

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
PEEBLES COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the PEEBLES COMMON
GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE held in Clovenfords
Primary School, Clovenfords on Wednesday 5 March
2014 at 5.30 p.m.

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

Community Councillor A. Kubie.

Apology:- Councillor G. Garvie.

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

Members of the Public:- 0.

MINUTE

1. The Minute of Meeting of Peebles Common Good Fund Sub-Committee of 27 November 2013 had been circulated.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

MONITORING REPORT FOR 9 MONTHS TO END DECEMBER 2013

2. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer setting out details of transactions for the 9 months to 31 December 2013, the projections of the annual outturn with variances from the current budget, virement to address required budget changes and the projected effect on Revenue and Capital Reserves at 31 March 2014. It had been agreed that expenditure on the division of the ground floor of the Old Corn Exchange and the donation to the Dovecot Court sheltered Housing would be funded by a transfer from Revenue Reserve. When the budget was set no provision was made for any rental income from the Old Corn Exchange, which had now been let. No budget was set for income from sale of land but it was agreed that this income should be used to supplement the Capital Reserve. It was projected that there would be a budget saving on the division of the shop and this could cover the small projected overspends on Haylodge toilet provision and Donations & Grants. The remaining saving on the shop division budget together with the unbudgeted rental income now charged would contribute to creating a projected excess of income over expenditure of £17,407, which could either return to Revenue Reserves or be used to boost other budgets in the current year eg Grants & Donations, which was already over committed. This compared to an initial budget deficit of £701.
3. Discussions took place in relation to Tweeddale Youth Action (formerly know as Ish'uze Youth Action) and it was noted that to date £3,541 of the annual rent of £8,400 for the year to 30 November 2013 was unpaid and none of the rent of £8,400 for the year to 30 November 2014 had been paid. If no payments were received by 31 March 2014 then arrears would be £6,373. The Legal and

Licensing Services Manager advised that she had spoken to J. Morison, Estates Management, who had explained that Tweeddale Youth Action had not signed the lease for the premises and she had asked Officers to follow this through. It was thought that Tweeddale Youth Action considered the rental to be too high and that they would like to renegotiate. Councillor Bhatia queried why the Common Good continually subsidised Tweeddale Youth Action stating that they should fund their own rent and submitted that there should be one youth hub. It was agreed that Officials prepare a report on the current position for the next meeting and that Mr Ian Jenkins, Chairman of Tweeddale Youth Action be invited to attend.

4. With reference to appendix 3 of the report, Councillor Bhatia referred to the amount of financial assistance in the sum of £20,000 which had been approved in the current financial year but not yet paid to Peebles Rugby Football Club for drainage and lighting at Hay Lodge Park. She advised that the project had been reported to have an underspend of £10,000 in the financial monitoring reports considered by the Council's Executive Committee on 18 February 2014. A report with clarification on the Council/Common Good funding of the work at Hay Lodge Park, Peebles would be presented to the next meeting of the Executive Committee. Meantime the £20,000 would remain unpaid in the Common Good account until clarification was received from Peebles Rugby Football Club regarding the project
5. With reference to appendix 5 of the report, Councillor Bhatia considered that the valuation of Eliot's Park Grazings at £100,000 was too high. She requested that further information on the basis of the valuation be explained by the Estates Manager at the next meeting.
6. With reference to appendix 5 of the report, Councillor Bhatia asked for details of the costs of fencing recorded as expenditure against Neidpath Grazings and it was agreed that the Senior Financial Analyst in conjunction with the Estates Manager would provide details of this at the next meeting.
7. The Legal and Licensing Services Manager submitted that for future meetings it would be helpful to have questions relating to budget monitoring reports in advance of the meeting as this would enable Officers to provide the relevant answers at the meeting.

DECISION

(a) AGREED

- (i) to approve the financial performance for 2013/14 as shown in Appendix 2 to the report;**
- (ii) to approve the virements detailed in Appendix 6 to the report;**
- (iii) that Officials prepare a report on the position for the next meeting and that Mr Ian Jenkins, Chairman of Tweeddale Youth Action be invited to attend;**
- (iv) to invite the Estates Manager to attend the next meeting to present the basis for the evaluation of Eliot's Park Grazings; and**
- (v) that the Senior Financial Analyst would provide details of the costs of fencing at the next meeting.**

(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.**

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – VENLAW COMMUNITY WOODLAND

- 8. There had been circulated copies of an application for financial assistance from Venlaw Community Woodland in the sum of £1,000 to assist the group in financing required annual woodland inspections and written survey reports; cost of tree surgery arising from survey reports; annual contribution of £100 to Borders Forest Trust towards insurance cover; costs of any required tree surgery for unforeseen ad hoc problems with trees affecting access or public safety etc.

DECISION

AGREED to continue consideration of the application pending clarification of (a) the management of the estate; and (b) income held by the Venlaw Community Woodland.

The meeting concluded at 6.15 p.m.