

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
PEEBLES COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the PEEBLES
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chamber, Rosetta Road
Peebles on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at
5.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors W. Archibald (Chairman), S. Bell, C. Bhatia, G. Garvie, G. Logan.

In Attendance:- Legal and Licensing Services Manager, Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell), Estates Manager (N. Hastie), Democratic Services Officer (K. Mason).

Members of the Public:- 0.

MINUTE

1. The Minute of Meeting of Peebles Common Good Fund Sub-Committee of 24 June 2013 had been circulated.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

2. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute, during the discussions it was noted that there was still no running water at the Millennium Fountain. The Legal and Licensing Services Manager advised that instructions had been issued to Council Officials to reinstate the power supply to allow running water and she advised she would check the position.

**DECISION
AGREED that the Legal and Licensing Services Manager would check the position relating to the Millennium Fountain.**

3. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute, the Legal and Licensing Services Manager advised that she had received no response in relation to correspondence sent to Peebles Burgh Silver Band relating to the rent agreement.

**DECISION
NOTED the position.**

4. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute, Councillor Bhatia advised that a site meeting had been held at the Golf Course, with Councillors, Council Officials and Officials from the Golf Club when it had been agreed that there was no requirement to install an 18 foot fence as currently required by the lease but that appropriate signage would be put in place regarding distances and the situation would continue to be monitored.

**DECISION
NOTED the position.**

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

5. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer presenting information on the Peebles Common Good Outturn for 2012/13 together with a summary of donations and contributions paid and approved 2012/13. The Financial Analyst advised this was an abstract of the accounts of Scottish Borders Council. He explained that no

allowance had been made in the accounts on future rent income from the Corn Exchange. The Financial Analyst answered Members' questions by providing relevant explanations. It was noted during the discussions that Dovecot Hill Sheltered Housing should be referred to as Dovecot Court Sheltered Housing.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

SKATE PARK – VICTORIA PARK, PEEBLES

6. (a) Deed of Dedication
With reference to paragraph 5(b) of Minute of Meeting of 16 January 2013, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Head of Corporate Governance advising of the request from Peebles Youth Facilities Initiative (PYFI) to install a new Skate Park in Victoria Park, Peebles and seeking approval for a Deed of Dedication of the ground for the works to proceed subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the report. The report explained that PYFI had been developing the idea of building a multi purpose skate, BMX and scooter facility in Peebles since 2012. A site had been identified in Victoria Park as part of the currently under used football pitch. A 15 year Deed of Dedication of the site at a nominal rent would allow PYFI to apply for grant funding. A lease of the land was not possible because it is inalienable Common Good land.
- (b) Presentation – Peebles Youth Facilities Initiative
Mr Phil Gates, PYFI was present and gave a presentation on the Peebles Skatepark Project. The project had been registered as a SCIO in November 2012, and the project's goal was to improve the overall recreational facilities of young people aged 8 to 16 years living in Peebles (Scottish Borders) and the surrounding area of Tweeddale. A consultation survey with over 400 young people had taken place during Summer 2012. Fundraising efforts had raised over £3,000 in 6 months, further fundraising efforts were being considered and a full funding strategy was being carried out by the Scottish Borders Council and The Bridge (Peebles). Mr Gates went on to give information relating to the different types of skate park, location requirements and the areas which had been considered for the location of the Skate Park.
- (c) The Estates Manager and the Mr Gates answered Members' questions relating to the proposed use of Victoria Park Peebles for the location of the Skate Park. In referring to the continuity of the project and future use of the Skate Park, the Legal and Licensing Services Manager submitted that Members approve, in principle, the Deed of Dedication, subject to confirmation from the Council's Consultant – External Funding that all funding was in place. It was further noted that at the end of the period of the Deed of Dedication the responsibility for the land, although a Common Good asset, would fall to the Council as an asset administered by the Local Authority.

DECISION

AGREED in principle to grant a Deed of Dedication to Peebles Youth Facilities Initiative for an area of 1,058 square metres in Victoria Park to install a new Skate Park, subject to confirmation from the Council's Consultant – External Funding that all funding was in place. The terms and conditions of the Deed included a term of 15 years.

OLD CORN EXCHANGE, PEEBLES

7. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 8 May 2013, the Estates Manager advised that the premises had now been sub-divided. The lease of the premises had been advertised with a closing date of 26 September 2013; 15 sets of particulars had been issued and there had been 2 viewings to date. The rent would be £16,000 per annum, with a rateable value of £14,600.

DECISION
NOTED the position.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

8. (a) Peeblesshire Agricultural Society
There had been circulated copies of an application for financial assistance from Peebles Agricultural Society in the sum of £2,300 towards the costs of relocating the Annual Show in August 2013 from Hay Lodge Park, Peebles to Nether Horsbrugh Farm.

DECISION
AGREED owing to the financial constraints of the Common Good Fund that the application be refused.

- (b) John Buchan Heritage Museum Trust
There had been circulated copies of an application for financial assistance from the John Buchan Heritage Museum Trust, The application explained that the Museum was staffed by a pool of approximately 50 volunteers. The Coordinator was currently paid an Honorarium of £500 per year but with the extra workload of longer hours, the Trustees wished to increase this to £5,000 per year. Funding was sought from the Common Good Fund for ongoing support on an annual basis. Concern was expressed in relation to the application and Members considered that it was inappropriate to be committed to ongoing support for an unspecified sum of money over time.

DECISION
AGREED owing to the financial constraints of the Common Good Fund that the application be refused.

The meeting concluded at 6.20 p.m.