

**MINUTES of MEETING of the GOURLAW SUB-COMMITTEE** held in the Committee Room, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Thursday 13 June 2013 at 10.00am.

**Present:-** Councillors Rosie (Chair), Constable and Imrie.

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors Baxter, Coventry and Thompson.

**1 Order of Business**

The Sub Committee noted that the Chair had ruled as urgent, a report by the Director, Corporate Resources, concerning a request for financial assistance from Hawthornden Primary School Parent Council, as described at Item No 4(c) below.

**2 Minutes of Meeting**

On the motion of Councillor Constable, seconded by Councillor Imrie, the Sub-Committee approved the Minutes of Meeting of 2 October 2012.

With reference to paragraph 4 thereof, the Sub Committee noted that:-

- (a) a further request for support for the 14<sup>th</sup> Midlothian Scout Group had been received as described at paragraph 4(b) below;
- (b) the Open Space Improvements at Rosewell Park would be subjected to a tendering exercise in the autumn;
- (c) the works at Ferguson Park, Rosewell had been completed at a cost of £25,481.03;
- (d) Sportscotland had approved the application for the award of funding towards the construction of the Wheeled Sports Facility at King George V Park, Bonnyrigg, subject to formal conclusion of a contract; and preparations for the tendering process would begin thereafter; and
- (e) it was anticipated that the Bonnyrigg After School Club had been reimbursed.

**3 Gourlaw, Shewington and Newbigging Opencast Coal Funds**

There was submitted report, dated 29 May 2013, Director, Corporate Resources, providing an up-date on the position in relation to the Opencast mines and relative Funds.

In his report, the Director confirmed, *inter alia*, that:-

- (a) as reported to the General Purposes Committee on 21 May 2013, Scottish Coal had gone into Liquidation on 19 April 2013;
- (b) coaling had ceased in 2011;
- (c) it was thought that any outstanding business related to the restoration of the site; and
- (d) notwithstanding that, it was possible that an application for planning permission for the extraction of coal (10 million tonnes) would be submitted in respect of Cauldhall Moor.

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

### **Decision**

To note the report.

## **4 Requests for Disbursements**

### **(a) Bonnyrigg Parish Church**

There was submitted report, dated 31 May 2013, by the Director, Corporate Resources, concerning a request for financial assistance by Bonnyrigg Parish Church towards the cost of replacing windows and doors at the Pitcairn Centre on the basis of either (i) providing seven new windows at the front of the building at a cost of £4,000 + VAT or (ii) replacing all windows and all doors at a cost of £14,000 + VAT.

Appended to the report was letter, dated 18 February 2013, from the Clerk to the Congregational Board.

### **Decision**

To recommend that the request be granted in respect of (i) above in the amount of £5,000, in view of the benefit as regards (1) supporting healthy, caring and diverse communities where local needs were met by providing suitable infrastructure for the efficient and effective delivery of services to meet the full range of community needs; and (2) improving Opportunities for People in Midlothian by promoting social and financial inclusion in Midlothian.

### **(b) 14<sup>th</sup> Midlothian Scout Group**

With reference to paragraph 4(a) of the Minutes of 11 October 2012, there was submitted report, dated 31 May 2013, by the Director, Corporate Resources, confirming that, in respect of the request for financial assistance by the 14<sup>th</sup> Midlothian (Bonnyrigg) Scout Group towards the cost of upgrading and improvement works at the Scout Group Hall, 13 Eldindean Road, Bonnyrigg, it had been found that the electrical installation was not capable of supporting the improvements to the central heating system; and the relative estimated additional cost of £6,000.

## **Decision**

To recommend that a further disbursement of £6,000 be made to the 14<sup>th</sup> Midlothian Scout Group, to meet the cost of upgrading the electrical installation, in view of the benefit as regards (1) supporting healthy, caring and diverse communities where local needs were met by providing suitable infrastructure for the efficient and effective delivery of services to meet the full range of community needs; and (2) improving opportunities for People in Midlothian by promoting social and financial inclusion in Midlothian.

### **(c) Hawthornden Primary School Parent Council**

There was submitted report, dated 13 June 2013, by the Director, Corporate Resources, concerning a request for financial assistance of £5,000 by Hawthornden Primary School Parent Council towards the cost of providing playground equipment at the School.

## **Decision**

To recommend that the request be granted in the amount of £5,000, with a view to (1) supporting healthy, caring and diverse communities where local needs were met by providing suitable infrastructure for the efficient and effective delivery of services to meet the full range of community needs; and (2) improving opportunities for people in Midlothian by promoting social and financial inclusion in Midlothian.

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

The meeting terminated at 10.28am.