

A MEETING of the SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST. BOSWELLS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS on THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER, 2023 at 10.00 AM.

All Attendees, including members of the public, should note that the public business in this meeting will be livestreamed and video recorded and that recording will be available thereafter for public view for 180 days.

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,
16 October 2023

BUSINESS																				
1.	Convener's Remarks.																			
2.	Apologies for Absence.																			
3.	Order of Business.																			
4.	Declarations of Interest.																			
5.	<p>Minute (Pages 5 - 18)</p> <p>Consider Minute of Scottish Borders Council held on 28 September 2023 for approval and signing by the Convener. (Copy attached.)</p>	2 mins																		
6.	<p>Committee Minutes</p> <p>Consider Minutes of the following Committees:-</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">(a) Pension Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8 August 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Local Review Body</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14 August 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c) Peebles Common Good Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">23 August 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(d) Eildon Area Partnership</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7 September 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(e) Peebles Common Good Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11 September 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(f) Jedburgh Common Good Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11 September 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(g) Executive</td> <td style="text-align: right;">12 September 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(h) Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership</td> <td style="text-align: right;">12 September 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(i) Galashiels Common Good Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">21 September 2023</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(a) Pension Fund	8 August 2023	(b) Local Review Body	14 August 2023	(c) Peebles Common Good Fund	23 August 2023	(d) Eildon Area Partnership	7 September 2023	(e) Peebles Common Good Fund	11 September 2023	(f) Jedburgh Common Good Fund	11 September 2023	(g) Executive	12 September 2023	(h) Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership	12 September 2023	(i) Galashiels Common Good Fund	21 September 2023	5 mins
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	<p>(j) Civic Government Licensing 22 September 2023 (k) Pension Fund 22 September 2023 (l) Pension Board 22 September 2023 (m) Executive 3 October 2023</p> <p>(Please see separate Supplement containing the public Committee Minutes.)</p>	
7.	<p>Borders Railway - Establishment of Cross-Party Working Group (Pages 19 - 24)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Resilient Communities. (Copy attached.)</p>	20 mins
8.	<p>Members Training and Development Policy (Pages 25 - 42)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Corporate Governance. (Copy attached.)</p>	15 mins
9.	<p>Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations (Pages 43 - 50)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Corporate Governance, (Copy attached,)</p>	15 mins
10.	<p>Motion by Councillor Robson</p> <p>Consider Motion from Councillor Robson in the following terms:-</p> <p>“That the Council commends the efforts of Rotarians world-wide to support the eradication of polio, in particular appreciates the contribution made by Rotary Borderlands (Passport Group) thereto, notes the dramatic success in cutting the numbers of those who are newly infected by 99%, but recognises the need for constant vigilance to ensure the disease does not recur and therefore welcomes the joint working locally between Rotarians and the Council’s Education Department in explaining the pain and suffering polio brings and the on-going work to end this threat to human health.”</p>	5 mins
11.	<p>Motion by Councillor Pirone</p> <p>Consider Motion by Councillor Pirone in following terms:-</p> <p>“This council recognises the impact that "real term cuts" announced by Police Scotland could have on our communities across the Scottish Borders. Fifty million pounds of savings have to be found by our police force this year. We have around 147 officers across the Scottish Borders. It has become apparent that we need to accept this without additional support in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Still, we acknowledge that our hard-pressed officers do their best in challenging circumstances they are presented with now and in the future. We note, of course, that this council continues with plans to protect our communities with CCTV, which will help our officers. This council also notes that nationally, the police have had to accelerate the disposal of a further 30 police buildings, which could impact our communities.</p> <p>This council directs our leader to urgently draft a letter to the Scottish Government, conveying concerns about the current police numbers and how these cuts will impact the Scottish Borders. We urge the Scottish Government to assess police resources and consider alternative community safety strategies without solely relying on the council for additional support.”</p>	5 mins
12.	<p>Motion by Councillor Pirone</p>	5 mins

	<p>Consider Motion by Councillor Pirone on the following terms:-</p> <p>“Scottish Borders Council recognises the importance of addressing anti-social behaviour among our young people in our communities and that we value positive youth engagement. We acknowledge the need for a safe environment that promotes the growth of our young residents. We therefore ask the Chief Executive to bring a report to Council detailing what the Council is currently doing to address anti-social behaviour among our young people and if there is more we can do within the Scottish Borders in partnership with others.”</p>	
13.	Open Questions by Councillors	15 mins
14.	<p>Open Question from Member of the Public</p> <p>Consider question to the Executive Member for Estate Management and Planning from Mr Bell, Tweeddale East Ward:-</p> <p>“Notwithstanding an overwhelming workload on our planning staff:-</p> <p>Whilst wind-farm applications decided under the Electricity Act S36 are administered by the Energy Consents Unit [ECU], the relevant Planning Authority is a significant consultee.</p> <p>As normal practice, other Planning Authorities report on all known external consultee responses, including from members of the public; helping Councillors decide based on best evidence.</p> <p>SBC don't put public representations to such applications on the SBC website — indeed officers on occasion asserted that “.. <i>third party representations are submitted direct to the ECU and it is for them to account for these matters. You will be aware that we have received a number of representations in relation to this application and I would remind members not to allow these representations to influence your decision making today.</i>”</p> <p>By not taking into account important external consultee responses, our Councillors are potentially not appraised of the full picture of the representations; an approach that is certainly not “best practice” compared with other Planning Authorities.</p> <p>When will Scottish Borders Council adopt best practice in respect of S36 applications?”</p>	5 mins
15.	Any Other Items Previously Circulated	
16.	Any Other Items Which the Convener Decides Are Urgent	
17.	<p>Private Business</p> <p>Before proceeding with the private business, the following motion should be approved:-</p> <p>“That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the aforementioned Act.”</p>	
18.	Committee Minutes	1 mins

	<p>Consider private Sections of the Minutes of the following Committees:-</p> <p>(a) Pension Fund Committee 8 August 2023 (b) Peebles Common Good Fund 23 August 2023 (c) Peebles Common Good Fund 11 September 2023 (d) Executive 12 September 2023 (e) Galashiels Common Good Fund 21 September 2023 (f) Civic Government Licensing 22 September 2023 (g) Pension Fund Committee 22 September 2023</p> <p>(Please see separate Supplement containing private Committee Minutes.)</p>	
19.	<p>Toilet Provision in West Linton (Pages 51 - 56)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Infrastructure and Environment. (copy attached.)</p>	15 mins

NOTES

1. **Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.**
2. **Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.**

Please direct any enquiries to Louise McGeoch Tel 01835 825005
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