

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

PEEBLES COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the PEEBLES
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday,
22nd November, 2023 at 5.00 pm

Present:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman), D. Begg, M. Douglas, J. Pirone, E. Small
and V. Thomson

In Attendance:- Chief Legal Officer, Chief Finance Officer, Estates Surveyor (T. Hill),
Community Engagement Officers (H. Lacon, K. Harrow), M. Bruce, I. Gibson
(Peebles Youth Voice), Democratic Services Officer (L. Cuerden)

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting. Item No. 16 was to be considered as part of public business.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Pirone declared an interest in respect of Item No. 6 and withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on Victoria Park Shelter. The Chair and Councillor Thomson declared an interest in respect of Item No. 20 and withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the funding application from Nomad Beat.

3. MINUTE AND ACTION TRACKER

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 11 October 2023 and the updated Action Tracker.

DECISION

AGREED the Minute for signature by the Chair and Action Tracker.

4. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

4.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by Director Finance and Procurement, the purpose of which was to provide details of the income and expenditure for the Peebles Common Good Fund for the six months to 30 September 2023, a full year projected out-turn for 2023/24 and projected balance sheet values as at 31 March 2024. Chief Financial Officer Lizzie Turner presented the report. Appendix 1 showed the projected income and expenditure position for 2023/24 with a projected deficit of £82,348 for the year. Appendix 2 provided a projected balance sheet value as at 31 March 2024 with a projected decrease in reserves of £262,856. Appendix 3a provided a breakdown of the property portfolio with projected rental income and projected net return for 2023/24 and actual property income to 30 September 2023. Appendix 3b provided a breakdown of the property portfolio with projected property expenditure for 2023/24 and actual property expenditure to 30 September 2023. Appendix 4 provided a breakdown of the property portfolio with projected property valuations at 31 March 2024. Appendix 5 showed the value of the Aegon Asset Management Investment Fund to 30 Sept 2023.

4.2 Ms Turner reported that the £82k deficit had been incurred due to works on Jedderfield Bungalow and the Old Corn Exchange. Of the £25k Common Good grants fund, £8k remained for disbursement. There followed a brief discussion on the disinvestment of funds from the Aegon Asset Management Investment Fund to manage the deficit. Ms

Turner agreed to provide a forecast of long-term deficit relief through disinvestment against short-term relief by balancing out across the fund.

DECISION

APPROVED the recommendations as follows:

- a) Noted the actual income and expenditure for 2023/24 in Appendix 1 and the revised budget for 2023/24;**
- (b) Noted the projected balance sheet value as at 31 March 2024 in Appendix 2;**
- (c) Noted the summary of the property portfolio in Appendices 3 and 4; and**
- (d) Noted the current position of the Aegon Asset Management Investment Fund in Appendix 5.**

MEMBER

Councillor Pirone declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the meeting during the discussion. Councillor Pirone had been assisting Peebles Youth Voice.

5. VICTORIA PARK: SHELTER & TOILET FACILITIES

- 5.1 With reference to paragraph 7 of the minute of 24 May 2023, the Chair proposed to continue the matter of Victoria Park lighting to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee. There was to be a site meeting with residents and Alex Young, Lighting Officer in due course.
- 5.2 There had been circulated copies of a presentation from Peebles Youth Voice, the purpose of which was to inform Members of the proposal to build a youth shelter in Victoria Park and summarise the results of the public consultation exercise. Malcom Bruce and Iain Gibson of Peebles Youth Voice were in attendance to answer Members' questions. The public consultation had received in the region of 650 responses, with site 2 the preferred option. There followed a brief discussion, during which it was confirmed that the costs of the supply and installation was to be met through grants and donations from various local groups, Small Schemes and Play Parks budgets. Kenny Harrow agreed to bring a more detailed costing exercise back to Members in early 2024. Members agreed that Common Good land be allocated to the shelter installation at site option 2. Members asked for clarity on the matter of maintenance and associated liabilities. Further discussion with local young people was to be arranged with a view to continuing their involvement and to develop their sense of ownership of the project.
- 5.3 On the matter of toilet facilities in Victoria Park, Members were reminded by Director Corporate Government that the Sub-Committee had delegated authority on those matters within the Scheme of Administration. Discussion on the matter was concluded.

