

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
SELKIRK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the SELKIRK
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE held
in the Members Dining Room, Council
Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on
Wednesday, 23 April 2014 at 10.00 am.

Present: Councillors G. Edgar (Chairman), M. Ballantyne (from para 2), V. Davidson;
Community Councillor T. Combe.

In attendance: Solicitor (J. Webster), Estates Surveyor (J. Morison), Senior Financial Analyst (A.
Mitchell), Project Manager (G. McMurdo), Democratic Services Officer
(F. Walling).

PROPOSED SELKIRK 2G ACCESS AND PITCH

1. Project Manager, Graeme McMurdo, was in attendance to give an update on the proposed 2G access and pitch at Pringle Park, Selkirk. There had been circulated copies of a plan showing the layout of the pitch and Mr McMurdo also provided at the meeting a larger scaled plan showing the ownership boundary between the ground of Selkirk High School and the adjacent Pringle Park owned by the Common Good. He outlined the plan to widen the existing path over Common Good land to allow a shared pedestrian access to the pitch and Pringle Park, the access being widened to a maximum of 3 metres to allow vehicular access in case of need or emergency. Mr McMurdo stressed that, although there would be one disabled parking bay adjacent to the pitch, the access would be gated and vehicular access strictly controlled. The alternative of creating an access on the Council side of the boundary would require significant ground removal due to the slope and a consequent loss of 3 to 5 metres from the pitch.

MEMBER

Councillor Ballantyne joined the meeting.

2. In response to Members' questions Mr McMurdo gave an undertaking that, although just one tree may be at risk, everything possible would be done to protect all the trees along the path. There would be a temporary roadway in place for heavy vehicles during the construction of the pitch, before the final path was laid and surfaced with tarmac. He confirmed that as the pitch was a School and Community facility, ongoing maintenance costs of the access would be the responsibility of the Council. In the ensuing discussion Members welcomed the project and were happy with the proposals in relation to the access. They expressed the hope that the work could progress as soon as possible, pointing out the benefit if this could run concurrently with work on the playpark at Pringle Park.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED the update.**
- (b) **AGREED to the proposals with regard to the shared access to the 2G pitch and Pringle Park.**

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

3. **Riddell Fiddles**
There had been circulated copies of a request from the leader of Riddell Fiddles for a contribution of £500 to introduce outside tutors of excellence to teach 5 sessions at a weekly workshop at the Argus Centre. In the application it was explained that the community music group provided tuition in fiddle and step dance to people of all ages. The group funded itself mainly through

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performances, ceilidhs and other activities. Recent local performances by the group included Selkirk Sessions, Scott's Selkirk, Lilliesleaf Christmas concert, Selkirk haggis hunt and the Flodden Memorial Garden opening ceremony. Members were appreciative of the music group and recognised its contribution to the community, both as a source of tuition and through the group's performances throughout the area. However, although Riddell Fiddells was based in Selkirk and recent local activities were noted, Members were of the opinion that the organisation's value was to the whole of the Borders area and beyond rather than specifically to the Community of Selkirk. It was therefore felt that, although they would like to support the group, a contribution towards tuition fees was unspecific and would be outwith the remit of the Common Good.

DECISION

AGREED not to give a grant to Riddell Fiddles for tuition fees.

Philiphaugh Community School

4. There had been circulated copies of a request from Project Manager, Graeme McMurdo, on behalf of the 'Bannerfield Active' project at Philiphaugh Community School for a contribution of £5,000 from the Common Good Fund specifically for play equipment. It was explained that Philiphaugh Community School had recently received confirmation of a successful Big Lottery grant application for £248,750 to deliver the project to expand the existing small play park, create new pathways and install a new multi-use games area. Mr McMurdo further explained that, whilst the Big Lottery grant awarded was a significant sum of money the bulk of the budget would be spent on groundworks, pathways, play surfaces, fencing and landscaping. The budgeted amount for play equipment of £40,000 would purchase a number of quality pieces, but should additional budget be secured this would be used specifically for more play equipment to enhance the play area. He advised that an application for £5,000 of additional funding for play equipment had also been made to Eildon Area Forum. A list of pieces of play equipment identified in a consultation with pupils, parents and residents was given in the application although this had not yet been broken down to produce a play equipment budget or 'wish-list'. In response to Members' questions Mr McMurdo confirmed that planning permission was in place and that it was hoped to set up a community group or parent partnership to look after the facility in the future. In the discussion that followed Members were generally supportive of the application, recognising that this was a worthy cause with a longevity aspect, being of benefit to present and future generations. Ideally Members wished to see a joined-up approach to the provision and indicated that they would be minded to support the application once a play equipment budget was presented and the results of other applications for financial assistance were known.

DECISION

AGREED to continue to the next meeting consideration of the application for a contribution towards play equipment as part of the 'Bannerfield Active' project.

URGENT BUSINESS

5. Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chairman was of the opinion that the items dealt with in the following paragraphs should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, in view of the need to keep Members informed.

Linglie

6. The Estates Surveyor responded to a question from the Chairman regarding the roadside gate opposite Linglie Farm Steading following fencing work. He explained that the tenant had not been in favour of setting the gate back from the road as had been suggested by Members for safety reasons. However this could be looked at again the next time fencing was carried out on the property.

DECISION

NOTED

Phone Mast Site – Linglie Farm

7. With reference to paragraph 1 of the private section of the Minute of 4 September 2013, Ms Webster, Solicitor, advised that work was in progress towards setting up a new 20 year lease to Everything Everywhere for the phone mast site on Linglie Farm, although this was currently being slowed around negotiations in connection with the indemnity limit for insurance required in accordance with Council policy.

DECISION

NOTED

The meeting concluded at 11.10 am.