

## FINANCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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**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 29 October 2009, commencing at 1.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley; Councillors K L Holmes (Chair), R J Kilworth, R C Beavan, J A Everest, 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; Chief Executive, Finance Manager, Manager Democracy & Community Services, Community Planning Manager, Policy Analyst and Committee Secretary.

**APOLOGY:** Cr N A Brown **Sustained**

### ***Confirmation of Minutes***

It was noted that the Rakaia Volunteer Fire Brigade resolution was seconded by Cr Brown.

“That the minutes of the Finance and Community Services Committee meeting held on 17 September 2009, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Kilworth/Sparks **Carried**

### ***Corporate Services Activity Reports***

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

“That the Corporate Services activity reports be received.”

Beavan/Lowe **Carried**

### **Phone Communication**

The Corporate Services Manager reported that phone car kits have been installed into some of Council's vehicles and a solar powered option will be used for managers' vehicles which are used less frequently. The Building Services vehicles won't have phone car kits and those staff will be required to turn off their phones while driving.

### **LIM reports**

The Mayor noted that the average completion time for LIM reports has reduced from 8.4 days in 2008 to 4.9 days and acknowledged the work being done to achieve this.

### **Rates Rebates**

The Customer Services Manager reported that the number of rebate applications granted has reduced in the past 12 months. It was noted that the \$28,000 married couple superannuation is considerably higher than the \$21,000 rebate threshold. The Mayor suggested that this issue be addressed with central government.

### **Parking Group meeting**

It was reported that the CBD Parking Group will reconvene on Wednesday 11 November. Councillors Leadley, Kilworth and Sparks will be attending.

### ***Ashburton Museum – Taskforce Green Programme***

The Committee heard that the Museum Curator has advised that additional funding will also be available through WINZ and that Council's contribution may be less than initially requested.

“That Council provides funding up to \$1,625 to the Museum to pay for its share of a Taskforce Green programme.”

Beavan/Sparks **Carried**

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The Property Manager attended at 1.46 pm.

### **Smoke-Free Parks Policy**

The Community Planning Manager reported that further consideration has been given to the proposal for a policy. Mr Thomas explained that only four sites will be focused on, noting that a number of parks are in remote areas where a policy would be difficult to enforce and that the day to day management of some of the reserves and Domain Boards is not Council's responsibility.

The Committee heard that Smokefree Mid Canterbury has indicated there is likely to be DHB and/or PHO Board funding available to assist with the cost of installing signage, however there is no guarantee of the level of funding or its availability in the next financial year. Mr Thomas suggested that the smokefree park signage be upgraded only when there is a general upgrade of signage in these particular areas.

- "1. That the Committee agrees to the development of an educative based smokefree playgrounds and sportsfields policy; the sportsfields that would come under the policy are to be:
  - Ashburton Domain
  - Argyle Park
  - Robilliard Park
  - Digby Park
2. That a draft policy be presented to the Finance and Community Services meeting on 10 December."

Kilworth/Sparks

**Carried**

### **2009 Methven Community Strategic Plan**

The Chairman of the Methven Community Board, Mr Martin Nordqvist, was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Nordqvist acknowledged the work of Councillors, staff and the Consultant who worked successfully with the Methven community on the new Strategic Plan.

- "1. That the Methven Community Strategic Plan be adopted.
2. That the Committee recommends Council adopt the Methven Community Strategic Plan at their next meeting."

Lowe/Kingsbury

**Carried**

### **Rakaia Sports Complex**

"That the Committee receives this report"

Kilworth/Everest

**Carried**

### **Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club**

"That the following road be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic from 9.00 am to 6.30 pm on Saturday 14 November 2009, for the purpose of allowing the Ashburton Car Club and ATV Club to hold a Gravel Sprint

RUTHERFORDS ROAD, from Lambies Road to Boyds Road."

Sparks/Kingsbury

**Carried**

### **Request for Funding – Social Services Discretionary Fund**

"That Council grants Presbyterian Support the amount of \$400 from the Social Services Discretionary Fund for the purpose of connecting the water supply to 10 Cambridge St, Ashburton."

Beavan/Sparks

**Carried**

## **Democracy & Community Services Activity Reports**

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

Sparks/Everest

**Carried**

### **Social Services**

Cr Beavan reported on his attendance at a Social Services Hui on 6 October, where he took the opportunity to speak about Council’s Social Services Strategy. The Strategy was well received and there have been requests from a number of councils for copies.

### **State of Community Report**

The Policy Analyst presented the findings of this report in a powerpoint presentation. The next review will be in two years and information from that will contribute to Council’s next LTCCP.

### **Council Logo**

The Community Planning Manager reported that an updated logo has been developed with the intention that it be used on all Council documents along with a style guide to ensure consistency across the organisation.

The Committee did not fully support the new version on the basis that it was similar to the nationally recognised Civil Defence logo.

### **Parks and Reserves – heritage trees**

Cr Leadley referred to the District Plan process for identifying heritage trees and made the suggestion that the review process include consideration of giving heritage status to trees planted in school grounds which have significance or a particular status (such as centennial plantings).

### **Youth Council**

Councillors have been invited to meet informally with the Youth Council members at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 3 November, 2009.

## **Creative Communities Funding**

The Committee received the report and minutes of the Creative Communities Funding Assessment Committee meeting, held on 21 October 2009.

## **Heritage Funding**

The Committee received the report and minutes of the Heritage Assessment Subcommittee meeting of 21 October, 2009.

