

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 10 December 2009, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors K L Holmes (Chair), N A Brown, R J Kilworth, J A Everest, J A Kingsbury and J A Sparks.

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

Rakaia Community Association Chairman, N Pluck.

APOLOGIES: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley (absent on Council business) **Sustained**
Crs R Beavan and K Lowe.

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Finance and Community Services Committee meeting held on 29 October 2009, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Kilworth/Kingsbury **Carried**

Matters Arising

CBD Parking Group

Cr Leadley reported that the Parking Group meeting did not take place on 11 November as proposed but will reconvene in the new year.

Cr Sparks attended the meeting at 1.32 pm.

Heritage Trees

Cr Sparks reported that Borough School has indicated they would support Council's proposal to prepare an inventory of heritage trees which have been planted in school grounds throughout the district. The Borough School will research the history of their trees and refer this information back to Council for inclusion in the District Plan review.

Purchase of Aquatic Park Charitable Trust Land

The Manager Democracy & Community Services reported that the operating budget sought by Council as a condition of purchase is being negotiated with the Trust.

Scales Road Reserve

The official opening of the scientific reserve has been deferred until February 2010.

Corporate Services Activity Reports

The Records & Administration Manager was in attendance.

“That the Corporate Services activity reports be received.”

Sparks/Brown **Carried**

IT Server Room

The Corporate Services Manager explained that the failure of two of the four air conditioning units in the server room resulted in a temporary decrease of system and network availability. A number of computers were shut down to reduce heat production while repairs were made.

Mail

The Records and Administration Manager reported that work is continuing on the standardisation of address data in Council records to meet NZ Post standards. To date the accuracy level has reached 78%, achieving a discount of \$1,361 for the October rates postal run. The aim is to achieve an 85% accuracy level.

Minor Applications

The Red Puppy Appeal application to hold a street appeal from 26-28 March 2010 has been approved for 27-28 March. It was reported that the Age Concern Lavender Day Appeal, previously booked for 26 March, will take precedence that day.

The Property Manager attended the meeting at 1.45 pm.

2009 Rakaia Community Strategic Plan

Mr Neil Pluck, Chairman of the Rakaia Community Association was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Pluck thanked Council for the assistance that the Association has received from Councillors and staff and said the community is very positive about the Plan it has developed for the next 10 years. The Committee also acknowledged the contribution of the Rakaia Community Association members and congratulated them on what has been achieved as a group and within the community.

Cr Kingsbury took the opportunity to report that John Stubbs memorial plaque has now been placed on the memorial wall at the Rakaia cemetery.

- “1. That the Rakaia Community Strategic Plan be received; and
2. That Council adopts the Rakaia Community Strategic Plan.”

Brown/Everest

Carried

Democracy & Community Services Activity Reports

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

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

SPARC

It was reported that Council’s application for SPARC funding has been turned down on the basis that funding has already been allocated to similar projects in the Canterbury / West Coast region. Cr Tasker expressed concern that Council has been unable to attract funding, despite meeting SPARC’s requirement to put in place a physical activity strategy.

The Manager Democracy & Community Services confirmed that the Sport and Recreation NZ administered fund required Council to establish a physical activity strategy. At that time, Council made a case to retain the previous funding scheme. Mr Rollinson agreed to pursue the matter with MP Jo Goodhew.

Cycleway Project

The Working Group established to progress the cycleway project includes Councillors Holmes, Everest, Kingsbury and Sparks. The Manager of Ashburton District Tourism is coordinating a funding application from the National Cycleway funding process and will attend the meeting today to provide an update.

Gambling Venue Policy Review

The Community Planning Manager has requested feedback from key stakeholder organisations to update the social impact report on gambling for the district. Mr Thomas confirmed that the submitter response will be considered by the reconvened Councillor Gambling Venue Policy Working Group before being referred to the Environmental Services Committee in March 2010.

Proposed 2010 Meeting Schedule

The Manager Democracy & Community Services advised that he has been in discussion with the Ashburton College Principal who has agreed to the proposal that the 20 May Council meeting be held at the College Auditorium. It was further agreed that Youth Council members will be invited to be part of this meeting process.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

"That Council adopts the 2010 Meeting Schedule for Standing Committee, Council and Methven Community Board meetings."

Brown/Sparks

Carried

Art Gallery & Heritage Centre Project

The Manager Democracy & Community Services updated the Committee on negotiations with the Ashburton Licensing Trust to sell the former County building. Mr Rollinson explained that the Trust asked that the reference in the covenant to the building being used as a hotel restaurant or bar, which had been included to provide comfort to the Trust, be removed because they considered it may restrict them from other options such as office accommodation. He said that Council is required to give consent in respect of the building, ie alterations or modifications to the exterior of the building, or any extensions but not its use. Council has agreed that the building owner may use the property for any purpose subject only to compliance with statutory requirements.

Library

The Manager Democracy & Community Services was asked to follow up on how library events are advertised. It was noted that the Martin Crump event held on 18 October attracted 20 people, but may not have been extensively advertised.

Mr Rollinson also agreed to follow up the suggestion that Councillors could be part of the "surprise speaker" activities at the Children's Library.

Reserves

It was reported that the dog exercise area on the north side of the Ashburton River has now been fenced.

Cycleway Project

General Manager of Ashburton District Tourism, Nigel Birt, was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr Birt gave a Powerpoint presentation on the district concept proposal which will form part of the proposed national network. Central government funding will be provided in a joint venture arrangement with local communities, although the local contribution is yet to be determined. Tourism NZ is to promote the concept. Support in principle and landowner buy-in is sought at this stage.

Mr Birt reported that the concept proposal will be submitted by 18 December and the success of the application should be known by 1 February 2010.

The Committee discussed funding issues. Cr Sparks cited an example of an annual Christchurch cycling event which charges an entry fee and uses this fund towards cycle track maintenance.

Cr Leadley referred to the recent opening of the Ashburton River Walkway which has subsequently received Charitable Trust funding of \$30,000.

It was reported that consultation has commenced with landowners whose properties will be affected by the trail. A series of meetings will be held throughout the district to establish landowner support.

The presentation concluded at 2.32 pm.

Electricity Ashburton

Representatives of Electricity Ashburton – Messrs J Tavendale (Chairman), R Davies (Director), G Guthrie (CEO) and B Quinn (Network Manager) were welcomed to the meeting.

The Committee received a presentation on Electricity Ashburton’s fibre optic network pilot trial. The Company has committed \$5m for the pilot rollout by February / March 2010, after which it is planned to release for general use. Schools have been given a priority with the aim to have all schools connected by mid 2010. The methodology for continued rollout is yet to be determined, however it is anticipated this will be to areas with the greatest demand.

The presentation concluded and the Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.08 pm.
The meeting resumed at 3.23 pm.

Finance Activity Reports

“That the Finance activity reports be received.”

Brown/Everest

Carried

Tinwald Pool

It was reported that the Tinwald Pool opened last weekend. Information relating to the pool and its opening hours has been advertised and is also available through the Ashburton Community Pool.

Pendarves Fire Shed

The Property Manager reported that tenders will be called for the building work in February / March 2010.

Business transacted with the public excluded (3.28 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 – 29/10/09 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lake Hood Administration• Former County building update	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h)	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	Ashburton Airport Authority	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.5	Stadium Project Group	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.6	Police Report	Section 7(2)(f)	Maintain effective conduct public affairs

Brown/Everest

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.06 pm.