

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
LAUDER COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the LAUDER
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held in the LEADER'S OFFICE, Council
Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on 28
October 2014 at 3.00pm.

Present:- Councillors D. Parker (Chairman), I. Gillespie, Community Councillor A. Smith.
Apologies:- Councillor J. Torrance.
In Attendance:- Solicitor (H. MacLeod), Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell), Estates Surveyor
(J. Morison), Democratic Services Officer (P. Bolson).

MINUTE

1. The Minute of Meeting of 19 June 2014 had been circulated.
2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of 19 June 2014, Members were informed that Leader Leisure Centre had withdrawn its Application for Financial Assistance at this time. This was due to delays in setting up its administrative and financial arrangements following the Centre gaining charitable status. Members noted that Leader Leisure Centre would resubmit its application once all the necessary evidence to support the Application was available to them.

DECISION

NOTED:-

- (a) **the Minute for signature by the Chairman; and**
- (b) **the withdrawal of the Application for Financial Assistance by Leader Leisure Centre at this time.**

MONITORING REPORT FOR 6 MONTHS TO END SEPTEMBER 2014

3. There had been circulated a report by the Chief Financial Officer detailing transactions during the 6 months to the end of September 2014, the projections of the annual outturn with variances from the proposed budget and the projected effect on Revenue and Capital Reserves at 31 March 2014. Mr Mitchell explained that the projected outturn was in line with the proposed budget for 2014/15 and that the net budget expenditure of £6,226 could be funded in total from the Revenue reserves. No account had been taken of additional income which might result from any agreed increase in access rights to the proposed Muircleugh Wind Farm. Mr Mitchell advised that the projected Revenue Reserve Balance at 31 March 2015 was £26,978 and that this included income of £15,005 and expenditure of £21,231. A net deficit of £6,226 was projected and Members noted that this was the result of an excess of regular expenditure over income. Mr Mitchell advised Members that the Newton Fund had performed ahead of target and the actual dividend from this investment would be presented in the end of year report to the Sub-Committee. Members noted that a balance of £4,520 was currently available for donations and contributions for the financial year 2014/15. In terms of Capital Reserve, Mr Mitchell advised Members that the projected balance at year end was £203,627. Appendix 5 to the report detailed the Fixed Assets of the Lauder Common Good Fund and it was noted that a rent review was scheduled to take in 2015/16.

Clarification was provided in relation to expenditure to Lauder Common Farm and in terms of the process for setting grazing rental rates.

4. The Chairman advised Members that Mr Mitchell was retiring from Scottish Borders Council and that this would therefore be his final meeting of the Lauder Common Good Fund Sub-Committee. On behalf of the Sub-Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Mitchell for his support over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

DECISION

(a) **NOTED the report.**

(b) **APPROVED the financial performance and proposed budget for 2014/15 as detailed in the report.**

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – LAUDERDALE LIBRARY

5. There had been circulated copies of an application for financial assistance from the Lauderdale Library in respect of the cost of electricity and insurance. The application explained that £1,000 per year was required to cover these costs and that this amount would be required annually for the next five years until SBC investment in the Library and Ormiston Trust Fund started to pay out an annual return to cover the running costs of the Lauderdale Library. Members noted that since the relocation of the Library at the Old Jail in 2012, the running costs for electricity and insurance were progressively depleting the Library's funds. This Application was therefore for interim funding until the dividend from investment in the Newton Fund was available to the Library.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £1,000 to Lauderdale Library from the Lauder Common Good Fund.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Gillespie declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and was therefore unable to take part in any discussion.

ACCESS RIGHTS TO MUIRCLEUGH WIND FARM, LAUDER

6. Due to the above Declaration of Interest by Cllr Gillespie, the meeting became inquorate for this item and as no decision could be taken, the matter would be considered by full Council for determination.

DECISION

NOTED that as no decision could be taken, the item would therefore be considered by full Council.

URGENT BUSINESS

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.

LAUDER GOLF CLUB

7. The Chairman advised Members that Lauder Golf Club had expressed an intention to repay the loan to Lauder Common Good Fund early. This would mean that the final payment would be received one year earlier than initially agreed.

DECISION

NOTED that Lauder Golf Club would make the final repayment of their loan one year earlier than originally agreed.

LAUDER PUBLIC HALL

8. The Chairman provided an update of the current situation in relation to the request by Lauder Community Council that the Lauder Common Good Fund Sub-Committee support its feasibility study of Lauder Public Hall, the brief of which included a range of options for future development and use of the building. Members noted that the Community Council had been successful in attaining a grant of £5,000 to cover the costs of a feasibility study. Following discussion in relation to the study and the grant it was agreed that the Lauder Common Good Fund Sub-Committee was not supportive of carrying out such a study at this time.

DECISION

AGREED that the Lauder Common Good Fund Sub-Committee would not support the proposed feasibility study of Lauder Town Hall at this time.

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

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

Minute

1. The Sub-Committee noted the Private Minute of the meeting of 19 June 2014.

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm.