

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the
TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA
PARTNERSHIP held via Microsoft Teams
on Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at 5.00 pm

Present:- SBC Councillors: N. Richards (Chair), W. McAteer, D. Paterson, C. Ramage,
G. Turnbull.

Other organisations' attendees: Mr K. Brough, Mr J. Craig (Community Fund applicant), Ms R. Dickson (SBHA), Mr W. Douglas (Upper Teviot and Borthwick Water CC), Ms B. Elborn (Newcastleton CC), Mr W. Fletcher (Burnfoot CC), Mr W. George, Mr R. Goldie, Mr G. Hogg (Hawick RFC), Mr P. Kerr (Southdean CC), Mr G. Kolbe (Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage CC), Mr C. McAdam (Southdean CC), Ms J. Moore (Community Fund applicant), Ms C. Smith (Community Fund applicant), Mr D. Tait (Future Hawick), Mr D. Taylor (Community Fund Pot B panel), Mr A. Warburton (Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage CC), Ms R. Woods (Southdean CC).

SBC Councillor S. Marshall; Comm. Cllr C. Knox (Hawick CC).

Apologies:- Locality Development Coordinator (G. Jardine), Community Engagement Officer (S. McKail), Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer (W.

In Attendance:- Mohieddeen).

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Richards welcomed attendees to the Meeting and explained that the Meeting had been convened to consider applications to the Teviot and Liddesdale Community Fund for pots A and B.

2. **COMMUNITY FUND POT A RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Locality Development Coordinator, Ms Jardine, introduced application recommendations received into Community Council Pot A funds.

(a) **Hawick Community Council**

(i) **Hawick Saxhorn Band**

Hawick Community Council recommended that Hawick Saxhorn Band be awarded £420 for the purchase of practice trombones and mutes.

DECISION

AGREED to award Hawick Saxhorn Band a grant of £420.

(ii) **Hawick Youth Rugby**

Hawick Community Council recommended that Hawick Youth Rugby be awarded £936 for the purchase of medical equipment and a new medical room.

DECISION

AGREED to award Hawick Youth Rugby a grant of £936.

Note: Councillor McAteer had left the meeting during the above discussion having experienced IT issues, but would have declared an interest should he have been present.

(b) Newcastleton Community Council

(i) Copshaw Gardeners

Newcastleton Community Council recommended that Copshaw Gardeners be awarded £1,413.60 for the purchase of planters and flower tubs within Newcastleton. It was noted that 4 of the current planters were being replaced with planters made from recycled materials. Normally funds for these replacements were raised via an annual plant sale but that event had not been possible due to Covid restrictions.

DECISION

AGREED to award Copshaw Gardeners a grant of £1,413.60.

(c) Southdean Community Council

(i) Southdean Village Hall

Southdean Community Council recommended that Southdean Village Hall be awarded £2,159.52 for the purchase of audio/visual equipment and to extend broadband internet usage. It was noted that this would improve facilities at the Hall and make it more attractive for groups and local people to use, while at the same time reducing isolation in the community.

DECISION

AGREED to award Southdean Village Hall a grant of £2,159.29.

3. COMMUNITY FUND POT B RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Duncan Taylor, Community Fund Pot B panellist, presented recommendations for applications to the Community Fund Pot B.

(a) Survivors Unite

Survivors Unite was a Borders-wide organisation for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. An application was received for £5,000 to fund administration salary costs. The panel recommended that the applicants approach Community Funds of other Area Partnerships due to their being a Borders-wide organisation.

DECISION

AGREED to:

- (i) award Survivors Unite a grant of £5,000 for administration salary costs; and,**
- (ii) recommend the applicant explored other funding sources including the Community Funds of other Area Partnerships in the Borders.**

(b) Wilton Park and Hawick Tennis Club

The Community Fund Pot B panel recommended to award £4,000 to Wilton Park and Hawick Tennis Club to fund Summer of Tennis taster session for community groups of varying ages and disabilities. The Locality Development Coordinator clarified that the applicant was applying for funding from other sources for 2 separate projects, including making up the difference for the total cost of this project, and that did not conflict with the project submitted to the Community Fund.

DECISION

AGREED to award Wilton Park and Hawick Tennis Club a grant of £4,000.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Ramage declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and left the Meeting during the discussion.

(c) Escape Youth Project

An application from Escape Youth Project was received for a games hall upgrade. The Panel requested that further quotes for the games hall works be sought. It was noted that 2 elements of work were due to be carried out with the first element able to be carried out by local contractors, but the second element requiring quite specialised input.

DECISION

AGREED to award Escape Youth Project a grant of £4,990.36, subject to the following condition:

- (i) The applicant obtained further quotes for the games hall work in respect of the first element of the work involved.**

MEMBER

Councillor Ramage re-joined the Meeting.

(d) Hawick Reivers Festival

The Community Fund Pot B panel recommended to award a grant of £5,000 to Hawick Reivers Festival for the delivery of the Hawick Reivers Festival. In response to a question about the possibility of funding for the Reivers Festival from the Council's wider Festivals Grant budget, the Clerk to the Council advised that this was currently fully committed and it would be a matter for SBC Elected Members to increase that budget at the Council meeting in February 2022 when the budget for 2022/23 was agreed.

DECISION

AGREED to award Hawick Reivers Festival a grant of £5,000.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor McAteer declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and left the Meeting during consideration of the following application.

(e) Hawick Rugby Football Club

The applicant submitted a request for a grant to fund coaching equipment, an e-sign and a mascot outfit. In response to questions from attendants, Graham Hogg of Hawick Rugby Football Club explained that the Club had tried to secure a mascot outfit for some time and that this could be costly. Sponsorship had been sought from a number of companies but had been unsuccessful. Mr Taylor advised that Hawick Rugby Football Club was still to submit their equalities statement and that as a member of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), they would have signed-up to the SRU equalities statement.

DECISION

AGREED to award Hawick Rugby Football Club a grant of £4,200, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) If the cost of the mascot rose above the price detailed in the application, this difference must be met by the applicant; and,**
(ii) Hawick Rugby Football Club submitted its equalities statement.

4. COMMUNITY FUND POT A AND POT B BALANCES

Copies of the balance of funding available in Pot A (£18,970.48) and Pot B (£709.60) had been circulated. The Locality Development Co-ordinator advised that a review was needed at this time in the financial year and consideration given to whether the funding in Pot A would be spent by the end of the financial year. Mrs Elborn advised attendees that there were a number of local challenges currently being experienced due to recent weather events, and suggested that a fast track process be established for the

Community Fund Pot A to meet urgent, local resilience matters. The Locality Development Coordinator advised that a fast track process would require panel members to be available at short notice and for the Communities and Partnerships Team to score applications.

DECISION

AGREED to establish a fast track procedure to Community Fund Pot A for the purposes of funding urgent, local resilience matters.

MEMBERS

Councillor Ramage left the meeting during consideration of the above item of business, and Councillor McAteer re-joined the meeting.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Philip Kerr advised the Meeting of the local impact of Storm Arwen in Southdean and the actions they had undertaken to resolve infrastructure disruptions. Mr Kerr had been in contact with Openreach and Scottish Power Energy Network to address local disruptions to power and broadband. Barbara Elborn of Newcastleton Community Council updated the Meeting of disruptions caused by fallen trees. There was further discussion on the potential issues of moving IT connections to digital, “not spots” for mobile signals, and the impact of moving to heat pumps and electric cars which required power sources which could be knocked out in extreme weather events.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

The meeting concluded at 5.50pm