

FINANCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT and MINUTES of a meeting of the **FINANCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 27 March 2008, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors K L Holmes, N A Brown, R C Beavan, J A Everest, R J Kilworth, J A Kingsbury, K W P Lowe and J A Sparks.

Also in attendance Councillors L J Leadley, I J Burgess, P W Reveley and B A Tasker; Manager Democracy & Community Services, Finance Manager, Corporate Services Manager, and Committee Secretary.

APOLOGY: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley (lateness)

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes

Reference to the Riding for Disabled group was amended to record that the Property Manager has been negotiating the group's use of the Fords Rd property.

"That the minutes of the Finance and Community Services Committee meeting held on 14 February 2008, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed."

Brown/Everest

Carried

Matters Arising

Broadband Internet

The Corporate Services Manager advised that he will provide the Committee with a presentation on Broadband at the conclusion of the meeting.

Financial reports

The Finance Manager tabled graphs showing annual changes and comparisons in the reserve accounts since 2005. Future reports will include an explanation where significant movements have occurred.

Corporate Services Activity Reports

Web Page

In response to the Committee's interest in the types of information being sourced from Council's website, the Corporate Services Manager advised that it's possible to establish the sites accessed, however information is not available about the pages visited by visitors from different continents. It has been established that visitors to the web site are predominantly English speaking and that genealogy is of interest to many.

Street Party

The Manager Democracy and Community Services reported on the outcome of the Street Party debrief. While the event was successful from Council's perspective, the Police and Chubb Security both reported an increase in disorder and alcohol related incidents. The Police oppose the lifting of the liquor ban for future street parties.

Those groups present at the debrief agreed to be part of a working party to review the event. The working party will include Councillors, staff, representatives from ACADS and the Safer Community Council. Ashburton District Tourism's recently appointed Event Co-ordinator will also be invited.

“That a working party of Councillors Holmes, Tasker and Sparks and interested persons be invited to:

1. Review the current format and management of the annual Street Party.
2. Consider whether the Street Party should continue.
3. Consider options for the format and management of future New Year’s Eve functions.

and report back to this Committee on 15 May 2008.”

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

Community Services Activity Reports

Inquiry into 2007 Local Authority Elections

Councillors requested that they be given a copy of the submission which was forwarded to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee in February.

Cycling and Walking Strategy

The Committee heard that a stakeholder workshop was held on 26 March, and a further meeting is proposed to finalise the strategy before it is released for public consultation in April.

Social Wellbeing Forum

The Mayor reported that a successful meeting took place yesterday, attended by Ministers Ruth Dyson and Tim Barnett, senior government managers in health, education, justice and social development sectors; Iwi, and representatives from non government organisations. The Forum agreed to draft terms of reference with the aim of identifying ongoing strategic support for social wellbeing in the Ashburton district and maximising the coordination of services that are already available.

Parks & Reserves

The Mayor referred to the continual issue of trail bikes damaging Council reserves. The Committee was reminded that this is a prohibited activity with consequences for offenders.

The Committee acknowledged the achievements of those Parks Staff who have recently attained National Certificates – Rhonda Gallagher (Sports Turf Level 3 and Horticulture Level 4), Glenn Milne (Sports Turf Level 3) and Jo Wickett (Horticulture Level 4).

Creative Community Assessment Committee

“That the Creative Communities Assessment Committee be confirmed as follows:

His Worship the Mayor (ex officio), Councillors R Beavan (Chair) and J Sparks; Messrs J Ross, V Barrett, D Favel and Mesdames J Wright, K Meehan and J Wilkinson.”

Kilworth/Everest

Carried

Methven Community Board

• Dirt Bike Track

“That the Methven Community Board seeks information from Council staff on the correct boundaries, access-ways and approval of earthworks of land for the future development of a dirt bike track.”

Lowe/Mayor

Carried

Staff from Council’s Property, Operations and Planning divisions will provide information and advice to the Board.

- **Proposed Swimming Pool**

The Committee received the Board's request for land to be set aside for the future development of a pool complex. The Manager Democracy & Community Services acknowledged that some planning is in progress, however because Council hasn't yet had the opportunity to consider the concept of a new pool complex in Methven, he suggested that it would be more appropriate to include the proposal in the Methven Strategic Plan which is to be reviewed next year. The Committee agreed to this course of action.

Ashburton Contracting Limited – Draft Statement of Intent from 1 July 2008

“That Council receives the 2008 / 09 draft Statement of Intent for Ashburton Contracting Limited.”

