

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**GALASHIELS COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE**

MINUTE of MEETING of the GALASHIELS  
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE  
held in Committee Room 2, Council  
Headquarters on Thursday,  
4 September 2014 at 2.00 pm.  
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Present: Councillors B. White (Chairman), S. Aitchison, B. Herd, J. G. Mitchell.

In attendance: Mr Richard Kenney, Galashiels and Langlee Community Council.  
Chief Financial Officer, Legal and Licensing Services Manager,  
Senior Financial Analyst (A Mitchell), Estates Surveyor (J. Morison),  
Democratic Services Officer (F. Walling).

Members of the Public: 1

**MINUTE**

1. There had been circulated copies of the minute of 28 August 2013.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the minute**

**FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2013/14 AND BUDGET MONITORING FOR 3 MONTHS TO  
END OF JUNE 2014**

2. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer detailing the outturn figures for 2013/14, proposing a budget for 2014/15 and informing Members of the financial position at the end of June 2014. It was noted that an updated report had also been circulated and paper copies of this revised report were tabled at the meeting. The Senior Financial Analyst, Andrew Mitchell, offered an apology for the need for a revised report. He explained that in line with the decision taken by the Sub Committee on 28 August 2013, £20,000 was to be invested in the Newton real return fund as part of the common good investment strategy. The physical transfer of cash was outstanding and backdated interest would be credited to the common good fund as from December 2013 when the fund was opened. Mr Mitchell advised that the interest accrued would amount to £227 and as the fund was part dividend (£227) part capital growth (£249) the investment would now be valued at £20,476 at the end of June 2014. Mr Mitchell further advised that a current review of the Council and Common Good assets may impact upon the Ladhope properties together with the reorganisations of registered charities so no income was transferred from the Ladhope funds for 2013/14. Provision had therefore been made in the 2014/15 budget for receipt of 2 years income from this source. Mr Mitchell went on to highlight the key figures for 2013/14 and projections for 2014/15 on Revenue and Capital Reserves, as shown in Appendices to the report. The figures showed a projected total of £3,475 to be added to the Revenue Reserve. Mr Mitchell confirmed that the figures shown in the appendices did not take account of income from the Newton fund.
3. Members discussed the report and the Legal and Licensing Manager responded to questions about the wording of the disposition relating to the Ladhope Trust. She confirmed that the costs of the research being carried out would not be re-charged to Galashiels Common Good Fund. With reference to paragraph 3 of the minute of 28 August 2013 Members agreed to postpone the discussion about re-commencing the

distribution of amounts of money in the form of grants from the Common Good Fund until the situation regarding income from the Ladhope Trust had been clarified. With regard to the stock of 'History of Galashiels' books held in stock it was noted that there had been no sales of the books during the past year. After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed that the value of the books, in the accounts at £265, be written off and the 53 books be donated to the Old Gala Club for the purpose of raising funds from any sales.

## **DECISION**

**(a) NOTED:-**

- (i) the key figures, balances for 2013/14 and projections for 2014/15 on Revenue and Capital Reserves, as shown in the appendices to the report; and**
- (ii) that backdated interest on the £20,000 capital balance would be credited to the Common Good Fund in line with notional interest earned since the Newton real Return fund was opened and would be shown in the next monitoring statement.**

**(b) AGREED:-**

- (i) to APPROVE the financial performance for 2013/14 and proposed budget for 2014/15 as shown in appendices to the report;**
- (ii) that further consideration be given, at an additional meeting to be arranged once the position regarding income from the Ladhope Trust had been clarified, to re-commencing donations and contributions from the Galashiels Common Good Fund; and**
- (iii) to write-off the value of the stock of History of Galashiels books and to donate the books to the Old Gala Club.**

### **NEW LEASE TO GALASHIELS GOLF CLUB, LADHOPE**

4. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Commercial Services seeking consent of Galashiels Common Good Fund Sub Committee to grant a new lease of Ladhope Golf Course to Galashiels Golf Club. The report explained that in 1992 Ettrick and Lauderdale District Council granted a lease to Galashiels Golf Club for the 99 acres at Ladhope Golf Course. The lease was for 21 years and therefore expired on 31 March 2013 albeit it had continued on a year to year basis under tacit relocation. The Golf Club had a proposal to install a practice area and other improvements which could cost £100,000. In order to raise the grant funding a new lease was required to give security of tenure to the club. The report further explained that the area for the proposed lease was now 24.78 hectares (61 acres) since the course had been reduced to nine holes. A plan appended to the report showed the area subject to the lease, the position of the proposed practice area and the area excluded from the lease. The terms of the proposed lease included a nominal rent of £1 per year and a 25 year period. The report went on to confirm the terms of the lease in respect of maintenance responsibilities for landlord and tenant. The report also advised that there had been discussions with the Borders Forest Trust regarding the remaining land not being used by the Golf Club. These 38 acres were the old 'back 9' holes which were currently not being cut or maintained. Members discussed the report and agreed to the new lease. They received answers

from the Estates Surveyor about maintenance of the estate and proposals for the land not included in the lease.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to grant a new lease to Galashiels Golf Club for the land and clubhouse at Ladhope Golf Course; the terms of the lease to include a nominal rent of £1 per year, a period of 25 years, and any other terms the Service Director Commercial Services deemed appropriate.**

*The meeting concluded at 2.45 pm.*