

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
PEEBLES COMMON GOOD FUND WORKING GROUP

MINUTE of MEETING of the PEEBLES
COMMON GOOD FUND WORKING GROUP
held in the Burgh Chamber, Peebles on
Thursday, 11 October 2012 at 5.15 p.m.

Present:- Councillors W, Archibald (Chairman), S. Bell, N. Buckingham, G. Garvie
G. Logan.
Apology:- Councillor C. Bhatia.
In Attendance:- Legal and Licensing Services Manager, Senior Financial Analyst (A.
Mitchell), Estates Manager (N. Hastie), Committee and Elections
Officer (K. Mason).

Members of the Public:- 3. -----

MINUTE

1. The Minute of Meeting of Peebles Common Good Fund Working Group of 9 August 2012 had been circulated.

**DECISION
APPROVED.**

MATTERS ARISING

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute, it was noted that a report on valuations for fixed assets would be provided at the next meeting of the Common Good Fund Working Group.

DECISION

AGREED that a report by the Estates Manager explaining the valuation of fixed assets be submitted at the next meeting.

FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2011/2012

3. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer setting out the latest approved annual budget, details of transactions for the 6 months to 30 September 2012 and variances between them together with projections of the annual outturn with variances from the final budget, the effect on Revenue and Capital Reserves at 31 March 2013 and details of the performance of the property portfolio. Income and Expenditure was projected to produce a surplus of income over expenditure of £390 to transfer to the Revenue Reserve, which was £580 greater than the current budget a net expenditure of £190. The Senior Financial Analyst answered Members' questions relating to investments and reserves. During discussions it was noted that owing to the termination of the superior lease of the Corn Exchange that Ish'uze Youth Action were looking to relocate from the Corn Exchange to another premises. Members were minded to enter into a sub-lease with Ish'uze Youth Action for part of the premises for the period 1 December 2012 for 6 months. The Estates Officer was asked to negotiate a sub-lease with Ish'uze Youth Action at a nominal rent from 1 December for a period of 6 months. The Legal and Licensing Services Manager in referring to the lease agreement relating to the Band Hall submitted that there was a need for a consistent approach to be taken.

DECISION

(a) APPROVED

- (i) the financial performance for 2012/13 as shown in Appendix 2 to the report; and
 - (ii) the virements detailed in Appendix 6 to the report.
- (b) **NOTED**
- (i) the key figures shown in Appendix 1 to the report;
 - (ii) the Grants Analysis provided in Appendix 3 to the report;
 - (iii) the projected balances on Revenue and Capital Reserves as shown in Appendix 4 to the report; and
 - (iv) the performance of the Property Portfolio as shown in Appendix 5 to the report.
- (c) **AGREED** that the Estate's Officer meet with Ish'uze Youth Action to discuss the terms of a sub-lease for part of the Corn Exchange from 1 December 2012 for 6 months.

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – PEEBLES YOUTH TRUST

4. With reference to paragraph 6(a) of the Minute of Meeting of 8 March 2012, there had been recirculated copies of an application from Peeblesshire Youth Trust (PYT) seeking financial assistance in the sum of £8,000 towards the cost of a new part time worker and co-ordinator, together with a letter from the Chairperson of PYT confirming receipt of £4,000 from the Peebles Common Good Fund and advising they had been unsuccessful in seeking the balance of £4,000 from other Council budgets. PYT had been requested to provide additional financial information and a paper was tabled at the meeting which had been prepared by the Senior Financial Analyst which related to receipts and payments for the year to 31 March 2012. Mr Robert Harrison, Chairman and Ms Angela Preston, Co-Ordinator (PYT) were present at the meeting and answered questions raised by Members relating to the operation of the trust and grant funding.

DECISION

AGREED to grant the balance of £4,000 to Peeblesshire Youth Trust towards the cost of a new part time worker and co-ordinator.

HAY LODGE TOILETS – WATER SUPPLY

5. The Legal and Licensing Services Manager advised that the cost relating to the water supply for the Hay Lodge Toilets was £16.50.

DECISION

NOTED.

PAVILION, TWEED GREEN

6. The Legal and Licensing Services Manager advised that the Property Officer had received an estimate to replace mesh at the Pavilion, Tweed Green, Peebles in the sum of £558.34. The mesh would be welded to the railings and gate access to prevent rubbish etc. being deposited within the building. In response to questions raised about the Pavilion being used as a café, the Legal and Licensing Services Manager advised that an offer had been received to use the pavilion as a café but this had fallen. A suggestion was raised to demolish the pavilion and seek a surplus band stand to be positioned in its place. Members discussed the proposal and submitted that if a band-stand was acquired this might encourage future use of the Pavilion as a café.

DECISION

AGREED

- (a) to replace mesh at the Pavilion, Tweed Green at a cost of £558.34.
- (b) that the Estates Manager report back to a future meeting of the Working Group on the possible acquisition of a surplus band-stand.

URGENT BUSINESS

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

COMMON GOOD AND TRUST FUND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

8. With reference to paragraph 14 of Minute of Council held on 30 August 2012, the Working Group were asked to appoint a representative to serve on the short life Members/Officer Working Group for Common Good and Trust Fund Investment Strategy. Councillor Logan was unanimously appointed to serve on the Working Group.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Logan be appointed to serve on the Working Group for Common Good and Trust Fund Investment Strategy.

PRIVATE BUSINESS

9. **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 Paragraphs 6 and 8 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

Minute

1. The Working Group approved the private section of the Minute of Meeting of 9 August 2012.

Request for Land Lease or Purchase at Neidpath Grazing Field

2. Members received an update on the request for Land Lease or Purchase at Neidpath Grazing Field from the Estates Manager and agreed that an offer of sale of land be made.

New Gas Main through Victoria Park

3. Members received an update on the gas main through Victoria Park from the Estates Manager and noted that the pipe had been installed.

The meeting concluded at 6.10 p.m.