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

Audit and Budget Subcommittee – Terms of Reference

“That the terms of reference for the Audit and Budget Subcommittee included in this report be adopted.”

Brown/Beavan

Carried

The Property Manager attended the meeting.

Proposed Road Stopping – Unformed Road off Mayfield Valetta Road

The Property Manager recommended that road stopping procedures be commenced for the unformed road off Mayfield Valetta Road so that the land. The request to stop the road has been received from the adjoining land owner. Environment Canterbury has given an undertaking that access along the proposed stop bank where this is aligned on the portion of road is to be retained. If any development occurs, the setbacks would apply from the road.

Mr Rooney advised that the road proposed to be retained follows the line of the proposed stop bank to give legal access to the reserve, being Lot 5. He confirmed that the land cannot be offered for sale until all stopping procedures are completed but an agreement is in place with the immediately adjoining land owners to effect sales, if the stopping proceeds.

Cr Reveley suggested that the consent process for the stop banks be completed before Council undertakes the road stopping process on the basis that any objections to the road closure could delay the stop bank process. Cr Tasker supported this.

Mr Rooney said that the stop bank consent would not impact on the road stopping. The only issue is that if the stop bank goes ahead, it will be trafficable over what remains as a portion of road. He further advised that by undertaking the road stopping process Council would be required to sell the land, providing the Environment Court has agreed.

The Committee heard that in the event that the alignment of the stop bank differs from that shown then Council would probably have to look at a different configuration of road closures because it will still require access into the reserve area.

“That the matter lie on the table until the consent process for the stop bank is completed.”

Brown/Everest

Carried

Finance Activity Reports

Financials

The Finance Manager presented the financial report for the period ending 29 February.

- Clarification was sought on whether distortions in the commercial property area would affect the year end budget. Mr Brake explained that the NE Ashburton loans won't be taken up this year because expenditure won't have been incurred. This will distort the annual profit / loss and a comment will be included in the Annual Report to explain this.
- Analysis on freehold land will be shown on the graph in the next report to the Committee.
- The Finance Manager agreed to provide Councillors with a detailed update on the five advances – Aquatic Park, Rakaia Gorge Society, Wastebusters, Methven Squash and Hinds Squash.
- Clarification was sought on how GST is applied to Council grants. The Finance Manager advised that where Council has an agreement for service (eg Community Pool), then GST is paid on top of the grant; if a grant is not for service, GST is not included. Clubs that are registered for GST should include this information on their grant application – ie the amount applied to be shown as a true cost but without GST.

Annual Report

The revaluation of water, wastewater, stormwater, roading and footpaths, being undertaken by Maunsell Ltd, won't be completed by 12 April, and the annual report cannot be progressed. The Finance Manager advised that this has been allowed for in the draft annual plan and, once the revaluation has been completed, revised figures will be included in the final Plan.

Reserve Lands

The Property Manager reported on the reserve land exchanges taking place. He advised that there are currently six properties negotiating swaps where land in reserve becomes freehold and freehold becomes reserve in accordance with Council's Policy.

Hinds Fire Shed

A meeting has been held with fire unit personnel and feedback has been received on the Hinds plan. Quotes for materials have been received for the Mayfield unit where plans may need to be reviewed to meet the needs of a second appliance.

Business transacted with the public excluded (2.54 pm)

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item no	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
8.	Confirmation of Minutes – 12/02/08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Matters • Methven Heritage Project 	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(i)	Commercial activities Conduct of negotiations
8.1	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.2	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.3	Property activity reports	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.4	Tinwald Reserve Development	Section 7(2)(i)	Conduct of negotiations

Brown/Kingsbury

Carried

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.54 pm and resumed at 3.15 pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

Leases on Recreation Reserves

- “1. That the status quo remains for all reserve boards; and
2. That further investigation be carried out for the Ashburton Domain lessees at the time of rental review.”

Holmes/Sparks

Carried

Tinwald Reserve Development Plan

- “1. That Council endorses the Tinwald Reserve Board suggestion that it imposes a moratorium on further building and development on the reserve, and that the Tinwald Reserve Development Plan not be finalised until more detailed planning processes have been undertaken.
2. That Council works with the Tinwald Reserve Board to undertake further planning processes associated with the Tinwald Reserve Development Plan as considered appropriate by Council and the Board.
3. That these processes be completed by June 2009.”

Kilworth/Mayor

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.58 pm.