

MINUTES of MEETING of the GOURLAW SUB-COMMITTEE held in the Committee Room, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 11 October 2012 at 10.00am.

Present:- Councillors Russell (Chair), Baxter, Constable, Imrie and Thompson.

Apology for Absence:- Councillor Coventry.

1 Order of Business

The Sub Committee noted that the Chair had ruled as urgent, reports by the Director, Corporate Resources concerning the terms of reference of the Sub Committee; and letter, dated 7 October 2012, from 14th Bonnyrigg Scouts as described at Item Nos 3(a) and 5(a) below.

2 Declaration of Interest

With reference to Items 3(a) and (c) below, Councillor Baxter intimated that he had been involved in a personal capacity with the applicants; and sought advice as to whether that affected his ability to participate in the discussion about these items.

Following receipt of guidance by the Clerk during which it was noted that there was no direct or pecuniary interest, Councillor Baxter indicated that he would take part in the proceedings. The Director, on behalf of the Monitoring Officer agreed that this was appropriate.

2 Minutes of Meeting

On the motion of Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Russell, the Sub-Committee approved the Minutes of Meeting of 24 November 2010.

With reference to paragraph 3(b) thereof, the Sub Committee noted that the request referred to lighting at Dalhousie Chesters, a project that had been completed.

3 (a) Membership and Terms of Reference

There was submitted report, dated 5 October 2012, by the Director, Corporate Resources, concerning the terms of reference of (a) the Gourlaw Sub Committee, as reported to the General Purposes Committee on 5 June 2012; and (b) the Agreement with the Coaling Company, as regards disbursements.

Decision

- (i) To note the report; and
- (ii) To note supplementary report by the Clerk as regards the disbursement of funds, in response to questions from Councillor Imrie as regards the use of Funds for Council Projects; and Councillors Baxter and Thompson, in relation to the nature of support and the area covered, i.e., for the benefit of the environment in the vicinity of the Opencast and the haul route to the Trunk Road.

(Action – Director, Corporate Resources).

(b) Financial Update

There was submitted report, dated 3 October 2012, by the Head of Finance and Human Resources, providing an up-date on the financial position in relation to the Fund.

Appended to the report was a statement showing commitments and the remaining balance.

With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minutes of the Audit Committee of 18 September 2012, the Director confirmed the intention to submit up-dated reports to the Sub Committee on a quarterly basis, including any monitoring that may be considered appropriate.

Decision

To note the report.

4 Requests for Disbursements

(a) 14th Midlothian Scout Group

There were submitted (i) reports, dated 2 and 10 October 2012, by the Director, Corporate Resources, concerning a request for financial assistance by 14th Midlothian (Bonnyrigg) Scout Group towards the cost of upgrading and improvement works at the Scout Group Hall, 13 Eldindean Road, Bonnyrigg, comprising the installation of central heating and hot water facilities, together with the provision of wheelchair access and disabled toilet facilities; and (ii) letter, dated 7 October 2012, from the Group confirming that wet room facilities had been excluded at this stage and providing revised costings.

Decision

To recommend that the request be granted i.e. on the basis of the revised costings in the amount of £15,484, in view of the benefit as regards (1) supporting healthy, caring and diverse communities where local needs are met by ; and (2) improving Opportunities for People in Midlothian by promoting social and financial inclusion in Midlothian.

(b) Rosewell Park Open Space Improvements

There was submitted report, dated 24 September 2012, by the Director, Corporate Resources, concerning a request for financial assistance on behalf of Rosewell and District Community Council and the Rosewell Development Trust towards the cost of improvements to the amenity of Rosewell Park, by upgrading play facilities, improving the entrances and undertaking soft landscaping works to enhance the general amenity and the accessibility of the park to make it more attractive to all users.

Decision

- (i) To note, inter alia, that match funding from Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) had committed £30,000 to the project; and
- (ii) Following receipt of clarification as regards the extent of “seed” funding, to recommend that the request be granted in the amount of £30,000, with a view to (1) supporting healthy, caring and diverse communities where local needs were met by strengthening services for children and young people; and providing suitable infrastructure for the efficient and effective delivery of services to meet the full range of community needs; (2) maintaining Midlothian as a safe place to live, work and visit by working with communities to reduce anti-social behaviour and offending and promote positive social development and working with partners to protect vulnerable people; and (3) improving opportunities for People in Midlothian by promoting social and financial inclusion in Midlothian and regenerating and improving Midlothian’s town and village centres.

(c) Whitehill Welfare Football Club

There was submitted report, dated 24 September 2012, by the Director, Corporate Resources, concerning a request for financial assistance by Rosewell and District Community Council, on behalf of Whitehill Welfare Football Club, towards the cost of the replacement of perimeter fencing, installation of Gates, upgrading the terracing and repair of broken concrete at Ferguson Park, Rosewell.

Decision

To recommend that the request be granted in the amount of £35,873, with a view to (1) supporting healthy, caring and diverse communities where local needs are met by strengthening services for children and young people; and providing suitable infrastructure for the efficient and effective delivery of services to meet the full range of community needs; and (2) delivering Responsive, Efficient and Effective Services to the People of Midlothian by ensuring equality of opportunity as an employer and service provider; and supporting the Council in its corporate improvement agenda, ensuring Best Value and achieving sustainable development.

(d) Wheeled Sports Facility in King George V Park Bonnyrigg

There was submitted report, dated 24 September 2012, by the Director, Corporate Resources, concerning a request for financial assistance by the Land Services Manager, Midlothian Council towards the cost of the developing a wheeled sports facility in King George V Park Bonnyrigg at an estimated cost of £165,000; and in respect of which it was intended to make a bid for funding to SportScotland for £80,000.

Decision

- (i) To note, *inter alia*, that Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) had committed match funding of £45,000 for the project; and
- (ii) To recommend that the request be granted in the amount of £40,000, subject to the bid to SportScotland being successful, with a view to (1) supporting healthy, caring and diverse communities where local needs were met by maintaining Midlothian as a safe place to live, work and visit by working with communities to reduce anti-social behaviour and offending and promote positive social development and working with partners to protect vulnerable people; and (2) improving Opportunities for People in Midlothian by promoting social and financial inclusion in Midlothian and regenerating and improving Midlothian's town and village centres.

(e) Bonnyrigg After School Club

With reference to paragraph 3(1) of the Minutes of 31 March 2010 (concerning the allocation of £2,000, towards the cost of providing garden features, barbeque, etc at the Community Hall, Hopefield Park), there was submitted report, dated 2 October 2012, by the Director, Corporate Resources, confirming that the final cost of the project had amounted to £1,900.52 and the Bonnyrigg After School Club had requested financial assistance towards the cost of seeds, plant pots, etc, in respect of the balance.

Decision

- (i) To note the report; and
- (ii) To recommend that the request be granted, in the amount of £99.48.

(Action – (a) – (e) - Director, Corporate Resources)

The meeting terminated at 11.19am.