DECISION

AGREED to the use of Common Good land in Victoria Park for the installation of a youth shelter at site 2.

6. COMMERCIAL USE OF COMMON GOOD LAND

Director Corporate Governance reported that work was ongoing with officers from Infrastructure & Environment, Estates, Event Planning and Finance to formalise the process for public asset use. A report was due to be brought before Scottish Borders Council by the end of financial year 2023/24.

DECISION

NOTED.

7. ENERGY AUDIT OF COMMON GOOD PROPERTIES

With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of 24 May 2023, a response from Head of Estates, Ray Cherry outlined that an audit of Scottish Borders Council's entire estate was

in the planning stages and would take precedence over any energy audit of Common Good properties.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

8. PUBLIC PROFILE OF COMMON GOOD SUB-COMMITTEE

With reference to paragraph 6.4 of the Minute of 23 August 2023, The Chair reported that he had attended a meeting with members of the public to discuss the work of the Peebles Common Good Fund Sub-Committee. Several matters were discussed and further information was to be obtained from Estates. An annual report of all Common Good Funds was standard practice; it was agreed that the Peebles annual report was to be augmented with additional information and photographs to illustrate the work of the Peebles Common Good Fund, along with an annual public meeting. There was a request for a Peebles Common Good exhibition and further discussion was to be arranged with Live Borders and interested parties. It had also been suggested that the group establish a 'Friends of Peebles Common Good' facebook page'. The public minute of the Peebles Common Good Fund Sub-Committee meetings were to be on public display via the notice board at the Burgh Hall.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

9. CHARITABLE DEREGISTRATION OF COMMON GOOD FUNDS

There had been circulated copies of a report by Director Finance & Procurement, the purpose of which was to advise Members of the intention by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to remove the SBC Common Good Funds, charity number SC031538, from the Scottish Charity Register (the Register). Appendix 1 top the report detailed the advance notification from OSCR.

**DECISION
NOTED the notification from OSCR to remove the SBC Common Good Funds,
charity number SC031538, from the Register.**

10. POLICE SCOTLAND RESPONSE TO FUNFAIR

There had been circulated a copy of a response from Police Scotland regarding policing of future funfairs in Peebles.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There had been circulated a copy of a request from the Tweeddale Astronomy Society for the use of Tweed Green for free, ad-hoc 'Sidewalk Astronomy' sessions in the coming weeks between 1800 and 2100 for the purpose of stargazing and the promotion of the Society and its facilities at Kailzie. Telescopes were battery operated with no trailing cables and light levels on Tweed Green were sufficient.

**DECISION
AGREED to the Tweeddale Astronomy Society holding free, ad-hoc stargazing
session on Tweed Green.**

**12. 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 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.**

13. MINUTE

Members considered the Private Minutes of 11 October 2023.

14. **OLD CORN EXCHANGE HALL LEASE AND ROOF REPAIRS**
Members considered a report by Estates Surveyor and a quotation for roof repairs.
15. **BRIEFING NOTE: OLD CORN EXCHANGE SHOP**
Members considered a briefing note on the lease for the Old Corn Exchange shop.
16. **BIKE PARKING – KINGSMEADOWS CAR PARK**
Members considered a briefing note and quotations on the installation of bike loops at Kingsmeadows car park.
17. **FUNDING APPLICATION**
Members considered an application for funding from Nomad Beat.
18. **JEDDERFIELD: REPLACEMENT WATER TANK**
Members considered a quotation to replace the water tank.

The next meeting of the Peebles Common Good Fund was scheduled for 28 February 2024 at 5pm.

The meeting concluded at 7.15 pm