

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

[Unconfirmed minutes]

REPORT and MINUTES of a meeting of the **FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 13 September, 2007, commencing at 10.40 am.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley; Councillors K L Holmes, (Chair), D N Nelson, N A Brown, D Glass, R J Kilworth, P W Reveley and M J Urquhart.

Also in attendance Councillors L J Leadley, I J Burgess, K W P Lowe and B A Tasker; Community Services Manager, Finance Manager, Property Manager, Community Consultation Manager, Corporate Services Manager, Roading & Street Services Manager, Water Services Manager and Committee Secretary.

APOLOGY: Cr R C Beavan, **Sustained**

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee meeting held on 2 August 2007, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Brown/Urquhart **Carried**

Federated Farmers

President of the Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers, Rupert Curd, was welcomed to the meeting and granted speaking rights.

Mr Curd reported that NZ Federated Farmers recently undertook a survey of territorial and regional councils. The survey attracted 1800 responses nationally with 64% of participants identified as Federated Farmers members. In the results released today by the National President, Ashburton District Council was ranked in 11th place from the 64 councils surveyed.

Mr Curd was thanked and the presentation concluded at 10.50 am.

Order of Business

With the agreement of the Committee, the Chairman gave notice that the agenda would be re-ordered to take the Finance reports as the first items of business.

Ashburton Bowling Club Lease

The Property Manager reported that a formula has been developed and applied to the Bowling Club's rental, based on 2% of the present rateable land value. Mr Rooney said that the formula is the basis for a policy that will likely be applied to other ground fee rentals on Council reserves.

The Mayor expressed concern that there has not been sufficient debate on the formula to determine whether it could be applied to other areas in the district. He said that consideration needs to firstly be given to the implications for the rural domain boards which could be adversely affected.

In response to a suggestion that the Bowling Club's lease be confirmed for a one year period, to allow further development of the policy, it was noted that the basis for the decision had been the timing of the rating valuation review which is to take place in July next year and three yearly thereafter.

The Property Manager was asked to evaluate the impact of this policy on other reserves and report back to Council.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

“That a new lease be entered into with the Ashburton Bowling Club for the bowling greens at the Ashburton Domain for a 21 year period; subject to

- i) the rental for the first three year period to be set at 2% of the present rateable value ($\$7.98\text{m}^2 \times 4900\text{m}^2 = \$39,102 \times 2\% = \$782.04$) plus GST;
- ii) rent reviews to be undertaken every three years to apply the formula of \$2% of the rateable land value, plus GST, at the time of review; and
- iii) the new lease to be effective from 1 July 2007, with terms other than rental and review dates to be as per the present lease.”

Brown/Urquhart

Carried

Carry-Over of Funds from 2006/ 07 Budget

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

1. That the requested carry-overs as detailed in this report be approved; and
2. That the favourable variance from the waste water cyclic renewals be carried forward and used to fund farm development costs at Ocean Farm and wastewater project costs if required.”

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

The Roading & Street Services Manager and Water Services Manager left the meeting at 11.12 am.

Finance Activity Reports

“That reports be received.”

Brown/Glass

Carried

Financial reports

It was noted that the financial reports will be provided to the first meeting of the Committee in the new term of Council.

Rates rebate

The Finance Manager reported that despite more ratepayers being eligible for a rebate this year, there has been a limited response to date. Mr Brake said that more publicity will be given to the scheme to encourage low income ratepayers to check their eligibility. It was noted that the scheme is available to all home owners with a household income of around \$20,000 per annum, however some households with combined higher incomes would also qualify.

Rates – sale of abandoned land

The formal process for notification has commenced on land that is to be declared abandoned in Methven. The Finance Manager reported that rates on the property have been unpaid for almost six years and attempts to locate the owner have been unsuccessful. Once granted, the land will be sold either through public auction or tender. Following the sale some of the funds will be retained by the Crown to be held for any future claim by the land owner.

Resource Centre / Staff accommodation

The Property Manager reported that a tender has been let to Waddell Construction for the upgrade of the vacant space in the Resource Centre building. When completed, the office will provide accommodation for the Safer Community Council and Enterprise Ashburton.

Mr Rooney advised that the Council's Property department will next week move to the offices previously occupied by Tourism in the Villa. It is proposed to move Finance department staff into the remaining Villa office space once it becomes available in October / November. Safer Community Council and Enterprise Ashburton Managers have been included in discussions and will be kept informed of progress.

Southern DC-3 Charitable Trust – Request for Funding

1. That the request for funding by the Southern DC-3 Charitable Trust be declined.
2. That the Trust be advised to apply to the Major Community Projects Fund as part of the 2008/ 09 Annual Plan process."

Brown/Nelson

Carried

Ashburton Museum – Requests for Funding

Two applications for funding assistance were received from the Ashburton Museum.

• Art Centre Improvement Fund

"That the sum of \$9,500 (GST inclusive) be advanced to the Ashburton Museum from the Art Centre Improvement Fund for the purposes of upgrading the catalogue database, installing MYOB accounting software, and purchasing new computer hardware and software.

