

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**HAWICK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTE of MEETING of the HAWICK COMMON  
GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE held in the  
Lesser Hall, Hawick on 18 February 2014 at 4.00  
p.m.

Present:- Councillors Z. Elliot (Chairman), A. Cranston, S. Marshall, D. Paterson, G  
Turnbull, R. Smith; Community Councillor Mrs A. Knight (Burnfoot Community  
Council).  
Apologies:- Mr D Nuttall.  
In Attendance:- Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell), Solicitor with Legal Services (R Kirk)  
Estates Surveyor, Property Officer, Roads Engineer, Democratic Services  
Officer (J. Turnbull).

**MINUTES**

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 18 February 2014.

**Matters arising from the Minute**

2. Whitlaw Wood House  
With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of 19 November 2013, Members requested clarity on the right of access be provided at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.
3. Pilmuir Farmhouse  
With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of 19 November 2013, the Property Officer had received an estimate of £1,000.00 for repairs to the silage pit floor. The works would have to take place in May/June when the silage pit would be empty for a short period of time; the Sub-Committee requested another estimate be obtained for comparison. Improved insulation had remedied the condensation problem.

**DECISION**

**APPROVED the Minute for signature by the Chairman.**

**REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

4. There had been circulated copies of an application from Hawick Reivers Festival for financial assistance of £2,000.00 towards the costs associated with the annual Reivers Festival. Members recognised the value of business brought to the town during the Festival but advised that the Festival should apply for a Community Support Grant in the future. Hawick Reivers Festival had received a total of £11,500.00 in grants from the Common Good Fund over the past 10 years. However, over the last four years this had amounted to £1,500.00. Councillor Smith moved that £1,000.00 be awarded which was seconded by Councillor Paterson. Councillor Marshall moved that £2,000.00 be awarded but no Member seconded the motion.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to award a grant of £1,000.00 to Hawick Reivers Association towards the running costs of the festival.**

**MONITORING REPORT FOR 9 MONTHS TO END DECEMBER 2013**

5. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer which set out details of transactions for the nine months to 31 December 2013, the projections of the annual outturn with variances from the current budget and the projected effect on Revenue and Capital Reserves at 31 March 2014. The Senior Financial Analyst explained that Income and expenditure were projected to be in line with the current budget other than additional

income from way leaves not budgeted for at £792.00. The Sub Committee were advised that £350,000.00 had been invested in the Newtown Fund. Appendix 3 showed the grants that had been allocated this financial year, there was £12,153.00 remaining, less the £1,000.00 awarded to the Reivers Association. There was £79,439.00 in reserves. Appendix 5 showed the property portfolio's book value.

6. Members requested an update on Hawick Burgh Woodland to establish the maintenance and development required. A report was requested to be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

#### **DECISION**

- (a) **AGREED** the financial performance for 2013/14 as shown in Appendix 2 to the report.
- (b) **NOTED:-**
  - (i) **The key figures shown in Appendix 1 to the report;**
  - (ii) **The Grants Analysis provided in Appendix 3;**
  - (iii) **The projected balances on Revenue and Capital Reserves as shown in Appendix 4; and**
  - (iv) **The performance of the Property Portfolio as shown in Appendix 5 to the report.**
- (c) **TO REQUEST** the Estates Office bring a report on the Hawick Burgh Woodland to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

#### **DISCUSSION ON COMMON HAUGH**

7. Scottish Borders Council's Road Engineer was in attendance and gave a verbal report on the Common Haugh Car Park, the car park was in a good condition apart from the exit area (Bell Mouth). The repairs would cost £7,500.00, the Council had agreed to pay £2,460.00 towards the repairs with Hawick Common Good Fund to pay the remainder.

#### **DECISION**

##### **AGREED:-**

- (i) **To contribute £5,089.00 towards the repair costs of the Common Haugh Car Park; and**
- (ii) **To request a draft agreement be prepared which details future maintenance responsibilities of the Common Haugh Car Park.**

#### **PROPERTY UPDATE**

##### **St Leonard's Farm**

8. The Estates Surveyor gave an update on the request to site a memorial bench at St Leonards. The original request had been made by Mr Weir, who was in attendance, and explained that the bench would be to commemorate Mr Viv Sharp. A grant for part funding could be applied for through the Small Schemes Grant, Mr Sharp's family would pay the outstanding amount and would also pay for the memorial and the engraving to the stone. Members requested further information and a site visit to consider the request.