1. That the application for \$925 from Council’s Heritage Reserve Fund by Ross Cottage, Flynns Rd, Staveley be declined, as it does not meet the criteria of the Heritage Grant Policy.
2. That the application for \$3,157 from Council’s Heritage Reserve Fund by St Marks Church, Rakaia be declined as it does not meet the criteria of the Heritage Grant Policy.
3. That an application for \$1,072 from Council’s Heritage Reserve Fund by Ruapuna All Saints Church for plastering restoration work be granted.
4. That an application for \$4,258 from Council’s Heritage Reserve Fund by the Holy Name Church, for restoration of lead light windows within the Church, be granted.
5. That an application for \$5,000 from Council’s Heritage Reserve Fund by Menorlue, Walnut Avenue, for restoration work, be granted.

6. That an application for \$5,000 from Council's Heritage Reserve Fund by Mill House for repairs and maintenance of windows, cladding etc, be granted.
7. That a grant of \$5,000 from Council's Heritage Reserve Fund by St Johns Church, Windermere, to enable scaffolding of the bell tower end of the church, repair of the bell tower and roof, be granted. All work to be done in situ.
8. That the balance of the Heritage Grant fund stands at \$33,551 as a result of these decisions."

Sparks/Beavan

**Carried**

### ***Treasury Policy Compliance Update***

The Finance Manager reported that Council's investment and debt situation is currently at variance with Council's Treasury Policy. The Committee supported the recommendation to retain the non complying airport bond investment holding. The Finance Manager was requested to provide a further report to Council on future borrowing options. Mr Brake confirmed that if Council is to continue with its current approach, a variation to the Treasury Policy would be required.

"That Council confirms the continued holding of the \$700,000 Auckland International Airport bond while the Standard and Poor's rating remains at a minimum of A- or better."

Kilworth/Everest

**Carried**

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.05 pm and resumed at 3.23 pm.

### ***Purchase of Aquatic Park Charitable Trust Land***

1. That Council purchase lots 4 and 11 (1 *Lots 4 and 11 DP 420080* ) at a total cost of \$525,000 plus GST to be transacted on the receipt of a Council approved operating budget for the Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust for the period to 30 June 2010.
2. That the purchase agreement be subject to the Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust immediately repaying the difference between the purchase price and their agreed funding needs for the period to 30 June 2010 to be applied against their advance balance from the Ashburton District Council."

Kilworth/Kingsbury

**Carried**

### ***Refund of Development Contributions***

"That Council refund \$4,260 plus GST on each of the five development contributions paid in Hinds since 1 June 2006."

Everest/Lowe

**Carried**

### ***Finance Activity Reports***

The variance reports for the period ending 30 June 2009 and 30 September 2009, were received.

The Mayor referred to the ACL and RDR shares and asked that they be revalued. The Chief Executive advised that the RDR Board, at its last meeting, decided not to pursue revaluation.

"That the Finance activity reports be received."

Sparks/Kilworth

**Carried**

### **Forestry**

The District Forester attended the meeting. In his report to the Committee Mr O'Neill discussed the outcome of the select committee review of climate change and emissions trading legislation.

The Mayor left the meeting at 3.43 pm.

There was some discussion on the reserve land that Council holds without clear title. This land is not recognised by MAF (who administers ETS forestry), and there is a risk that Council would miss out on significant credits. The District Forester is pursuing this concern which is shared by other territorial authorities.

The Mayor returned to the meeting at 3.47 pm.

The Committee agreed that Council's concerns should be addressed through the submission process currently underway for the pre 1990 forests allocation plan.

### **Fire Sheds**

The Property Manager reported that work on the Hinds fire shed is being completed today. Remedial work on the driveway and surrounds has been undertaken at the Mayfield fire shed and the revised Pendarves plans have been signed off by the local rural fire committee and Domain Board.

### **Scales Rd Reserve**

It was reported that Forest & Bird have indicated that an official opening of the scientific reserve will take place with an invitation to Council. The Property Manager reported that reserve status is confirmed and titles have been issued which will allow the amalgamation of the two residual blocks to proceed.

The Chief Executive suggested that a report on the naming of the reserve be provided to the Environmental Services Committee on 3 December, at which time a site visit could be arranged for Councillors.

### **Swimming Pool Rating**

The Community Planning Manager referred to discussion during Council's review of the Revenue & Funding policy where the subject of establishing a separate rate for swimming pools on rural reserves was considered. Mr Thomas sought the Committee's direction on whether this should be progressed through the next annual plan.

The Committee agreed not to progress at this time.

### **Dobson St**

The Property Manager reported that signatures from one affected party are awaited in relation to the relinquishment of an easement to drain sewage over a portion of freehold land which will become a road.

### **Rangitata Camping Ground**

Tenders to be called before Christmas, however drawings with the draftsman are not yet completed. Mr Rooney said that work will not be able to be completed for the Christmas / New year period when facilities will be in most demand.

### **Administration Building**

The Property Manager advised that the alternative tender received for the temporary staff tearoom has been withdrawn. A report will be provided to Council next week with a recommended tender for acceptance.

The Committee adjourned at 4.11 pm and resumed at 4.25 pm.

**Business transacted with the public excluded (4.25 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 – 17/09/09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashburton Railway Station mediation</li> <li>• Aquatic Park Charitable Trust</li> <li>• Property &amp; Investment Subcommittee</li> <li>• Police report</li> <li>• Aquatic / Stadium complex</li> <li>• BCI Ltd</li> </ul>	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(f) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities Commercial activities Commercial activities Maintain effective conduct public affairs Commercial activities Commercial activities
8.2	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.3	Lake Hood Administration	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.4	Former County Building Update	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Sparks/Lowe

**Carried**

The Community Planning Manager left the meeting at 4.25 pm.

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm.