

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
SELKIRK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the SELKIRK
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held in the VICTORIA HALL, SELKIRK on
31 October 2012 at 3.30 pm

Present: Councillors V. M. Davidson, G. Edgar
Apologies: Councillor M. Ballantyne
In attendance: Legal & Licensing Services Manager, Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell), Estates
Surveyor (J. Morison), Committee and Elections Officer
(F. Walling).

Members of the Public – 2

WELCOME

1. Members were welcomed to the first meeting of the Selkirk Common Good Fund group as a Sub Committee within the new administration.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

2. Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Edgar, moved that Councillor Edgar be appointed as Chairman.

DECISION

AGREED to appoint Councillor Edgar as Chairman of the Working Group.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

3. Councillor Edgar, seconded by Councillor Davidson, moved that Councillor Davidson be appointed as Vice Chairman.

DECISION

AGREED to appoint Councillor Davidson as Vice Chairman of the Working Group.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON INVESTMENT STRATEGY WORKING GROUP.

4. Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Edgar, moved that Councillor Edgar be appointed as the representative of Selkirk Common Good Fund Sub Committee to serve on the Investment Strategy Working Group.

DECISION

AGREED to appoint Councillor Edgar as representative to serve on Investment Strategy Working Group.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Scott's Selkirk Association

5. There had been circulated copies of a request from Scott's Selkirk Association for a grant of £2,747.19 towards the cost of purchasing 20 new pop up market stalls and 2 large tunnel tents for use at the Scott's Selkirk event held annually in the month of December. The total cost of the new equipment was estimated to be £12,747.19 and prior to the meeting confirmation had been received of a successful bid by Scott's Selkirk to "Awards for All" for £10,000.

DECISION

AGREED to grant the sum of £2,747.19 to Scott's Selkirk Association towards new market stalls and two tunnel tents.

Flodden 500 Association

6. There had been circulated copies of a request from the Flodden 500 Association for a grant of £3,000 towards the cost of purchasing interpretation boards and benches for the memorial garden in the grounds of the Victoria Hall in Selkirk. The total cost of the project was estimated to be £55,000 with £28,000 having been raised to date. The garden would be wheelchair friendly and would incorporate a seating area with interpretation boards telling the story of the Battle of Flodden. Included in the garden would be a plaque dedicated to the women and children left behind after the battle. Councillor Edgar explained that he had been advised during a discussion about the project with the chairman of the Flodden 500 Association the grant would not be required until 2013/14. It was therefore agreed to approve the grant application in principle, subject to planning permission and other grant monies being obtained, for payment in the next financial year.

DECISION

AGREED in principle to grant the sum of £3,000 from the 2013/14 budget to Flodden 500 Association, subject to planning permission for the project and to approval of additional grant funding.

Selkirk Silver Band

7. There had been circulated copies of a request from Selkirk Silver Band for a grant of £500 towards a total estimated cost of £2,500 to host the Borders Entertainment Contest in November 2012. The event would attract 22 brass bands from all over Scotland, Northumberland, Durham and for the first time from the Isle of Man. Not only would the event showcase the Borders it would bring additional income into the town.

DECISION

AGREED to grant the sum of £500 to Selkirk Silver Band towards the cost of hosting the Borders Entertainment Contest.

URGENT BUSINESS

Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chairman 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.

Selkirk Chamber of Trade and Commerce

8. There were tabled at the meeting copies of an application from Selkirk Chamber of Trade and Commerce for a grant of £2,890 to underwrite some match funding for a LEADER grant application to fund a project to improve the prospects for retailing in the town centre. The purpose of the project was to explore initiatives to use empty and underused shops in the town centre. This required an innovative and entrepreneurial approach and active and targeted marketing and promotion. The project would start on January 2013 and run until the end of the year. Members were minded to approve the application but the Legal and Licensing Services Manager advised that as accounts had not yet been received from the applicant approval could be only in principle at this stage.

DECISION

AGREED to approve in principle a grant of £2,890 from the 2013/14 budget, to Selkirk Chamber of Trade and Commerce, towards a project to improve the prospects for retailing in the town, with delegated powers to the Chairman and Senior Financial Analyst to approve the application on receipt of satisfactory accounts from the applicant.

MINUTE

9. There had been circulated copies of the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 8 August 2012 and of the Meeting held on 4 September 2012.

DECISION

NOTED the Minutes for signature by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

10. With regard to paragraph 4 (a) (ii) of the Minute of 4 September 2012 the Legal and Licensing Services Manager tabled at the meeting copies of a breakdown of the Central Support Services Budget as it applied to support of the Selkirk Common Good Fund Sub Committee and gave further explanation of the figures. In answer to a question from a member of the public the Legal and Licensing Services Manager confirmed that none of the charges to the Common Good related to Freedom of Information enquiries. She also reminded those present that although Scottish Borders Council had an obligation to service the management of all the Common Good Funds in the Borders there was no parity in the level of support required for each of those Funds. The way in which the Council managed its General Fund and allocated the services budget to each therefore had to be clearly accountable.

DECISION

NOTED the information received.

MONITORING REPORT FOR 6 MONTHS TO END SEPTEMBER 2012

11. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer setting out details of transactions for the 6 months to 30 September 2012 and projections of the annual outturn with variances from the final budget and the projected effect on Revenue and Capital Reserves at 31 March 2013. The report explained that expenditure was projected to be in line with the approved budget for 2012/13, whilst income was projected to be greater than budgeted by £1,562. The increase in income was due mainly to rent from a new source being higher than budgeted and interest rates now being obtained on Capital Deposits in SBC Loans Funds. The key financial data on the Revenue performance and Balance Sheet situation was brought together in Appendix 1 to the report. There was a projected total expenditure of £168,666 and income of £66,707 supplemented by a draw down of £54,564 from the Revaluation Reserve, resulting in an outturn net expenditure of £47,395, this being £1,562 lower than budget.

DECISION

- (a) **APPROVED** the financial performance for 2012/13 as shown in Appendix 2.
- (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.

MEMBER

Councillor Davidson left the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

12. As there was no longer a quorum of Members present, the Chairman adjourned the meeting. It was suggested that the meeting be re-convened, to consider the private business on the agenda, at a time to be arranged following Executive on Tuesday 13 November 2012.

The meeting concluded at 4 pm.

THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 2.30 P.M. ON 13 NOVEMBER 2012 WITHIN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS.

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

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

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

Minute

1. Members noted the private section of the Minute of 4 September 2012.

Scottish Water Tank at South Common, Selkirk

2. Members agreed to recommend approval of the lease of 1.92 hectares of land at South Common to Scottish Water.

Planning application for new house adjacent to Selkirk Hill.

3. Members received a verbal update from the Estates Surveyor.

URGENT BUSINESS

4. Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Sub-Committee 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.

Smedheugh Farm

5. Members discussed an advertisement relating to an Operators' Licence

