

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**SELKIRK COMMON GOOD FUND WORKING GROUP**

MINUTE of MEETING of the SELKIRK  
COMMON GOOD FUND WORKING  
GROUP held in the Committee Room,  
Victoria Hall, Selkirk on Tuesday, 4  
September 2012 at 2.00 p.m.

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Present: Councillors G. Edgar (Chairman), M. Ballantyne, V. Davidson.  
In attendance: Legal & Licensing Services Manager, Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell),  
Estates Surveyor (J. Morison), Funding Officer (J. Robertson), Committee  
and Elections Team Leader.

Members of the Public – 6

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

**MINUTE**

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 5 June 2012.

**DECISION**

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

**MATTERS ARISING**

3. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 5 June 2012, it was confirmed that the amended wording for the note of the Informal meeting held with the Selkirk Regeneration Company had been received.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2011/12**

4. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer setting out the monitoring statement of the financial outturn for 2011/12, variances against the 2011/12 final budget and the effect upon Revenue and Capital Reserves at 31 March 2012. The Total Expenditure for the year was £107,692, which was £39,753 above the budget for expenditure of £67,939 and Total Income of £121,345 including funding from the Revaluation Reserve of £54,564 was £37,048 greater than the budget of £84,297. The resultant increase in Revenue Reserves of £13,654 was £2,704 less than budgeted. A new appendix 1 had been produced which showed key information on the performance and activities of the Common Good Fund. Members noted that Council had now agreed implementation of the investment strategy and interim arrangements would be put in place until the Fund Managers had been appointed. In response to a request for a further breakdown of the administration costs charged to the Common Good Fund, the Legal & Licensing Services Manager advised that she could provide a breakdown of the legal costs from their time recording system.

**DECISION**

**(a) AGREED:-**

- (i) the financial performance for 2011/12 as shown in Appendix 2 to the report;  
and
- (ii) that a further breakdown of the legal costs be provided.

**(b) NOTED:-**

- (i) the key figures shown in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (ii) the details of Grant payments shown in Appendix 3 to the report;**
- (iii) the balances on Revenue and Capital Reserves as shown in Appendix 4 to the report;**
- (iv) the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2012 provided in Appendix 5 to the report; and**
- (v) the performance of the property portfolio shown in Appendix 6 to the report.**

**MEMBER**

Councillor Ballantyne left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

**BUDGET SETTING AND MONITORING REPORT FOR 3 MONTHS TO END JUNE 2012**

5. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer setting out the proposed budget for the year to 31 March 2013 for which approval was sought, together with details of transactions for the 3 months to 30 June 2012 and projections of the annual outturn with variances from the final budget and the effect on Revenue and Capital Reserves at 31 March 2013. Income and Expenditure was projected to be in line with the proposed budget for 2012/13. A new appendix 1 had been produced which showed key information on the performance and activities of the Common Good Fund. Members commented on the high cost of the replacement shed at South Common and it was agreed that the Estates Surveyor would provide Members with details of the estimates received. With regard to the budget for Donations, Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Edgar moved that the budget be increased by £10,000 for one year only.

**DECISION**

**(a) APPROVED:-**

- (i) the proposed budget for 2012/13 with the amount for donations being increased to £20,000 for 2012/13 only; and**
- (ii) that the Estates Surveyor provide Members with details of the estimates received for the replacement of the shed at South Common.**

**(b) NOTED:-**

- (i) the key figures shown in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (ii) the financial performance for 2012/13 as shown in Appendix 2 and 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 detailed property income and expenditure provided in Appendix 5 to the report.**

**APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Borders Scrap Store**

6. There had been circulated copies of a request from the Borders Scrap Store for a grant towards the rental cost of their Selkirk Premises. Borders Scrap store currently paid an annual rent to the Council of £10,140 for the premises. The Company had lost £6,600 SLA funding from the Council this year and a further £8,900 would be lost from 1 April 2013. Members discussed the application and agreed to continue consideration until their next

meeting to allow further information to be provided regarding the other funding which they received and the actual amount of grant needed.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to continue consideration of the application until the next meeting to allow further information to be obtained regarding the other funding which the Scrap Store received and the actual amount of grant needed.**

**Selkirk Hill Management Group**

7. There had been circulated copies of a request from Selkirk Hill Management Group for a grant of £10,000 towards the costs of warden's wages, petrol, equipment, services and insurance. It was noted that this land belonged to the Common Good Fund and was maintained for the people of Selkirk.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve a grant of £10,000 to the Selkirk Hill Management Group.**

**CREATION OF NEW PLAY FACILITIES AT PRINGLE PARK, SELKIRK**

8. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Executive on the Selkirk Playpark Project (SPP) group's project proposal to create new play facilities at Pringle Park, to replace the existing facilities. The report explained that SPP was a constituted community group and had been fundraising since 2007 in order to improve play provision in the town. The project would see the existing (central) play area in Pringle Park being redesigned and redeveloped to create play opportunities from birth to teenagers, with additional thought also being given to providing an improved space for adult users of the park. A Partnership/Maintenance Agreement with the Council would ensure any equipment was inspected and the park was maintained and cared for at current levels. The project would cost around £290,000 and funding was expected to come from Big Lottery Fund (BIG) Community Spaces - £250,000, SBC Landfill Communities Fund - £25,000, SBC Community Grant Scheme - £5,000 and SPP own funds of £10,000. BIG required SPP to hold an assignable lease of at least 10 years without a break clause. If this was not legally possible BIG was happy to discuss alternative methods of security of tenure, such as a Deed of Dedication. The Council's Funding Officer provided further details of the proposed scheme and that the deadline for the BIG Stage 2 was 12 October 2012. A public meeting was to be held in Selkirk on 13 September 2012 to get feedback on the proposals.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to grant SPP security of tenure over Pringle Park (or part thereof) subject to the proposed legal method of security complying with the requirements of BIG and that Members be provided with a copy of the final agreement.**

**MEMBER**

Councillor Ballantyne rejoined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Davidson declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct.

**APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – ROWLAND'S (SELKIRK)**

9. There had been circulated copies of a request from Rowland's (Selkirk) for a grant of £500 towards the costs of providing a summer programme of youth activities for the summer of 2012. Costs of the programme included fees for professional activity leaders, venue hire, transport and associated expenses. Members agreed to support the request but asked that the Group be encouraged to keep up their own fundraising.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve a grant of £500 to Rowland's (Selkirk).**

**PRIVATE BUSINESS**

10. **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 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

**SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS**

**Minute**

1. Members noted the private section of the Minute of 5 June 2012.

*The meeting concluded at 3.30 p.m.*