

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
WILLIAM HILL TRUST

MINUTE of MEETING of the WILLIAM HILL TRUST SUB COMMITTEE held in the LEADER'S OFFICE, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on Tuesday 28 October 2014 at 3.35 pm.

Present:- Councillors I. Gillespie (Chairman), D. Parker.
Community Councillor A. Smith, Mr W. Windrum.
Apologies:- Councillor J. Torrance.
In attendance:- Solicitor (H. MacLeod), Senior Financial Analyst (A. Mitchell), Democratic Services Officer (P. Bolson).

MINUTE

1. The Minute of Meeting of 21 November 2013 had been circulated.

DECISION

NOTED for signature by the Chairman.

OUTTURN REPORT FOR 2013/14, PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2014/15 AND REVENUE MONITORING REPORT FOR 6 MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

2. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer showing the outturn figures for 2013/14 and the proposed budget for 2014/15. The report also noted that the only transaction made during the past year had been a regular annual grant of £40. Mr Mitchell explained that the total income for 2013/14 had been higher than budget due to improved income from investments through the Newtown Fund in respect of the William Hill Trust (WHTF) itself and in other Funds which donated their income to the WHTF. The report went on to note that expenditure had been significantly below budget due to no general grants been made and that the net income totalled £6,019. Mr Mitchell informed Members that as the budget for 2014/15 was based on prior year transactions, dividend estimates and proposed grant levels, the net income for the year was therefore £3,630 and the total Fund, including Revenue and Capital Reserves, was worth £180,611. Appendix 1 detailed the key figures for 2013/14, Appendix 2 gave the revenue outturn for 2013/14 and proposed budget for 2014/15, Appendix 3 listed the donations and contributions paid and approved throughout 2013/14, Appendix 4 explained the movement in Reserves for year to 31 March 2014, and Appendix 5 summarised the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014. Members discussed the financial detail in Appendices 1 to 5 and Mr Mitchell provided clarification on points raised.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the report and Appendices.

(b) APPROVED the proposed budget for 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

3. There had been circulated copies of a letter requesting financial assistance from the Melrose Music Society. The letter explained that the Society was about to launch its new season's programme which included workshops in some of the local schools in the Scottish Borders and was looking to maximise its funding to support this. It was explained that the organisation had received a grant of £1,000 in September 2012 and that the Society was advised at that time not to submit further applications for financial assistance. Following discussion, Members agreed that they were not minded to approve any further financial assistance at this time.

DECISION

AGREED that the application for financial assistance by Melrose Music Society be refused.

4. There had been circulated copies of a letter requesting financial assistance from Sophie MacBrayne, a 5th year student at Earlston High School. Miss MacBrayne's letter explained that she was travelling to Peru in 2015 to live and work with local communities as part of a project being organised by the Vine Trust and was looking to raise funds to support her in this venture. Following discussion, Members agreed that the request for financial assistance be refused.

DECISION

AGREED that the application for financial assistance by Sophie MacBrayne be refused.

5. There had been circulated copies of an application for financial assistance from Melrose Cricket Club. The application explained that the Club offered cricketing opportunities for players aged from 8 – 70 years and noted that, in terms of their junior section, there were currently as many as fifty boys and girls taking part in coaching sessions. The Club had also developed family and community based days and had recently held a DIY day where members and families had refurbished the Clubhouse, along with support from a number of sponsors. Further improvements financed from the Club's own funds and from other external sources included a mobile net and bowling machine. The application advised that the Club was currently looking at ways to raise funds to purchase new ground-keeping equipment which was crucial to the maintenance of the wicket and outfield. Members discussed the application and agreed that Melrose Cricket Club be advised that other sources of funding might be available, eg the Community Grant Scheme. Members further agreed that the William Hill Trust would provide financial assistance to Melrose Cricket Club in the sum of £3,500, this amount being half of the total requested and was on the basis that an application to the Community Grant Scheme was successful. Should an application to the Community Grant Scheme be unsuccessful, then the William Hill Trust would increase the amount of financial assistance to the full amount requested, ie £7,000.

DECISION

AGREED:-

- (a) **that the Democratic Services Officer write a letter to the Treasurer of Melrose Cricket Club advising of the Sub-Committee's decision and that an application could be made to other sources of funding available, the Community Grant Scheme being one such fund;**
- (b) **that the application for financial assistance submitted by Melrose Cricket Club be approved in the sum of £3,500; and**
- (c) **that the amount of financial assistance offered to Melrose Cricket Club be increased to £7,000 should an application to the Community Grant Scheme be unsuccessful.**

BLACKSTOCK TRUST

6. Mr Windrum informed Members that the Blackstock Trust was an organisation that offered financial assistance to people who lived in the Roxburghshire, Berwickshire and Selkirkshire areas and was managed by Messrs Pike and Chapman, Solicitors based in Galashiels. Mr Windrum advised Members that the Blackstock Trust had limited resources for allocating grants and asked whether it would be appropriate to suggest to applicants that they might also make application to the William Hill Trust. Councillor Parker advised that the William Hill Trust did have a remit to consider applications for financial assistance on the grounds of hardship. Mr Windrum thanked the sub-committee for this advice.

DECISION

NOTED that the William Hill Trust could accept referrals for financial assistance from the Blackstock Trust .

The meeting concluded at 3.55 pm.