**DECISION: To request the Estates Surveyor bring a report to the next meeting for consideration.**

##### **Golf Club**

9. The grass banking at the Golf Club needed repaired and this had been estimated at £3,175.00. The land was considered to be in Common Good ownership but it was the usage by the Golf Club that had partly caused the land slip. Members agreed that as the land was the responsibility of the Common Good, then they had to fulfil their responsibilities as owners and carry out the necessary repairs.

10. It was anticipated that there would be extra riders at this year's Common Riding to commemorate the 500 year anniversary. It had been suggested that a marquee be sited on the Golf Course for the Common Riding and the Golf Club had agreed. The Sub-Committee suggested that the marquee area should be fenced to ensure safety.

**DECISION**

**AGREED:-**

- (i) **To pay £3,175.00 from Common Good Funds for the repairs to the grass banking at the Golf Club; and**
- (ii) **To allow the siting of a marquee for the Common Riding on the Golf Course.**

**Hawick Moor**

11. The Property Officer reported that there had been vandalism to the railings and the pedestrian gate had been stolen. The gate had been replaced and the Common Riding Committee had agreed to purchase railings. It was suggested that Members meet on site to assess the damage.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to arrange a site visit to assess the damage to the railings.**

**Hawick High Street**

12. The Common Riding Committee purchased 200m of bunting each year to replenish their stock. This year they would purchase additional bunting as it would be on display for a longer period of time.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**Horse Memorial**

13. The Ancient Order of Moss troopers would begin restoration works to the memorial on 10 March. The Hawick Common Good had donated £1,500.00 towards the works.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**Common Haugh Car Park**

14. The Estates Surveyor reported that he had received a request to hold a Funfair between 23 March and 6 April 2014, at the Common Haugh Car Park.
15. Paulos Circus had requested use of the Car Park to site a circus. No date had been given, although it was expected to be held late summer. There would be no animals. A £500.00 fee would be charged.
16. A request had been received to site a burger van on a section of the Common Haugh. The van would be open five days a week Monday – Friday.

**DECISION**

**(a) AGREED:-**

- (i) **to the use of land at the Common Haugh Car Park to host a Fun Fair; and**
- (ii) **to the use of land at the Common Haugh Car Park by Paulos Circus.**

**(b) REFUSE the request to site a burger van on a section of the Common Haugh.**

**British Legion March Past**

17. The British Legion had requested permission to hold a March Past on 13 September 2014 between 5 pm and 7 pm. Money raised would be for Hawick British Legion funds.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED to the request from the British Legion.**

### **Flood Prevention Scheme**

18. A request had been received by the Flood Protection Scheme to store equipment at the Common Haugh Car Park, it was expected to utilise 4 - 5 car parking spaces. Members agreed to the request provided that they did not use parking spaces near the camper vans and suggested they use the grassed area near the hospital exit. Confirmation was also requested as to the siting of the boreholes and that any surface damage would be repaired.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED TO request members are emailed with a map showing the exact location of the boreholes.**

### **Pilmuir Farm**

19. The Estates Surveyor advised that he had received communication from Scottish Water informing that they would be carrying out maintenance work at Acreknowe Reservoir and Pilmuir Farm and that they might need to access the fields at Pilmuir. They would reinstate any damage to the land - if they were unable to do so, compensation would be payable. The works would commence on Monday and would be one month's duration. Scottish Water would issue notices to the farm tenant. It was noted that and any issues arising from the works would be the responsibility of Scottish Water.
20. A dry stone dyke at Pilmuir Farm was collapsing into the field. Members would inspect as part of their property inspection visit. The Property Officer added that the damage had been caused by a car; unfortunately the police had been unable to establish the identity of the car owner.

## **DECISION:**

**To request that the Property Officer check with Police regarding the identification of the car owner and to ascertain if the cost of repairs could be covered by insurance.**

### **Whitlaw Wood House**

21. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of 19 November, the owner of Whitlaw Wood House, had been informed that agreement had been received to carry out a porosity test but that this would be at his cost. He was informed that the test would also require the agreement of the Golf Club. No response had been received back from the owner.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED.**

### **PROPERTY INSPECTIONS**

22. Property inspections would take place on Thursday, 6 March at 1.00 pm. Members were asked to meet at the Moor Gates at 1 pm. St Leonard's Cottage would be included on the list.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED.**

### **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

#### **DECISION**

23. **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**

**MINUTE**

24. Members approved the private section of the Minute of 19 November 2013.

**HAWICK GOLF CLUB**

25. The Sub-Committee discussed Hawick Golf Club.

*The meeting was abandoned at 5.30 pm due to the sudden illness of the Chairman.*