

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL SELKIRK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTE of Special Meeting of the SELKIRK
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE
held in Committee Room 3, Council
Headquarters on Wednesday, 26 June 2019
at 9.00 am

Present:- Councillors G. Edgar (Chairman), C. Penman, E. Thornton-Nicol and
Community Councillor T. Combe

In Attendance:- Pension & Investment Manager, Managing Solicitor (R. Kirk), Democratic
Services Officer (F. Walling).

1. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There had been circulated copies of an application for financial assistance on behalf of Knowepark Parent Partnership, Selkirk. The application was for a contribution towards a project to transform the outdoor spaces, at the primary school, to provide greater opportunities for pupils to connect with nature, grow edibles and benefit from high quality outdoor education. During a series of work days, supported by parent volunteers and local organisations, large wooden planters would be built for fruit trees, soft fruits, herbs, salad plants and other small edibles. There were several skilled tradespeople within the parent community to help lead this part of the project and Scottish Gas Network Community Action Programme had offered a squad of workers for two days of labour and the use of their plant machinery in kind, adding huge value to the budget. A wormery and compost bins would be installed to support food waste education and provide a sustainable source of compost. As funds became available a shed would be added for storage and a greenhouse to allow pupils to grow edible plants from seed. The Parent Partnership was committed to providing a minimum annual funding of £300 to maintain and develop the garden. The Common Good Fund was being asked for £2,000 towards the project. The work would be carried out during July – September 2019 at a total cost of £6,536. A breakdown of the costs was provided on the application form together with details of funds raised from other sources. This included a contribution from the Parent Partnership and a Scottish Government 'Food4Thought' grant of £2,000. The applicant confirmed that the plans had been discussed with Scottish Borders Council's Lead Education Officer, who was happy with the proposals and had given authority for the work to be carried out. Members were enthusiastic in their support for the plans and looked forward to seeing them come to fruition. They agreed unanimously to provide a grant of £2,000 towards the project, subject to the Parent Partnership accepting ongoing responsibility for maintenance of the outdoor growing areas.

DECISION

AGREED to grant £2,000 to Knowepark Parent Partnership as a contribution towards the garden building project at Knowepark Primary School, subject to the Parent Partnership being responsible for continuing maintenance, as outlined in the application.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 am