

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
MELROSE COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTE of MEETING of the MELROSE
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held in the Convener's Office, Council
Headquarters, Newtown St. Boswells on 31
July 2019 at 1.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors K Drum, T. Miers, D Parker

In Attendance:- Pensions & Investment Manager (K. Robb), Principal Solicitor (H. Macleod), Democratic Services Team Leader, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

1. **CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Miers, seconded by Councillor Drum, moved that Councillor Parker be appointed as Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Parker be appointed as the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2. **COMMON GOOD AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015**

There had been circulated copies of a draft Asset List prepared by the Principal Solicitor in terms of the Council Report by the Service Director Regulatory Services dated 31 January 2019 on the duties placed on Scottish Borders Council in respect of common good assets by Part 8 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and recommended actions to ensure compliance with such duties. The Principal Solicitor reported that the draft asset list had been produced in compliance with the Act, using current heritable property registers together with information available regarding moveable items. Following approval of the asset list by the Common Good Sub-Committee, the Council would publish the proposed list of common good assets and undertake a 12 week public consultation period. Following the consultation period, the Sub-Committee would reconvene to agree the finalised Common Good Asset Register. The Register would then be published within six months from the end of the consultation period. The Chairman advised that a painting had been gifted to Melrose in 1922, which was currently in the Burgh Chambers in Galashiels and should be added to the asset list. After a full discussion, it was agreed that the funds from the Fraser Bequest should also be categorised as common good and added to the common good register. If any other items were identified through the consultation process or in the future, these would also be added to the Register at a later date. A future discussion would take place around the William Hill Trust and the Gibson Park Trust, and whether it was appropriate or desirable to amalgamate these with the Common Good. If this was to occur, there would be a formal process to follow.

DECISION

AGREED that the items be added to the draft Register, and the draft Register published for public consultation.

3. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

In response to Members questions, the Pensions & Investment Manager reported that a fund had been set up which included the Melrose Scout Hall in 2017/18 but that the only movement was an accounting for depreciation, which was not a cash transaction. There were no cash reserves. The Sub-Committee noted that a yearly rent had been paid to the

Council in respect of the Scout Hall since 2014, and that this should be allocated to the Melrose Common Good Fund.

DECISION

NOTED the position.

4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that a further meeting would be scheduled for the end of the year after the 12 week consultation period.

DECISION

AGREED that a further meeting would be scheduled at the end of the year.

The meeting concluded at 1.50pm.