



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMON GOOD COMMITTEE

**THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2025, 2PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON
AND VIA HYBRID MEETING FACILITY**

Committee Members Present:

Councillor Akhtar
Councillor Bennett (remote)
Councillor Findlay (joined at item 5) (remote)
Councillor Forrest
Councillor McFarlane
Councillor McGuire (remote)
Councillor McIntosh (remote)
Councillor McMillan – Convener
Councillor Trotter

Council Officials Present:

Mr I Forrest, Solicitor
Carlo Grilli, Service Manager - Governance
Simon Davie, Service Manager – Connected Communities
Elizabeth Gibson, Council Resources (observing)
Mrs M Scott, Clerk

Apologies:

Councillor Allan
Councillor Cassini
Councillor Hampshire
Councillor Jardine

Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Forrest declared an interest in item 5a and 5b.
Councillor McMillan declared an interest in item 5c.
Councillor McIntosh declared an interest in item 5e.

As the Convener had declared an interest in an item, the decision was made to elect Councillor Forrest as Depute Convener for this item.

The Convener advised that the meeting was being held as a hybrid meeting, as provided for in legislation; that the meeting would be recorded and live streamed; and that it would be made available via the Council's website as a webcast, in order to allow public access to the democratic process in East Lothian. He noted that the Council was the data controller under the Data Protection Act 2018; that data collected as part of the recording would be retained in accordance with the Council's policy on

record retention; and that the webcast of the meeting would be publicly available for five years from the date of the meeting.

The clerk recorded the attendance of Members by roll call.

1. MINUTES OF THE COMMON GOOD COMMITTEE 4 SEPTEMBER 2025 FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the Common Good Committee 4 September 2025 were approved.

2. COMMON GOOD BUDGET UPDATE

Mr Carlo Grilli, Service Manager – Governance presented this report to Committee and highlighted the remaining grants budgets for each Common Good area; Dunbar - £150, Haddington - £6000, Musselburgh - £71, 109.91 and North Berwick - £6000. He drew Members attention to the negative number within Dunbar Common Goods repairs budget which was due to the recent repairs carried out in St Margarets House to allow Winterfield Golf Club to take over the lease.

Mr Grilli also reminded Members that in accordance with the new Committee grants limit, awards of up to £50,000 could be granted but any awards above this would require a recommendation from the Committee for the application to then be heard at full Council.

Mr Grilli responded to questions from Members, providing confirmation that the repairs budgets were approved at Council earlier in the year and work would hopefully start in the new financial year on a more detailed schedule for repairs as at the moment repairs were being completed on a response basis. He noted the repair and maintenance schedule would come to the Common Good Committee for Members to allow for proper scrutiny. Mr Grilli also took an action to check the insurance policy on Common Good assets for members to understand what repairs would be able to be covered on insurance instead of coming from the repairs budget.

Mr Grilli also made Members aware of the recent injection of money to the Haddington Common Good Fund since budgets were agreed following the dissolution of the Richardson Bequest. He also noted that Council had already allocated some of that money towards construction of properties at Herdmanflat as a longer-term investment and the remainder may see the Haddington Common Good budget to be adjusted in the next financial year.

Decision

Members were happy to note the report.

3. CONSULTATION: WINTERFIELD GOLF CLUB, DUNBAR

Mr Ian Forrest, Solicitor presented the report with the results of the recent consultation carried out in respect of a proposed amended lease of Winterfield Golf Club in Dunbar. He made Members aware that the Winterfield Golf Club recently took over the management and maintenance of the golf course and a new lease would now incorporate the club house, St Margaret's House into this agreement therefore this would be deemed as the disposal of a Common Good asset. Mr Forrest explained a consultation was carried out where 40 responses were received, only one of which was not in support.

There were no questions on the report.

Members stated the proposed lease was a practical solution that had many benefits to the community, tourism and leisure and that tying the club house to the lease with the golf course made the most sense and will give certainty, security and confidence within the community.

Decision

Members agreed to note the report and approve the proposed lease arrangement with Winterfield Golf Club.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee agreed to exclude the public from the following business containing exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

PRIVATE

4. SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS

A summary of Common Good applications was provided to Committee.

[Sederunt - Councillor Forrest left the meeting]

5. APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION:

a) The Fisherrow Trust

The Fisherrow Trust submitted an application for £14,000 to replace all remaining lighting to low power LED, add carpets to key areas, decorate corridors and add planters/greenery to three carparks. Mr Davie noted he would be attending the Musselburgh and Inveresk Community Council in December to discuss the new process of Community Council's providing a view on applications.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application noting the Fisherrow Centre was an active hub within the community, that the applicant had also reached out to other organisations for funding which meant they were not fully reliant on the Common Good and that the project would have climate and financial sustainability benefit.

