

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 18 March 2014 at 4.00
 p.m.

Present:- Councillors S. Marshall (Chairman - paragraphs 1 and 2) G. Turnbull
 (Chairman – from paragraph 3), A. Cranston, S. Marshall, D. Paterson, R.
 Smith; Community Councillors Mrs A Knight (Burnfoot Community Council) Mr
 J Little (Hawick Community Council)

In Attendance:- Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell), Solicitor with Legal Services (R Kirk)
 Property Officer, Democratic Services Officer (J. Turnbull).

MEMBER

Councillor Marshall in the Chair.

COUNCILLOR Z ELLIOT

1. Councillor Marshall, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, expressed his sadness at the passing of Councillor Elliot. He read out a letter he had received from Councillor Elliot's family thanking the Sub-Committee for the support and assistance given to Councillor Elliot when she had taken ill.

CHAIRMAN

2. The Committee considered the appointment of Chairman. Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Marshall, moved that Councillor Turnbull be appointed as Chairman.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Turnbull be appointed as Chairman of the Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee.

MEMBER

Councillor G Turnbull in the Chair.

MINUTES

3. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 18 February 2014 With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 18 February 2014, the cost of repairs to the silage pit floor should be amended to read £11,000.00.

DECISION

APPROVED the Minute, as amended for signature by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

Whitlaw Wood House

4. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of 18 February 2014, it was reported that the owner had a common law right to the access. The owner had been advised that agreement had been given to carry out a porosity test at his cost, but had not responded. The Solicitor with Legal Services would liaise with the Estates Officer to resolve.

Hawick Burgh Woodland

5. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of 18 February, a report was required for the next meeting, appropriate officers were requested to attend the meeting to discuss.

Horse Memorial

6. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of 18 February, Councillor Smith advised that it had been hoped to site an information board at the location, however, the estimated cost - £1,990.00 had been considered too high.

St Leonard's Farm

7. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 18 February, Mr Weir had met with the Community Council to request a memorial bench at St Leonards, their response was awaited. If they agreed then they would pursue grant funding towards the project from the Community Grant Scheme.

Common Haugh Car Park

8. With reference to decision 7(ii) of the Minute of 18 February, the Solicitor with Legal Services, advised that he would take forward with the Road Engineer the draft agreement for the Common Haugh Car Park.

DECISION

AGREED

To request that the Common Haugh surfacing works be set out in agreement with SBC Legal Service and SBC Roads.

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

9. There had been circulated copies of an application from Hawick Welcome Initiative for financial assistance of £2,500.00 towards the Hosts salaries for the summer of 2014. The Chairman suggested that the project should explore, with Scottish Borders Council's Funding and Project Officer, alternative avenues for grant assistance. Mr Yallop, Chairman of the Initiative, responded that the Committee were working hard at fund raising events to minimise support.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £2,500.00 to Hawick Welcome Initiative towards the running costs of the Festival.

10. There had been circulated copies of an application from the Hawick Honorary Provost Council for financial assistance of £2,000.00 to promote Hawick and organisations through Civic duties.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £2,000.00 to the Hawick Honorary Provost Council towards Civic duties.

ANCIENT ORDER OF MOSSTROOPERS

11. There had been circulated copies of a letter from Mr Telfer, the Honorary Secretary of the Ancient Order of Mosstroopers, requesting permission to hold their annual Junior Gymkhana on Hawick Moor, on the area beyond the paddock on Sunday, 1 June 2014. Permission was also requested to hold their annual Race Meeting on Saturday, 14 June 2014 on Hawick Moor.

DECISION

AGREED to grant permission to the Ancient Order of Mosstroopers in accordance with the usual terms.

PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

Hawick Moor

12. The Property Officer reported that there had been damage to the railings. The road surface was also in need of repair. The cost would be £16,000.00 to repair the whole length of road surface from the entrance gate to the end of the paddock. There would also be three or four speed bumps at each road joint. The Senior Financial Analyst advised that there was £6,600 underspend in the budget this year. The Committee unanimously agreed that the whole of

the road be repaired, utilising the £6,600.00 remaining from the 2013/14 budget; and the additional £9,400.00 to be taken from 2014/15 budget.

13. The Property Officer reported that an approach had been made from Scottish Borders Council's Access Officer to fit a horse friendly gate at the turnstile.
14. The metal railings needed refreshed, the Property Officer would request an estimate and report back to Members.

**DECISION
AGREED**

- (a) **To repair the road surface at Hawick Moor, £6,600.00 from the 2013/14 budget and the remaining £9,400.00 from the 2014/15 budget;**
- (b) **To grant permission to erect a horse friendly gate at the turnstile; and**
- (c) **To request that the Property Officer obtain an estimate for painting of the railings and report back to Members.**

Pilmuir Farm

15. The Property Officer had received an estimate of £11,000 for repairs to the silage pit floor. Members requested that a further estimate be obtained for consideration and report back to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee. An estimate for reinforcement of the silage pit wall was also requested.

**DECISION
AGREED**

- (a) **To request that the Property Officer obtain an additional estimate for the repair works to the silage pit floor; and**
- (b) **To obtain an estimate for the reinforcement of the silage pit walls.**

St Leonard's Farmhouse

16. The Legal and Licensing Services Manager had sent a letter to the tenant of St Leonards requesting repairs and maintenance works be carried out within three weeks. A further inspection would be arranged after that date.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

Williestruther Cottage

17. The tenant had thanked the Sub-Committee for their assistance.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

Common Haugh

18. The Estates Officer had circulated to Members a plan of the Common Haugh area showing the proposed borehole sites. The timing of the works was still to be decided, any works would include full reinstatement.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

Dry Stone Dyking at Various Locations.

19. The dry stone dyke needed repaired, the Property Officer informed the Sub-Committee that only contractors on the framework agreement could be invited to tender for the work.

DECISION

AGREED to request that the Estates Officer advise Mr Purves of the framework agreement tendering process.

URGENT ITEM

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

HAWICK HORSE RACING

21. Councillor Marshall advised that he had received an email from the Estates Officer requesting the Sub-Committee consider a request from Hawick Horse Racing Association. The Association requesting permission to hold race meetings on: Sunday, 18 May 2014; Sunday 13 July 2014 and Saturday 6 September.

DECISION

AGREED to request that the Solicitor with Legal Services:-

- (i) respond to the request granting permission for the meeting on Sunday, 18 May 2014; and
- (ii) Providing the inspection after the 18 May race meeting is satisfactory, to grant permission for the additional meetings.

PRIVATE BUSINESS

DECISION

22. **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

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

HAWICK GOLF CLUB

24. The Sub-Committee discussed Hawick Golf Club.

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.