

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
SELKIRK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the SELKIRK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE held in Committee Room 2, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on Tuesday, 25 February 2014 at 3.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors G. Edgar (Chairman), M. Ballantyne (from para 5), V. Davidson
Community Councillor T. Combe.

In attendance: Legal & Licensing Services Manager, Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell),
Estates Surveyor (J. Morison), Democratic Services Officer (F. Walling).

Member of the Public – 1

CHAIRMAN

1. In his introduction the Chairman referred to the recent Open Day at Selkirk Parish Church Hall which he had attended and to which Members of the Sub Committee had been invited. He commented on the quality of the recent refurbishment of the hall, a project to which the Common Good had contributed and which would be of great benefit to the Church and community. He also advised that he had received a letter from the Selkirk Common Riding Executive Committee, out of courtesy, seeking agreement to hold the Race Meeting on the Gala Rig on Friday 13 June 2014. Members had no objection to the request but asked that the tenant be kept informed of arrangements by the organising committee.

**DECISION
NOTED**

MINUTE

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minutes of 23 October 2013 and of the Special meetings on 3 December 2013 and 17 January 2014.

DECISION

APPROVED the minutes for signature by the Chairman.

FINANCIAL MONITORING

3. 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. Details were set out in appendices to the report and the Senior Financial Analyst, Andrew Mitchell, highlighted the main points for Members. Total expenditure was projected to be in line with the approved budget for 2013/14, whilst income was projected to be higher than budgeted by £6,526 due to an unbudgeted donation, the impact of rent adjustments, a one off rental charge and the previously reported reduced interest projection. Appendix 6 to the report set out a virement request to create a budget for the £50 donation received from the fishing club, to increase the rental income budget by £6,576 to account for the one off rent charged to the Power Company and to account for sundry rent adjustments. The Common Good Fund was projecting total expenditure of £114,666 and income of £74,131, supplemented by a draw down of £54,564 from the Revaluation Reserve, resulting in an outturn net income of £14,029. Members asked questions in relation to the projected income from interest on balances invested in the approved investment fund. It was explained that interest was not credited until the end of the year. This would be shown in future monitoring reports and there would also be an annual report from the Fund Manager.

4. Members discussed the donations and contributions from the Common Good Fund approved for the 2013/14 budget and paid as at 31 December 2013. With regard to the £5000 donation to Selkirk Football Club towards a stand at Yarrow Park Members queried whether the project had been successfully completed and asked for feedback to be requested from the club. It was agreed that feedback should be routinely requested in future about the supported projects following successful applications for financial assistance from Selkirk Common Good Fund.

DECISION

AGREED to:-

- (a) **NOTE the key figures, grants analysis, projected balances on Revenue and Capital Reserves and the performance of the Property Portfolio, as shown in appendices to the report.**
- (b) **APPROVE:-**
- (i) **the financial performance for 2013/14 as shown in Appendix 2 to the report and;**
- (ii) **the budget virement proposed in Appendix 6 to the report.**
- (c) **routinely request feedback from applicants about the supported projects following all successful applications for financial assistance to Selkirk Common Good Fund.**

MEMBER

Councillor Ballantyne joined the meeting before the following item of business.

BORDERS SCRAP STORE

5. With regard to paragraph 6 of the Minute of 4 September 2012 and previous application for financial assistance from the Borders Scrap Store, there had been circulated copies of an email from the manager to update the Sub Committee on the current position. Copies of the organisation's updated accounts had also been circulated. Members were reminded that consideration of the previous application had been continued in order for alternative sources of funding to be explored. The manager explained how, with a £4000 grant from Scottish Borders Council's Community Grants Scheme, £1000 from a Service Level Agreement with Technical Services together with financial support from other sources including East Lothian Council, the Borders Scrap Store had managed to survive. However, apart from part of a grant from Santander Enterprise Development Awards, all the support would end on 31 March 2014. Although it was hoped that current applications for grants towards a new van would be successful there would be no core funding from Scottish Borders Council for the first time in over ten years. Borders Scrap Store had three part-time staff, eight trustees and ten volunteer helpers who had created a vibrant, inspirational resource that was clearly a valued asset for over 300 memberships in Scottish Borders area alone. Since 2006 the organisation had increased trading income from £12,000 to a forecast of £40,000 this year. However continuing support was needed in order to function as a reliable organisation. Members discussed the information provided. They recognised the contributions of Borders Scrap Store to the community and the environment and remained sympathetic to the work and aims of the organisation. However they remained of the opinion that, although Borders Scrap Store was based in Selkirk, its relevance and value was to the benefit of the whole of the Borders and East Lothian areas rather than specifically to the Community of Selkirk. It was therefore felt that to give financial assistance to Borders Scrap Store would be outside the remit of Selkirk Common Good Fund. Members hoped that the organisation would be able to overcome the present difficulties but the application for financial assistance from Selkirk Common Good Fund should regretfully be declined.

DECISION

AGREED not to give financial assistance to Borders Scrap Store as this would be considered outside the remit of the Selkirk Common Good Fund.

PROPERTY UPDATE

6. The Estates Surveyor reported on quotes received for the replacement of windows at Linglie Farmhouse and cottages and advised that there was a difference of opinion within the quotes received as to whether the casements needed replacing. Members agreed that like for like quotes should be requested and the final decision as to which to accept delegated to the Estates Surveyor and Chairman of the Sub Committee. With regard to the work required on farm building roofs at Linglie the initial quote received was in excess of the eligible grant for the work. It was agreed that the Estates Surveyor pursue the possibility of a reduced cost being charged to meet the grant applicable, following which the decision to implement the work be delegated to the Estates Surveyor in consultation with the Chairman. With regard to the refurbishment work required in the occupied cottage at Linglie, the Estates Surveyor advised that joiners were fitting new units in the kitchen. Members gave consent to any further work deemed necessary by the Occupational Therapist in respect of the needs of the current occupier.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED the update.**
- (b) **AGREED to delegate to the Chairman and Estates Surveyor the decision to accept quotes and implement work in relation to the replacement of windows and farm building roof repairs at Linglie.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7. It was agreed that the date of the next scheduled meeting be amended.

DECISION

AGREED that the next meeting be held at Council Headquarters on 11 June 2014 at 3 pm.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm.