

Notes:

Important: *The information recorded in these notes is not a verbatim account of the views of any person present at the meeting rather than a memorandum of the business discussed.*

Date:	063 April 2024
Time/ Venue:	1800 hrs. @ Victoria Halls, Selkirk
Present:	Ian King, (Vice Chair), SBC Cllr Leigh Douglas, Campbell Dempster (Hill Warden), Grant Kinghorn, Barbra Harvie, Jean Rathie
Apologies:	Judith Thompson (Treasurer)

	Ian opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, especially Mrs Rathie on her first visit and the following topics were discussed.	Action
1	The notes of our March 2024 meeting were approved, as a true record of the conversation.	
2	Matters arising:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance grant: it was agreed to submit our formal request to SBC for the next payment of the approved grant. The formal request to the CG Sub Committee for an increase in the annual budget arrangement to allow for inflation costs (see previous reports) has yet to be submitted. Cllr Douglas agreed to discretely enquire about the accepted statistical growth rate for inflation since 2000 when the £10k sum was originally established. This discussion would also include the Treasurer. IK commented that, until our grant levels are assessed/ confirmed, then we should monitor our expenditure and ensure that work – other than routine maintenance - is only undertaken where separate project costs are eligible for additional grant. Steely Brig: (ref. previous Minute) Cllr Douglas agreed to pursue reappraisal of repairs required and costs involved, via SBC Estates and CG Committee 	IK/ SBC (Cllr Douglas) JT/ Cllr Douglas/IK ALL Cllr Douglas
3	Hill Group Constitution	
	<p>Ian had recirculated the 2004 document and no comments had been received(!). (Nb. Campbell had received a hard copy.)</p> <p>Ian handed out further copies highlighting several suggestions for potential change/ additions. These were discussed and Ian agreed to attach a digital version to the next Minute.</p> <p>If we reach consensus, then the proposed changes will be formally considered at the next AGM.</p>	IK ALL
4	Treasurer's Report:	
	<p>In her submitted report, Judith confirmed that the previous month's activity was minimal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The balance currently stands at £5,298.85 Work is in hand for the 2023/24 accounts to be passed to the external auditor for inspection/ approval. <p>This was noted.</p>	ALL
5	Hill Warden's Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campbell reported that the Hill continues to be very wet/ boggy underfoot – The Caulks Well area is particularly bad. Additional gravel has been ordered for delivery at the Pot Loch area and spread later at appropriate locations around the Hill. Campbell reported that the timber bridge at the Fever Hospital area badly needs repair. All necessary materials are sourced (for structure and decking) and he is now awaiting better weather conditions. Litter picking and path edge trimming underway. 	Hill Warden

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbell also commented that a smaller (lighter weight) strimmer would be extremely useful for him. The current machine is +8yrs old and cumbersome. Options will be identified for consideration. • Nothing further to report re. grazing. All agreed that the Hill needs grazing – but at the correct time (end September onward) • Campbell reported nothing unusual re fauna/ flora. Although it is noticeable that deer are venturing closer and closer! 	
6	Golf Club:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant advised that the new season has commenced, and the Club are continuing to work at the area around the 9th tee where timber sleepers have rotted. Ian again asked that the Club consider the local environment and should at least endeavour to disguise the visual/ sustainable impact wherever possible. • The state of the area around Caulks Well was again discussed and Ian suggested that a form of board walk may be a longer-term solution. This has been a difficult area for many years and the source of continual flooding has never been fully established/understood with recent weather conditions exacerbating the situation. • Following the meeting, Ian had a positive telephone conversation with the new Club Captain Norrie Purves and they agreed that the Club and Hill Group must continue to liaise over matters of mutual concern. One example would be the Caulks Well area where a project could be developed as previously discussed (ref. Les McAllister) and submitted for grant support. This would be best done as a joint Hill Group/Golf Club project with the Club taking the nominal lead - to simplify the application process. 	<p>GK</p> <p>Golf Club (NP)</p> <p>IK/NP</p>
7	General:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean advised that she has a seedling beech tree which she is keen to plant in the arboretum area of the Hill. It was agreed that she and Campbell should liaise to agree the most appropriate location. • Jean also reported an excessive pothole at Buxton, opposite her house. Campbell was advised to check this out, take photos and make an appropriate repair, if possible • Ian agreed to contact Borders College directly to clarify whether they run ‘educational’ training courses which might be appropriate for the Hill – e.g., drystane dyking. 	
	Closure:- Ian thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 1920.	
	Next Conversation: Agreed future meetings will continue as previously, on 1st Wednesday of each month However an AGM is now due and it was agreed that we hold a formal meeting on 01 May at 1800hrs with the regular ‘conversation’ following on immediately – provided the process of auditing the accounts has been completed. viz. 1800 on Wednesday, 01 May 2024 – at Victoria Halls.	All

