



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MUSSELBURGH RACING ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2020
MEETING HELD BY CONFERENCE CALL**

Committee Members Present (via Skype/Phone):

Councillor F O'Donnell (Chair)
Councillor S Currie
Councillor A Forrest
Councillor K Mackie
Mr R Miller-Bakewell
Mr R Anderson Green

In Attendance (via Skype/Phone):

Mr B Farnsworth, Racecourse General Manager
Mr A McCrorie, Depute Chief Executive, ELC
Mr C Grilli, Service Manager, Legal, ELC
Ms J Mackay, Communications Officer

Clerk (via Skype):

Mrs L Gillingwater

Apologies:

None

Declarations of Interest

None

1. PUBLIC MINUTES OF MEETING ON 18 MAY 2020 FOR APPROVAL

The Committee agreed to approve the public minute of the meeting of 18 May 2020 as a true record.

2. PROCUREMENT UPDATE

A verbal report was delivered by the Council's Service Manager – Legal and Procurement, providing an update on the procurement process.

Mr Grilli advised that the finalisation of the contract with Chester was progressing well, and that the target date for completion was the end of June. He noted that Chester had proposed completing the transfer in advance of the racedays proposed for 30 June and 1 July, subject to BHA and Scottish Government approval.

Mr Miller-Bakewell asked Mr Grilli if Chester had agreed his statement, as was the case with previous statements on the procurement process. Mr Grilli confirmed that he had discussed and agreed the statement with Chester in advance of the meeting.

Mr Anderson Green made reference to a question he had raised at the meeting on 18 May as regards the tender specification. Mr Grilli stated that the position had not changed and declined to comment further during the public session. The Chair noted that Mr Grilli's response was on record.

Mr Anderson Green also asked if agreement had been reached on the Britbet loan. Mr Grilli indicated that this was a complex matter, and that there was ongoing discussions with Britbet as to how it would be dealt with. However, he confirmed that the issue would be resolved before the transfer date. On the issue of the Racecourse fixtures and fittings, Mr Grilli advised that he could not comment on this in public.

Councillor Currie clarified that Mr Anderson Green was not speaking on behalf of the entire Committee when asking such questions. He welcomed the progress made in concluding the contract with Chester, especially in light of the difficulties experienced by the racing industry as a result of COVID-19. He also welcomed the certainty for the Racecourse staff.

Mr Miller-Bakewell asked for clarification on the sale of Racecourse assets, remarking that if the full value was not realised then this would need to be reflected in the accounts. The Chair reiterated that this matter could not be discussed in public, but assured him that everything would be accounted for, in accordance with audit rules. Mr McCrorie clarified the position, which was accepted.

Mr Anderson Green stated that he was delighted that the transfer to Chester would happen by the end of June, but reiterated his points as regards the tender specification. He also made reference to another private matter; the Chair ruled that it was not appropriate to have any further discussion of that matter in public.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the update.

3. RACING FIXTURES 2020

The Racecourse Manager advised that the Committee had received information on fixtures for 2020 and 2021, and that he was happy to take questions relating to the fixture list.

The Chair noted that Councillor Currie had sought confirmation from Mr Farnsworth prior to the meeting of the Scottish Government's position in relation to the resumption of racing. Mr Farnsworth had emailed the Committee members on the morning of the meeting with a copy of the statement made by Joe FitzPatrick MSP which indicated that horseracing could resume at Phase 2 of the Scottish Government's pandemic route map. The Chair proposed that the Committee should meet after the next Scottish Government COVID-19 Review (scheduled for 18 June) as it had a duty to ensure that appropriate measures were in place for staff, those attending race meetings, and the wider public.

Councillor Currie agreed that a further meeting following the Scottish Government's next review was required in order to ensure that all health and safety and compliance measures were in place in advance of racing at Musselburgh resuming.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the update, and that a further meeting of the Committee would take place on 22 June.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The Chair informed the MRAC that they would exclude the public from discussion of Items 4-6, and the minute of private business from the meeting on 18 May 2020, which contained exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 6 (information concerning the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Authority) of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Health and Safety Report

A private report concerned with health and safety issues was noted.

General Manager's Report

A private report submitted by the General Manager concerning financial and staffing matters was noted.

HR Matters

A number of HR matters were discussed and approved.

Private Minute of the MRAC Meeting of 18 May 2020

The private minute of the meeting of 18 May 2020 was approved, subject to one amendment.

DRAFT