

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 6 August 2009, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley; Councillors K L Holmes (Chair), N A Brown, R J Kilworth, R C Beavan, J A Kingsbury, K W P Lowe, and J A Sparks.

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

One member of the public.

APOLOGY: Cr J A Everest **Sustained**

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Finance and Community Services Committee meeting held on 18 June 2009, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Brown/Kilworth **Carried**

Cr Reveley attended the meeting at 1.33 pm.

Corporate Services Activity Reports

The Records & Administration Manager and Customer Services Manager were in attendance.

“That the Corporate Services activity reports be received.”

Sparks/Kingsbury **Carried**

Key performance indicators

The Corporate Services Manager advised that unresolved requests made of the IT help desk are referred to him and relate mainly to issues that require liaison with outside suppliers. It was noted that the help desk has averaged response times of almost 100% in the system, network and website availability areas in the past year.

Insurance

It was reported that the personal accident policy for civil defence volunteers has been extended to include events such as the staffing of displays at shows, driver reviver stations and reserve board / community group ‘working bees’. Clarification was sought on whether the reference to Community Watch has been included in error. It was noted that the Town Centre Ambassadors, who undertake community watch duties, are employed through Safer Community Council.

The Committee noted that motor insurance has almost doubled as a result of a number of claims made when vehicles sustained severe hailstorm damage in November 2008.

Mail Management

The Corporate Services Manager advised that a more detailed report will be developed for the Committee on the outstanding mail items. The report will also be referred to Senior Managers to review each week.

The Corporate Services Manager, Customer Services Manager and Administration Manager left the meeting.

Canterbury Economic Development Co Ltd – Statement of Intent 2010

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

“That Council receives the Canterbury Economic Development Company Limited Statement of Intent 2010”.

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

Annual National Research Bureau Residents Survey

“That the report be received.”

Brown/Beavan

Carried

Cemetery Fees & Charges – 2009-10

“That Section 3, Physical Works, of \$235, be reinstated in the Ashburton District Council schedule of fees and charges for 2009-2010.”

Kingsbury/Lowe

Carried

Democracy & Community Services Activity Reports

“That the Corporate Services activity reports be received.”

Beavan/Sparks

Carried

Community Outcomes Monitoring Framework and Report

The report has been completed and is currently being printed.

New Comers Report

The report which was commissioned by the MSD and DIA will be officially launched at the Hakatere Marae in mid September. Cr Leadley will officiate on Council’s behalf.

Ashburton River Walkway

It was reported that two River Walkway Management Committee meetings have been held since the public meeting in May and good progress has been made clearing the area of the walkway between the SH1 bridge and Trevors Road. Ashburton Mountain Bike Club members have assisted with approximately 600 voluntary hours given to this work.

Youth Council

Cr Beavan referred to the concept of a youth café / bar for 13-17 year olds which was presented to the Youth Council meeting on 21 July. The proposal is being developed by two local people who have made a request to speak to Council about this at the public forum on 13 August.

Methven Firefighters Support Group Inc – Transfer of Gywn V8 Trailer Pump

Correspondence has been received from members of the Methven Firefighters Support Group who are undertaking to acquire some of the former Methven fire fighting equipment to display in a purpose built tanker shed next to the Methven Fire Station.

“That Council transfers ownership of the Gywn V8 trailer pump to the Methven Firefighters Support Group Inc at no charge.”

Lowe/Brown

Carried

Carry-over of Funds from 2008-2009 Budget

The Finance Manager reported that a number of projects budgeted for in the 2008-09 year have not been started or completed and approval is sought to carry over the funding into the 2009-10 financial year. Additional carry-overs from the Operations department will be reported through that Committee.

It was noted that the formatting and printing of the recently adopted LTCCP is still to be invoiced and that funding will be carried over. Cr Leadley recalled the submission made by the Ashburton Business Association on behalf of the local printing businesses who want to be given the opportunity to carry out this work in the future. The Mayor agreed that Council should support local businesses where possible and that the businesses too should be proactive in making Council aware of their services.

“That the projects identified be completed in the 2009-10 financial year, and that the funds identified be carried forward.”

Kilworth/Sparks

Carried

Finance Activity Reports

“That the Finance activity reports be received.”

Brown/Kingsbury

Carried

Financials

Financial reports were tabled for the period ended 30 June 2009. The Finance Manager explained that the June variance report is preliminary only and a second report will be circulated when a number of end of year procedures are completed.

- Solid waste management collection (unfavourable) contributions, yet to be received, are the cost equalisation contributions. It is anticipated that Council will receive \$250K which is more than budgeted and will remove the variance. Budgeted income will be achieved.
- Expenditure – a number of overheads in external activities (operational) yet to be transferred to internal.
- Stockwater – the Finance Manager will check whether invoices have been received and whether the work has been completed or treated as operating expenditure.
- Forestry – reference was made to the low yield from the forestry block at Fairton. Cr Lowe expressed concern that Council will be forced to replant because of carbon liability.

Forestry subcommittee minutes of 3 July to go to Council.

- Work has been completed to ensure all revenue has been accounted for in the dividend, forestry and freehold land accounts. It was noted that the 100K expenditure item in the dividend account relates to the Lyndhurst water grant.
- Council debt level is conservative – approximately 3% of Council’s total assets are funded by debt.
- Annual report – on target.

New Year’s Eve Family Festival – Event Proposal

Safer Community Council Manager, Kevin Clifford, was welcomed to the meeting at 2.26pm.

Mr Clifford reported that the Safer Community Council has appointed an event organiser to develop a detailed event proposal, pending confirmation of the \$15,000 Council funding.

The SCC proposes to hold the family festival in the Domain from 5.30 pm on 31 December until 12.30 am on 1 January. Council’s assistance with varying the consent to allow the extended hours of use on the Domain is also sought.

The two site options being considered are the Domain oval and the Walnut Avenue / West Street area. While SCC's preference is for the Walnut Avenue site, because of its open and visible space and the proximity of the children's playground and conveniences, the event organiser's advice will be sought before a final decision is made. It is also intended to employ security services and possibly the CBD Ambassadors for the event

Mr Clifford acknowledged that noise is likely to be an issue and the intention would be to make contact with all surrounding neighbours. Some preliminary discussions on the proposed fire works display have been held with Council's Emergency Services Manager and discussions have also been held with the Police who support the event being held in the Domain.

The Manager Democracy & Community Services spoke about the resource consent restrictions that apply on the Domain which requires the Concert in the Park to conclude around 8.00 pm. Mr Rollinson said there may be difficulty in getting a consent to go later.

In conclusion Mr Clifford said that SCC needs to determine whether to withdraw from the event or move forward and asked that Council's decision be given as soon as possible.

The presentation concluded at 2.40 pm and the matter will be further addressed by Council on 13 August.

Council Agency Reports

Reports for the six months ending 30 June 2009, were presented by the following Council agencies –

Ashburton Museum – A Totty and M Hanrahan

Ashburton Trust Event Centre – R Farr

Sport Mid Canterbury – J Cochrane

The report of the Art Gallery was also received.

The Mayor left the meeting at 3.12 pm.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.30pm and resumed at 3.48 pm.

Cr Sparks left the meeting at 3.30pm.

Quotable Value

The property value report for the June period was circulated.

Forestry

At the Forestry Subcommittee meeting on 3 July, consideration was given to the possible sale of freehold forestry land that has been recently harvested. Cr Lowe expressed concern about replanting on low yield land and said that Council needs to review its planting programmes and use of forestry land, in anticipation of being able to trade carbon credits.

The Property Manager suggested that there may be possibility to trade some of Council's land, and Council could give consideration to swapping land in this district for land in other districts.

Minutes of the Forestry Subcommittee meeting will be included with this report to Council on 13 August.

Cr Sparks returned to the meeting at 3.54 pm.

Resource Centre

Cr Beavan reported that the Resource Centre Trust has received a Lotteries grant which will enable some upgrading of the interior of their building. Work will commence next week.

Business transacted with the public excluded (3.58 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 – 30/06/09 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forestry• Property matters [Now in open meeting] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methven Heritage Association NZ Grain & Snow Centre	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities Commercial activities Commercial activities
8.2	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.3	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.4	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.5	Property & Investment Subcommittee	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.6	Police Report	Section 7(2)(f)	Maintain effective conduct of public affairs

Sparks/Lowe

Carried

The meeting concluded at 5.12 pm.