

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL CHAMBERS INSTITUTION TRUST

MINUTE of Meeting of the CHAMBERS
INSTITUTION TRUST held in Committee
Room 2, Council Headquarters, Newtown St.
Boswells on Thursday, 6 February, 2020 at
2.00 pm

Present:- Councillors K. Chapman (Chairman), H. Anderson, S. Bell, S. Haslam,
E. Small and R. Tatler

In Attendance:- Executive Director Finance & Regulatory Services, Estates Manager, Solicitor
(E. Moir), Solicitor (G. Sellar), Communications & Marketing Officer (K.
Paterson), Democratic Services Officer (F. Walling).

1. **MINUTE**

- 1.1 There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 20 November 2019.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

1.2. **MATTERS ARISING**

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute, regarding the replacement of trees in the quadrangle, Members noted that trees had not yet been planted, despite the original trees having been felled over a year ago. Councillor Bell referred to the 'tree planting months' and stressed the urgency of this work. Members asked for the planting be carried out as soon as possible.

DECISION

AGREED that the Neighbourhood Area Manager arrange for the replacement trees to be planted in the quadrangle as soon as possible.

2. **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

DECISION

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in the Appendix to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

3. **MINUTE**

The private section of the Minute of 20 November 2019 was approved.

4. **CHAMBERS INSTITUTION PROJECT BUSINESS CASE**

Members considered the updated project business case and asked for a detailed report on phase 1 improvements to be prepared for approval at the next meeting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The meeting returned to public business.

5. **URGENT BUSINESS**

Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chairman was of the opinion that the items dealt with in the following paragraphs should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, in view of the need to make an early decision.

5.1 **Future meetings of the Trust**

Members discussed the forward schedule of meetings and agreed that a meeting be held in early April with four meetings being held during the following 20/21 session. The Chairman asked for Democratic Services and Corporate Communications to highlight that the Chambers Institute meetings were in public. It was also agreed that, if feasible, future meetings of the Trust be held on site at the Chambers Institute, to raise the profile of meetings and improve transparency.

DECISION

AGREED to hold four meetings per year of the Trust and to if possible hold these meetings in the Chambers Institute.

5.2 **Museum space**

There was a brief discussion about the merge of the former museum and library into a joint space. In response to a question, Mr Hastie agreed to source a copy of the recent fire risk assessment report. Members referred to the consequent lack of museum space for memory storage and paper archives and emphasised the role of the Trust around Education and in keeping records on the history of Peebles. Members asked for this issue to be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

DECISION

AGREED to discuss at the next meeting the question of providing museum space or other facility at the Chambers Institute for record and memory storage.

5.3 **Status of the Chambers Institute Trust and its Trustees**

Solicitor, Emma Moir, gave clarification about the legal status of the Trust and Trustees. She agreed to put this in writing and circulate to the Tweeddale Members.

DECISION

AGREED that clarification in writing of the legal status of the Chambers Institute Trust and Trustees be provided by Legal Services and circulated to Members.

CHAIRMAN

This being the last meeting of the Trust for Ms Moir before she left SBC, the Chairman thanked her for the advice she had provided for the meetings and wished her well.

The meeting concluded at 2.45 pm