

**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 17 June 2014 at 4.00 p.m.

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Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull (Chairman) A. Cranston, W. McAteer, S. Marshall, D. Paterson, R. Smith; Community Councillors Mrs A. Knight (Burnfoot Community Council).

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

Members of the Public – 5 in attendance.

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**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

1. The Chairman welcomed Councillor W McAteer to his first meeting of the Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee.

**MINUTE**

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 20 May 2014.

**DECISION**

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

**REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

3. There had been circulated copies of an application from Vision 2014 for financial assistance of £2,000.00 towards transport costs. A representative from Vision 2014 was at the meeting and asked that the application be withdrawn, as the project had been awarded funding from the Community Grant Scheme.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**LEASE AT VOLUNTEER PARK TO BILL MCLAREN PARK LTD**

4. There had been circulated a report by Service Director Commercial Services seeking to obtain the consent of the Hawick Common Good Sub-Committee to lease an area at the Volunteer Park to Bill McLaren Park Ltd for the development of new tennis courts. The Bill McLaren Foundation through its company, Bill McLaren Park Ltd, had secured sufficient funding to undertake the development of three new tennis courts at the Volunteer Park and Buccleuch Park. Most of the area required was on the Buccleuch Park but about half of a court (336 square metres) was on the Volunteer Park. The Volunteer Park Sports Committee currently leased the Volunteer Park, but they had consented to terminating their lease on the area of 336 square metres. The Estates Surveyor advised that the rental was approximately £50.00 per year. Councillor Smith suggested that both leases should be for a term of 21 years so that they would terminate simultaneously, the Sub-Committee agreed.

**DECISION**

**AGREED**

- (a) To authorise the Service Director Commercial Services to terminate the lease of an area of 336 square metres to the Volunteer Park Sports Committee; and

- (b) To authorise the Service Director Commercial Services to agree a 21 year lease of an area of 336 square metres at a rent of £50 per year to Bill McLaren Park Ltd to undertake its development of new tennis courts at the Volunteer Park. This lease would include any other terms that the Service Director Commercial Services deemed appropriate.

#### **GOLF COURSE TRACK REQUEST FOR ACCESS**

5. The Estates Surveyor, Mr Morison, advised that the owner at Whitlaw Wood House had declined the porosity test as he considered that the repairs to the track should be undertaken by the Common Good Sub-Committee and the Golf Course. Mr Morison, had also received a request from the adjoining house owner requesting permission to have vehicular access over the track belonging to the Common Good, which ran adjacent to the Golf Course and Paterson Gardens. A further report on the proposal would be brought back if Members agreed, in principle, to the request. The Chairman considered that every opportunity had been given to the owner at Whitlaw Wood House to resolve the drainage issues at the track and moved that that no further action be taken; furthermore that the request to allow vehicular access on the track be refused. Councillor Paterson seconded the motion.

#### **DECISION**

##### **AGREED**

- (a) That no further action be taken in respect of the repairs to the track at Whitlaw Wood House; and
- (b) That the request to allow vehicular access on the track be refused.

#### **FUN FAIR – COMPLAINT RE NOISE**

6. The Estates Surveyor, Mr Morison, reported that he had received a complaint from a resident regarding the noise from the Fun Fairs held during Common Ridings and the Reivers' Weekend. The resident was in attendance at the meeting and reported that the music was so loud that her family were unable to hear the TV. There was also a problem with rubbish – glass bottles were often found in the school playground. The resident explained that the problem seemed to be exacerbated with the larger rides, when as well as music, there was often shouting. The rides were dismantled on a Monday night, often until 2am in the morning which was not acceptable. Councillor Marshall stated that the Fun Fair was an integral part of both events but that this was unacceptable. Councillor Smith suggested that there should be a reduction in the number of days for the March event and that the Common Riding Fair should have a reduction in the noise level and closing time. The Estates Surveyor confirmed that he had written to the Showmen's Guild on receipt of the complaint and asked them to observe their lease conditions, he was awaiting their response. Mr Morison clarified that the Fun Fair in March had been over two weekends for the past four years. He had checked the Agreement and reported that Clause 13 stated that noise should be kept to an acceptable level after 9 pm. Mr Morison would report back to the meeting when he had received a response from the Showmen's Guild.

#### **DECISION**

**AGREED to request that the Estates Surveyor contact the Showmen's Guild and the operator of the Reivers Fun Fair regarding the noise levels, rubbish, dismantling of the rides and report back to the Hawick Common Good Sub-Committee with an update.**

#### **WILLIESTRUTHER PROJECT**

7. Mrs Short and Mr Wight were in attendance and asked that the Sub-Committee consider the proposal for a countryside walk around Williestruther Loch. The project was presently being developed and would eventually create a circular ramblers' walk, there would also be hard standing for vehicles, replacement of styles with gates and information boards detailing walks and wildlife. There was also a proposal to move and replace the existing fence. A site meeting had taken place with the Chairman, Councillor Turnbull, Scottish Borders Council officers including the SBC Countryside Ranger. The Estates Surveyor confirmed that he would urgently discuss the repositioning of the fence with the farm tenant; it was noted that the bid had to be submitted by 27 June 2014. Councillor Paterson was concerned that there

might be a problem with rubbish, Mr Wight replied that if there was an issue Hawick Community Council would arrange clearance.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to support the Williestruther Project.**

**PROPERTY UPDATE**

**Hawick Moor**

8. The Property Officer confirmed that he had received settlement from the insurance company in respect of the fire damage to the container.

**Pilmuir Farm**

9. The Property Officer reported that any works to the silage pit would now take place in the Spring 2015. He was awaiting the estimate for replacement of the steel beams and would report back at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**PRIVATE BUSINESS**

**DECISION**

10. **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**

1. Members approved the private section of the Minute of 20 May 2014.

**Hawick Golf Club**

2. Members considered a report from the Vice Captain of Hawick Golf Club.

*The meeting concluded at 5.15 pm.*