Mayor/Kilworth

Carried

• Historical Acquisitions Fund

A grant of \$460 has been made to fund the purchase of an Ansonia Clock which has historical links with an Ashburton jeweller, James Philip Parker, who operated a business in East Street between 1877 and 1880.

Road Closure & Glass Ban – East Street (New Years Eve)

The Mayor questioned the need to close two blocks of East Street at 10 am and suggested that the area between Burnett and Tancred Streets remain open until 2 pm on 31 December. Based on his observation of past events, he said that there has been little activity setting up the event until the afternoon.

The Community Services Manager agreed that closing this section at the 2 pm would allow sufficient time to set up the event.

1. That East Street, from Havelock Street to Burnett Street, be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic from 10.00 am on Monday 31 December, 2007, until 12.00 noon on Tuesday 1 January, 2008; and
2. That East Street, from Burnett Street to Moore Street, be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic from 2 pm on Monday 31 December, 2007, until 12 noon on Tuesday 1 January, 2008, for the purpose of holding a New Year's Eve Street Party.
3. That pursuant to clause 16(A) 01.6 of Council's Bylaw the banning of glass drinking vessels and containers be imposed as follows:

In the West Street car park and in East Street, from Havelock Street to Moore Street, between the hours of 10.00 am on Monday 31 December, 2007, until 12.00 noon on Tuesday 1 January, 2008, for the purpose of holding a New Year's Eve Street Party.

4. That pursuant to clause 2 of the First Schedule to the Ashburton District Public Places Liquor Control Bylaw 2005, the application of the Bylaw be suspended between 9 pm on 31 December 2007, and 7 am on 1 January 2008.”

Nelson/Brown

Carried

Road Closure – East Street (Boulevard Day)

- “1. That East Street, from Moore Street to Cameron Street, be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic from 7.00 am on Monday 24 September, 2007, until 6.00 pm on Monday 24 September, 2007;
2. That Havelock Street, from East Street to Baring Square East, be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic from 7.00 am on Monday 24 September, 2007, until 6.00 pm on Monday 24 September, 2007; and
3. That Baring Square East, from Havelock Street to Cameron Street, be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic from 7.00 am on Monday 24 September, 2007, until 6.00 pm on Monday 24 September, 2007, for the purpose of holding Boulevard Day.”

Kilworth/Glass

Carried

Community Services Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Reveley/Urquhart

Carried

Hinds ratepayers

Following meetings held with Hinds residents to discuss issues of concern relating to water supply, stormwater and the development plan for the village, the Community Services Manager is assisting the group with the process of becoming incorporated as a ratepayer association.

CBD parking

At the request of the Town Centre Subcommittee, a working group consisting of Councillors, staff and business representatives is being formed to address parking issues in the CBD. Two meetings are proposed in September / October.

Tinwald Reserve Board

The Community Consultation Manager reported on the meeting held with Tinwald Domain user groups to discuss future development of the reserve. A landscape architect has been contracted to prepare a concept plan and it is anticipated a draft will be available for public submission by mid October.

Annual Report

The Finance Manager reported that preparation of the annual report has been held up and it is unlikely that Council will meet the statutory deadline of 31 October. Mr Brake confirmed that the reasons for the delay will be fully reported to Council should adoption of the report not occur on 27 September.

Gambling Amendment Bill

The Committee heard that the current Bill has not addressed the issues raised by LGNZ relating to the transferability of licences and consents. The Community Consultation Manager said that the Bill focused on technical amendments, however a further submission process would provide Council with the opportunity to promote the provisions requested. Mr Thomas confirmed that the submission being prepared will include Council’s proposed changes and amendments.

The Chief Executive said that the intent is to frame amendments to give effect to the Gambling Act purpose, but also to enable councils to give effect to their own policies. The matter has been included on the Agenda for the Zone 5 meeting on 14 September.

Councillors will be provided with a copy of Council’s submission once it is finalised.

Corporate Services Activity Reports

“That reports be received.”

Brown/Reveley

Carried

Technology One

The Corporate Services Manager reported on the proposal to upgrade the Proclaim One programme to include a module that will offer standardised budgeting tools, allowing input from various people into one document. Mr Allen confirmed that the upgrade will be managed within the existing budget.

Aerial photography

The Committee heard that the company contracted to supply aerial photographs of the district will not be completing the project. The consortium of councils involved, along with Electricity Ashburton, will be responding to Terralink with a request for the contract to be completed. The Corporate Services Manager reported that there is unpaid budget available and Council could look at contracting another company, however the preference is to continue to work with neighbouring councils for efficiencies.

Town Centre surveillance

It was reported that access to video surveillance of the town centre will be monitored at the Police communication centre in Timaru.

Staff Structure

A request was made for Councillors to be provided with regular updates on staff changes. It was suggested that such information could be included on the weekly bulletin faxed to Councillors.

The Committee Chair, Cr Holmes, thanked members for their involvement in the Committee during this term.

Items taken with the public excluded (12 noon)

“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 – 2/08/07 • Property Matters	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
8.2	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Nelson/ Brown

Carried

The meeting concluded at 12.15 pm.