

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

LAUDER COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the LAUDER
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held in Convener's Office, Council
Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on
Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 1.30 pm

Present:- Councillors D Parker, K Drum and T Miers.
Community Councillor Mr A Smith.

In Attendance:- Capital and Investments Manager (K Robb), Principal Solicitor (H MacLeod),
Estates Surveyor (A Phipps), Democratic Services Officer (P Bolson).

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of 21 September 2017.

DECISION

NOTED for signature by the Chairman.

2. **RATIFICATION OF INFORMAL DECISION**

The Chairman explained that the decision by Members to grant permission to Lauderdale Community Council to hold a bonfire and fireworks display on Common Good land at Burnmill Car Park in Lauder required ratification. Community Councillor Smith advised that the event had been very successful and over 250 people had attended.

DECISION

AGREED to ratify the informal decision to grant permission to Lauderdale Community Council to hold a bonfire and fireworks display on Common Good land at Burnmill Car Park in Lauder.

3. **LAUDER WOODLAND/PLANTING**

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of 21 September 2017, Ms Phipps, Estates Surveyor, presented an Indicative Cash Flow Forecast for potential woodland planting on Lauder Common. It was reiterated that planting was being considered as a means to generate income at no additional cost to Lauder Common Good Fund. A number of options were discussed and Members were advised of the basic details of each. There had also been a proposal by Lauder Sheep Company that it would not receive any profit from the tree planting in exchange for a reduction in the annual rent. Ms Phipps went on to explain that in some circumstances, Lauder Sheep Company would lose the Basic Farm Payment that it currently received and Members acknowledged that this would not be acceptable. Discussion followed with Members raising issues about who would take ultimate responsibility for the management of any tree planting Scheme and in terms of public consultation prior to any Scheme being finally agreed. It was agreed that Mr Hugh Chalmers be invited to attend the next meeting on 13 December 2017 to present the best option Scheme with definite costings attached. This would enable Members to make an informed decision as to how the preferred Scheme would be taken forward.

DECISION

AGREED that Mr Chalmers be invited to attend the next meeting on 13 December 2017 to present the best option Scheme with definite costings attached to enable Members to make an informed decision as to how the preferred Scheme would be taken forward.

4. **PROPOSAL OF WORKS TO PATH FROM PIGGERY FIELD TO A68**

The Chairman advised that requests by members of the public had been received for improvements to be made to the path that ran from the Piggery Field along behind the Thirlestane development and back out at A68. These enhancements included improving the surface of the path, particularly through the wooded area, and maintenance work to the hard core path to make it wider and remove wet areas. On this basis, some discussions had taken place to consider ways in which this work could be taken forward and the funding requirements to complete the scheme. A quote had been received from Criminal Justice to the sum of £4,642.50 and this included the work to widen and wooden edge the path then hard core it for its whole length. Options for dividing the fields were discussed and in order to make a final decision, Members agreed that a site visit be arranged to walk the path and consider how best to improve its accessibility and condition. Mr Craig Blackie, Neighbourhood Area Manager (Eildon) would be invited to attend.

DECISION

AGREED that a site visit be arranged to walk the path from the Piggery Field along behind the Thirlestane development and back out at A68 in order to consider how best to improve its accessibility and condition.

The meeting concluded at 2.10 pm