

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 31 July 2008, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors K L Holmes (Chair), N A Brown, R C Beavan, J A Everest, R J Kilworth, J A Kingsbury 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, Community Planning Manager and Committee Secretary.

APOLOGIES: Mayor M B O'Malley (lateness); Crs K W P Lowe, J A Kingsbury **Sustained**

Extraordinary Business

"That pursuant to Section 7(2)(A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business and considered as item 7.6:

- Replacement fire appliance for Lauriston Rural Fire Party

Reason: To meet the NRFA grant assistance deadline of 31 July 2008.

Everest/Kilworth

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes

Transpower Funding

It was noted that the Transpower Community Care Fund is for one-off community projects with the value of between \$5,000 and \$100,000. Cr Beavan reported that the outcome of the application is still awaited.

"That the minutes of the Finance and Community Services Committee meeting held on 19 June 2008, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed."

Beavan/Brown

Carried

Matters Arising

Mail Management

The Corporate Services Manager acknowledged the Committee's concern that there are still a number of outstanding responses. He agreed to further investigate the reason why the delays are occurring.

Forestry

A report on the review of Council's forestry policy will be referred to Council on 7 August.

Rangitata Camping Ground

The Finance Manager reported that some of the issues raised in the annual plan submission process have been addressed urgently and the process has commenced for a review of Council's overall camping ground strategy.

Corporate Services Activity Reports

Web Site

The Corporate Services Manager explained that the web site currently allows application forms to be downloaded but is unable to complete the process on line. Problems identified included the need for signatures on some forms and solutions are being explored.

The Committee also noted the significant number of downloads of the Ashburton Community Water Trust document and asked whether further detail could be extracted to show the reasons for this interest. It was considered that this type of information could assist with Council decision and policy making. Mr Allen said that more detail can be provided and agreed to investigate the suggestions of online survey and opinion poll features.

“That the Corporate Services activity reports be received.”

Brown/Kilworth

Carried

The Customer Services Manager and Administration & Records Manager attended the meeting.

Dog Registration

It was reported that 86% of the known dogs in the district have been registered to date.

Rates Rebates

The Customer Services Manager reported that ratepayers who qualified for a rebate last year will receive information with their next rates instalment providing an opportunity for a further application this year. Mr van Noord explained that applicants will be given appointments to meet with staff who will be able to confirm verbally whether or not the application is successful. He said that it is not Council’s practice to send letters of confirmation.

Cr Beavan referred to the Healthy Homes project and said that applicants to that scheme are required to provide written verification that they qualify for a rates rebate.

The Customer Services Manager agreed to put in place a process that will ensure applicants’ requirements are met.

Parking Meters

It was reported that the replacement parking meters, purchased from Tauranga District Council, have been received and are waiting to be installed.

Ashburton CBD Issues

The Manager Democracy and Community Services said that the purpose of the report is to ensure that a structure is put in place to manage issues as they arise in the future. The proposal is to have a small group with the authority and resources to act; this group to comprise the Mayor or his nominee, Council’s Chief Executive or his nominee, Senior Sergeant in charge of Ashburton Police and representatives of the CBD licensees and CBD business groups. It was noted that parties outside the Council have not been consulted at this point.

Cr Leadley referred to the recently reviewed Police Act which identified the need for community action. He said that the strategy proposed is consistent with the Safer Community Council’s approach and it reinforces the community involvement sought by the Police.

The Committee heard that there are conflicting views between the Police and Council’s opinions on the legality of the glass ban in the CBD. It was noted that this uncertainty doesn’t exist with the liquor ban which is being enforced by Police.

It was also agreed that any environmental design considerations will need to be conveyed through the District Plan review process and Town Centre Subcommittee, and some continuity of membership within these areas will be required.

