

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL HAWICK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the HAWICK
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 15
March 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull (Chairman), W. McAteer, C. Ramage, N. Richards; Mr J. Campbell (Hawick CC) and Mr W. Fletcher (Burnfoot CC).

Apologies:- Councillors S. Marshall and D. Paterson

In Attendance:- Chief Legal Officer, Pensions and Investments Manager (K. Robb), Estates Strategy Manager (N. Curtis), Property Officer (F. Scott), Cultural Services Manager, and Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 November 2021 and Special Meetings held on 15 December 2021 and 1 February 2022.

DECISION

AGREED to:

- (a) **Approve the Minute of the Meeting held on 23 November 2021 for signature by the Chairman;**
- (b) **Approve the Minute of the Special Meeting held on 15 December 2021 for signature by the Chairman; and**
- (c) **Approve the Minute of the Meeting held on 1 February 2022 for signature by the Chairman.**

2. **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

3. **EARL OF MINTO PORTRAIT**

- 3.1 With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 17 August 2021, Ian Brown, Cultural Services Manager, provided an update on the proposed placing of the Earl of Minto portrait at The Old Dairy, Minto House. In September 2021, Councillor Paterson, Ramage and McAteer attended the Old Dairy and met with the Earl of Minto, inspected the space in The Old Dairy and determined that it was determined that the location was suitable and acceptable. The next steps were for the legal department to draft a loan agreement between the Earl of Minto and the Hawick Common Good Fund. Details of insurance were still outstanding, however the Earl of Minto was to be responsible for arranging insurance for the painting in The Old Dairy. The National Galleries of Scotland were to arrange transport of the painting to The Old Dairy and Scottish Borders Council were to arrange joiners which was to be funded by the Hawick Common Good Fund. Live Borders were to oversee hanging of the painting and conduct checks of the condition of the painting. Final sign-off of the agreed move of the painting to

The Old Dairy was to come before the Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee.

- 3.2 Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Richards, moved a motion for approval arrangements to be made for the siting of the portrait of the Earl of Minto to be loaned to the current Earl of Minto for display in The Old Dairy, subject to approval of the final agreement to be agreed at a future meeting of the Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee.

DECISION

AGREED to approve arrangements to be made for the siting of the portrait of the Earl of Minto to be loaned to the current Earl of Minto for display in The Old Dairy, subject to approval of the final agreement to be agreed at a future meeting of the Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee.

4. MONITORING REPORT FOR NINE MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2021 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

There had been circulated copies of the report by Director Finance and Corporate Governance that provided the details of the income and expenditure for the Hawick Common Good Fund for nine months to 31 December 2021, a full year projected out-turn for 2021-22, projected balance sheet values as at 31 March 2022 and proposed budget for 2022-23. Appendix 1 of the report provided the projected income and expenditure position for 2021-22. This showed a projected deficit of £26,536 for the year, which was less than the surplus figure reported at the 23 November 2021 meeting, due to the delay in receipt of the Pilmuir Servitude income now expected in 2022-23. Appendix 2 of the report provided a projected balance sheet value as at 31 March 2022. It showed a projected decrease in reserves of £76,523. Appendix 3a of the report provided a breakdown of the property portfolio which showed projected rental income and projected net return for 2021-22 and actual property income to 31 December 2021. Appendix 3b of the report provided a breakdown of the property portfolio which showed a projected property expenditure for 2021-22 and actual property expenditure to 31 December 2021. Appendix 4 of the report provided a breakdown of the property portfolio showing projected property valuations at 31 March 2022. Appendix 5 of the report showed the value of the Aegon Asset Management Investment Fund to 31 December 2021. The proposed rental income for Hawick Golf Club in 2022-23 had reduced by £4,570 due to the completion in September 2022 of the multi-year grant award and the proposed rental from October 2022 of £60 per annum. The Pension and Investments Manager informed the Sub-Committee that the Aegon Asset Management investment was performing well and not too badly affected by current world affairs, and that there was no investments involved with Russia. The Pension and Investment Manager further advised that cash balances were approaching £114,000 and thought may be given to adding money to the investment fund. Councillor Turnbull noted the costs of maintenance and repairs to the Volunteer Park and Stand and stated that there had to be action taken on upgrades to the Volunteer Park Stand.

DECISION

AGREED to:

- (a) Note the projected income and expenditure for 2021/22 in Appendix 1;**
- (b) Agree the proposed budget for 2022/23 as shown in Appendix 1;**
- (c) Note the projected balance sheet value as at 31 March 2022 in Appendix 2;**
- (d) Note the summary of the property portfolio in Appendices 3 and 4; and**
- (e) Note the current position of the Aegon Asset Management Investment Fund in Appendix 5.**

5. **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

It was noted that after Members declared interests regarding the applications for financial assistance received by the Sub-Committee that the Meeting would not reach quorum. Members decided that the applications should be deferred to the Special Meeting of the Sub-Committee on 29 March 2022 when hopefully there would be enough Members to consider the applications.

DECISION

AGREED to defer the applications for financial assistance received by Hawick Ex-Service Association and Hawick Common Riding to the Special Meeting to be held on 29 March 2022.

6. **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 2 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

7. **MINUTE**

The Sub-Committee considered the Private Section of the Minute of the Meeting held on 23 November 2021 and the Private Section of the Minute of the Special Meeting held on 1 February 2022.

8. **PILMUIR FARM COTTAGE**

Members considered the update by the Estates Strategy Manager.

9. **PROPERTY UPDATE**

Members considered the update by the Property Officer.

The meeting concluded at 4.40 pm.