

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
SELKIRK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the SELKIRK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE held in the Committee Room, Victoria Hall, Selkirk on Friday 1 March 2013 at 2.30 p.m.

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

Members of the Public – 1

MINUTE

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of 31 October and 13 November 2012.

DECISION
NOTED the minute.

MONITORING REPORT

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 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. Income was projected to be greater than budgeted by £28,445 due, in the main, to receipt of the insurance settlement for the snow damage to farm sheds, rent from a new source and higher than budgeted interest rates now being obtained on Capital Deposits in SBC Loan Funds. Appendix 1 to the report showed key financial data on the Revenue Performance and Balance Sheet for 2012/13. Appendices 2 to 5 provided details on the Revenue budget in an extended format, grants paid and payable, Revenue and Capital reserves and the performance of the Property Portfolio. There was a projection for total expenditure of £168,723 and income of £93,590 supplemented by a draw down of £54,564 from the Revaluation Reserve, resulting in an outturn net expenditure of £20,569, this being £28,388 lower than budget. With regard to grants and donations there was a total of £2,003 remaining in the 2012/13 budget with a commitment of £5,890 already approved from the 2013/14 budget.
3. Member of the public, Dr Neil, asked a number of questions about the Council's charges against the Common Good Fund relating to the negotiation of the occupation agreement for the fishing club and for the access agreements to land at Smedheugh. He was asked to put these questions in writing to the Council's Monitoring Officer, after which it was agreed that the best way forward was for a meeting to be arranged between Dr Neil, the Legal and Licensing Manager and Members of the Sub Committee to look at the figures concerned.

DECISION

- (a) **AGREED to approve the financial performance for 2012/13 as shown in Appendix 2 to the report.**
- (b) **NOTED in the Appendices to the report:-**
 - (i) **key figures shown in Appendix 1,**
 - (ii) **Grants Analysis provided in Appendix 3**

- (iii) **projected balances on Revenue and Capital Reserves shown in Appendix 4**
- (iv) **performance of the Property Portfolio as shown in Appendix 5.**

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Selkirk Football Club

4. There had been circulated copies of a request from Selkirk Football Club for a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of funding a 100 seat stand to provide better facilities for spectators and to comply with new Scottish Football Association Standards. Members were keen to support the Club and were minded to support the application in full. However clarification was required with regard to the total cost of the project and whether the £15,200 from the Scottish Football partnership was subject to other funding being in place, as Members did not wish to award a grant unless it was clear that the project was fully funded. The grant should be subject to planning permission and any other statutory consents being in place and it was also agreed that should the grant be made, once these matters had been clarified, the money should be released only on the receipt by the Council of the relevant invoices.

DECISION

AGREED:-

- (a) **in principle to grant the sum of £5,000 to Selkirk Football Club towards the cost of a 100 seat stand subject to clarification of the following:-**
 - (i) **the total cost of the project;**
 - (ii) **whether the £15,200 from the Scottish Football Partnership was subject to any terms; and**
 - (iii) **that all statutory and landlord consents were in place.**
- (b) **that powers be delegated to the Chairman and Senior Financial Analyst to award the grant, subject to the clarifications sought and subject to the receipt by the Council of relevant invoices for the building of the stand for which the grant was required.**

Selkirk Rhinos Rugby Club

5. There had been circulated copies of a request from Selkirk Rhinos Rugby Club for a grant of £700 towards the costs of a P7 tour to the Seapoint Tournament in Dublin, at the end of April 2013. Although an annual tour was held to mark the end of the eldest group's involvement in the Rhinos this was the first time that a team from the Scottish Borders had been invited to participate in this tournament in Ireland. The estimated total cost of the tour was £4,300. Members were in agreement to support the application subject to the grant being paid from the 2013/14 budget and subject to a written report about the tour being given to the Sub Committee in due course.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £700, from the 2013/14 budget, to Selkirk Rhinos Rugby Club towards the cost of a tour to the Seapoint Tournament, Dublin, subject to a written report on the tour being given to the Sub Committee following the event.

6. In a discussion about the issue of grants and donations from the Selkirk Common Good Fund Councillor Ballantyne suggested carrying out some public relations work to convey the message that there was a limited amount of money available in the budget, to avoid raising undue expectations in the community and amongst groups who may be considering an application. It was agreed that a press release could be made available around the time of the next meeting and the presentation of the financial outturn report.

DECISION

AGREED to prepare a press release regarding the grants and donations budget at the next meeting of the Sub Committee.

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 13 November 2012.

The meeting concluded at 3.45 p.m.