- “1. That Council officers carry out investigation of actions agreed to at the community meeting and develop options of possible responses.
2. That Council reconvenes the group that attended the community meeting to present Council responses and to consider responses from other organisations.
3. That the reconvened meeting be the foundation of a strategy to manage the problems that occur in the CBD.”

Holmes/Kilworth

Carried

Democracy & Community Services Activity Reports

“That the Democracy & Community Services activity reports be received.”

Sparks/Beavan

Carried

Economic Development Strategy

It was reported that the presentation from the Enterprise Ashburton Manager has been deferred until 21 August.

Cycling and Walking Strategy

The recently adopted Strategy will be progressed through the Roding and Community Planning areas of Council, and will also be included for consideration in the District Plan review process.

Physical Activity Strategy

The Democracy and Community Services Manager reported that SPARC’s funding criteria has been changed and it is now unlikely that Council’s application for funding a physical activity promoter will qualify. SPARC advises that a total of \$1.3m funding is available to be distributed throughout the country for ‘project’ applications.

Social Wellbeing Forum

The Community Planning Manager provided the Committee with an overview of the Strategy that is being developed by a working group. The draft strategy has identified key issues and a number of priorities for this district, including housing, assisting newcomers and ensuring good access to health and social services. While the priorities are unlikely to change, the particular actions are still to be determined. Mr Thomas said that an issue for the working group has been the difficulty to find good data that shows what is happening at a district level and anecdotal evidence is being used to some extent. He confirmed that Council’s role will continue to be that of advocator and to provide some funding. As individual project teams are formed around the workstreams for each of the priorities, the most appropriate lead agency will be involved.

The Committee heard that the Forums have been well attended with every organisation invited in attendance and representatives showing a high level of commitment.

The Mayor attended the meeting at 2.46 pm.

Tinwald Reserve

The Committee acknowledged the considerable amount of work undertaken in the Tinwald Domain by the Parks staff which has included clearing vegetation around the pond, tree pruning and new plantings.

The Democracy & Community Services Manager left the meeting at 2.49 pm.

Carry-Over of Funds from 2007 /2008 Budget

“That the projects identified be completed in the 2008 / 09 financial year, and that the funds identified be carried forward.”

Kilworth/Everest

Carried

Harts Road, Pudding Hill – Road Stopping

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

“That Council declares the land shown on Sections 1 and 2, plan SO 302703, to be stopped road, and that it be sold to the adjoining landowner and amalgamated into their existing title.”

Brown/Beavan

Carried

Finance Activity Reports

“That the Finance activity reports be received.”

Brown/Kilworth

Carried

Financial Reports

The Finance Manager presented the preliminary June 2008 report and advised that a completed report will be provided when remaining year end procedures are finalised.

The Committee referred to the debtor schedule and the Finance Manager reported that actions are being taken to recover outstanding debts.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.22 pm and resumed at resumed at 3.37 pm.

Extraordinary Business

Replacement Fire Appliance for Lauriston Rural Fire Party

The Finance Manager agreed to follow up the Committee’s request that the option of a lease agreement be discussed with the property owner.

- “1. That Council endorses option one, to take advantage of the NRFA 2:1 subsidy offer and acquire a vehicle valued at \$140,000 for a cost to the Council of up to \$47,000.
2. That Council endorses option A, and makes the necessary alterations to the existing shed to accommodate the new vehicle, to a maximum of up to \$5,000.
3. That Council enters into a formal arrangement for the use of the shed with the owner.”

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded (3.57 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:	
8.1	Confirmation of Minutes – 19/06/08 [now in open meeting] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashburton Family History Group rental• Sale of disused pit – Coldstream Rd		
8.2	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Beavan/Sparks

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

Proposed Mayfield Fire Shed – 1971 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Rd

“That the Committee approves acceptance of the expenditure of \$84,580.13 plus GST, and the quote from Ingold Building Limited for \$76,891.03 plus GST, to carry out the erection of new fire shed at Mayfield.”

Brown/Everest

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.00 pm.