A roll call vote was taken where Members were asked to vote whether to grant the application in full or reject the application. Members voted to unanimously support the application in full, granting the £14,000.

Decision

The Common Good Committee unanimously agreed to grant the application in full.

b) Musselburgh Athletic Football Club

Musselburgh Athletic Football Club submitted an application for £65,240.96 for new perimeter fencing in the stadium. Mr Davie confirmed Musselburgh and Inveresk Community Council abstained from giving a view until they are clearer on their role in the new process.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application with Members questioning the possibility of phasing of funding as the money is not required until March 2026 or continuing the item to the next meeting. Mr Grilli made Members aware that as the

application was for more than £50,000 the Committee would only be able to put forward a recommendation to Council and not approve the application today. He also provided them with their options to either refuse the application, to continue the application and allow officers to discuss alternative funding with the application or recommend the application is granted in full where a final decision would be reached at a future Council meeting.

Members discussed their options in detail and reached a decision to continue the item to the January Common Good Committee. A roll call vote was carried out to confirm the decision which was reached by a majority vote of seven to one.

Cllr Akhtar – continue the item
Cllr Bennett – continue the item
Cllr Findlay – continue the item
Cllr McFarlane – continue the item
Cllr McGuire – continue the item
Cllr McIntosh – reject
Cllr McMillan – continue the item
Cllr Trotter – continue the item

Decision

The Committee agreed, by majority vote, to continue the item to the January Common Good Committee as this would allow officers to have discussions with the applicant regarding alternative funding.

*[Sederunt –
Councillor Forrest rejoined the meeting.
Councillor McMillan left the meeting.]*

Councillor Forrest took the position of Convener for item 5c]

c) Haddington Community Interest Company (HCIC)

Haddington Community Interest Company (HCIC) submitted an application for £4,950 for hard-wearing industrial carpet in the gym and loft. Mr Davie explained at the competency check meeting it was highlighted that only 90% of those who benefit from activities held by the East Lothian Boxing Club were from Haddington therefore a 10% reduction was made to the amount the applicant was asking for along with the VAT cost. However following a further conversation it would be worth checking if HCIC were VAT registered as if they are not, Committee may be minded to support a higher award.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application questioning the original amount of the application, which was confirmed as £6000. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the budget for Haddington Common Good with Mr Grilli stepping in to explain the budget had not been set for the following year so there was no guarantee any money could be taken from that budget to fund applications this year.

A proposal was made and seconded by Members to award a partial grant of £4,445. A roll call vote was taken to confirm the decision which was unanimous to grant the amount of £4,445.

Decision

The Committee agreed, by unanimous decision, to award £4,445.

[Sederunt – Councillor McMillan rejoined the meeting]

d) Haddstock

Haddstock submitted an application submitted an application for £880 to pay for Fantoosh Sketching, a storyteller and Random Monster Table to attend Haddstock festival. Mr Simon Davie, Service Manager – Connected Communities noted there was no response from Haddington Committee Council on the application.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application and there were no questions raised by Members. All Members supported the application noting previous attendance at the event had been around 4000 which proved the event had been beneficial to residents of Haddington and visitors from outside the area, as well as local pubs, cafes and takeaways.

A roll call vote was taken for Members to vote on supporting the application in full or refusing the application. Members voted to unanimously support the application in full, granting the £880.

Decision

The Common Good Committee unanimously agreed to fund the application in full.

[Sederunt – Councillor McIntosh left the meeting]

e) Lower Impact Living (LiL)

Lower Impact Living (LiL) submitted an application for £3,275 for funding towards the Haddington Reuse Festival and relocating the existing Revolving Wardrobe to Haddington.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application highlighting the time sensitive element of the application. Members were keen to support the application and therefore a proposal was made to fund what was left within the budget (£675) and request additional funding at a future Council meeting to make up the difference. This proposal was seconded.

A roll call vote was carried out for Members to vote on granting £675 which remained in the budget with the balance to be sought at a future Council meeting or to reject the application. The Committee unanimously agreed to the partial grant of £675 with the remaining balance being sought with an amendment to the budget, per Council approval.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to award a partial grant of £675 with the remaining balance being sought through an amendment to the Haddington Common Good budget, as per Council approval.

f) North Berwick Community Council Christmas Lights Committee

North Berwick Community Council Christmas Lights Committee submitted an application for £2,155.92 for testing and inspection of all Christmas light locations and anchorage points. Mr Davie made Members aware North Berwick Community Council abstained from providing a view due to a conflict of interest.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application noting the Christmas lights always brings a large part of the community together and helps to bring business for the high street traders.

A roll call vote was carried out to either grant the application in full or to reject the application. The Committee unanimously agreed to grant the application in full, awarding £2,155.92.

Decision

The Common Good Committee unanimously voted to grant the application in full.

Signed

Councillor John McMillan
Chair of the Common Good Committee