourse and this had been an improvement. The cost would be approximately £3,300.00; £1,000.00 of which had been donated by the Hawick Common Riding Committee.

Willestruther Cottage

11. The Property Officer informed the Sub-Committee that the cost of the supply and installation of a new multi-fuel burning stove at the property would be £6,000.00. The Committee requested that he investigate if there were grants available for the stove. The Sub-Committee also discussed a request from the tenant. The Senior Financial Analyst would arrange for a letter to be sent to the tenant asking them to supply commercial accounts to enable consideration of their request at the next meeting.

DECISION

AGREED

- (i) **To the supply and installation of a multi-fuel burning stove; and**
- (ii) **To request that the Legal and Licensing Services Manager submit a private report at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee regarding the tenant's request.**

St Leonard's Farmhouse, Buildings and Cow Park field

12. Members discussed the property inspection.

DECISION

AGREED that the Property Officer send a letter to the tenants with a follow up visit in two months; thereafter to inspect the property at six monthly intervals.

Pilmuir Cottage

13. The new storage shed would be erected once the tenant had received confirmation of any planning permissions requirements. Members discussed the property inspection.

DECISION

AGREED To request that the Property Officer carry out six monthly inspections at the property.

Pilmuir Farmhouse

14. Members discussed the property inspection.

DECISION

AGREED To investigate the grants available for the supply of loft insulation at the property.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Paterson declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the room during the discussion.

HAWICK WEIGHT TRAINING AND FITNESS CLUB.

15. There had been circulated copies of an application from Hawick Weight Training and Fitness Club for financial assistance of £2,246.00 to assist with the purchase of new equipment for the Club. Mr Borthwick, Club Treasurer, was in attendance at the meeting to answer questions. Members noted that the Club were not currently members of the Roxburgh Sports Council and asked that they join the Sports Council. Once evidence of this had been provided the Sub-Committee would reconsider the application.

DECISION

AGREED to defer a decision on the application until the Club had become members of the Roxburgh Sports Council.

URGENT ITEM

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

USE OF COMMON HAUGH CAR PARK

17. The Estates Surveyor reported that a request had been received from the Roger Clark Memorial Rally to use the Common Haugh car park on 10 November 2013. There would be an inspection of the car park before and after the rally.

DECISION

AGREED to the use of the Common Haugh car park for the Roger Clark Memorial Rally on 10 November 2013.

MEMORIAL TREE AT VOLUNTEER PARK

18. The Estates Surveyor reported that he had received a request for a memorial tree to be planted at the Volunteer Park. The Forum asked that further information be provide for the next meeting regarding the implications in respect of the upgrading works scheduled for McLaren Park. The report should also include alternative options for the Forum to consider.

DECISION

To request that the Estates Surveyor report back to the next meeting of the Forum for further consideration.

PRIVATE BUSINESS

DECISION

19. **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 paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.**

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

Minutes

1. Members approved the private section of the Minute of 18 June 2013.

The meeting concluded at 5.35 pm.