

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 15 November, 2007, commencing at 1.30 pm.

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

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

One member of the public attended (A Leadley, Community & Public Health).

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Sparks (absence) and K Lowe (lateness).

Extraordinary Business

“That pursuant to Section 46A (7)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following matter be introduced as extraordinary business and taken as item 6.8:

- **Request for funding support for promotional video (Ashburton Hospital)**
Reason To meet the timeframe for the Auckland Job Expo on 8-9 December 2007.

Brown/Mayor

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes

- **Annual Report**

Reference to the 27 September date was amended to 25 October.

“That the minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee meeting held on 13 September 2007, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Brown/Kilworth

Carried

Matters Arising

Gambling Amendment Bill

The Community Planning Manager reported that Council's submission will be presented by tele-conference on 21 November.

Corporate Services Activity Reports

“That reports be received.”

Brown/Everest

Carried

Smoke Free Playgrounds

The Community Planning Manager suggested an amendment to the proposed policy with the deletion of the words ‘*and maintained by Council*’. He explained that this will ensure that the playgrounds on Council reserves which are maintained by reserve boards will also have the smoke free policy applied.

It was further clarified that the survey work undertaken in the vicinity of Friedlander Park was carried out by Hampstead School.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

“That Council adopts the “Smoke Free Playgrounds Policy” as contained in this report.”

Mayor/Brown

Carried

The Mayor left the meeting at 1.52 pm.

Proposed Meeting Schedule 2008

The November Methven Community Board meeting was brought forward to 10 November.

Proposed dates for the 2008 annual plan and budget workshops will be tabled at the Council meeting.

Cr Beavan asked whether consideration has been given to holding two standing committee meetings on one day, which would reduce travel expenditure and also free-up time for District Plan review meetings to be scheduled. The Committee heard that it is proposed to hold the District Plan review workshops prior to or after the Environmental Services Committee meetings.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

"That Council adopts the 2008 Meeting Schedule for Standing Committee, Council and Methven Community Board meetings."

Brown/Kilworth

Carried

Community Services Activity Reports

"That the reports be received."

Everest/Beavan

Carried

Street Party

Clarification was sought on whether the option of partnership funding from the business community had been investigated. It was noted that Council's decision to reinstate funding for the street party was made on the basis of the petitioners and the community being part of the process.

Annual Report

The Finance Manager reported that Audit NZ staff are currently working on the audit of Council's annual report.

Economic Development Strategy

The Community Planning Manager reported that a contract has been awarded to Strategic Economic Services to provide information for the economic snapshot report to be completed by the end of this year. Mr Thomas explained that the contract is part of the overall \$25,000 budgeted economic development strategy which is being managed by Enterprise Ashburton. The cost of the snapshot report is around \$3,500.

Newcomers Project

The Community Planning Manager reported that a cross-sectoral group has been formed to research issues related to newcomers in the district, facilitated by Jennifer Williams of the Department of Internal Affairs. While the initial focus was on migrant communities, additional funding has been made available to investigate people who have moved to Ashburton from within New Zealand. The initial report will become available in the new year.

Art Gallery & Museum

It was reported that 22 submissions have been received to date with the majority being in favour of the proposal to build a new art gallery and museum.

Library

The District Librarian tabled issue statistics for the period 1995-2007. The Committee expressed concern at the downward trend and briefly discussed the way in which the library and its services could be better promoted.

Creative Communities Assessment Committee

The input of community members of the Assessment Committee was acknowledged and it was agreed that letters of thanks would be sent to each of the members.

Youth Council

In receiving the minutes of the Youth Council meeting, the Committee noted that Elizabeth Gerard recently won a Secondary Schools Shakespeare competition and will be travelling to the UK to compete further. A letter of congratulations will be sent to Elizabeth on behalf of Council.

Parks & Recreation

It was reported that a tree planted in commemoration of Diana Princess of Wales, has been removed from the Domain. Information was sought from the Parks Manager and later in the meeting the Committee heard that a suitable replacement is being obtained for this and another memorial tree that was also vandalised recently.

Request for Financial Support

“That Council provides \$5,000 to the Ashburton Health Services Workforce Project Team from the Access Trust Reserve, to be applied to the cost of a recruitment video.”

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

G Thomas left meeting at 2.35 pm.

Capital Works Loan 2007/ 2008

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

- “1. That the Finance Manager be authorised to borrow up to \$28,194,206 for the purpose of funding the capital works identified in the 2007/ 08 Annual Plan; the loans will be for a term not exceeding twenty five years on such terms and conditions consistent with Council’s Liability Management Policy, as may be negotiated by Finance Manager.
2. That Council has considered the risks and benefits to the local authority of the loan or incidental arrangement and the giving of security to be given in relation to the loan or incidental arrangement and Council believes the benefits of raising the loans outweigh the risks associated with the raising of the loan and the giving of security.
3. That the Finance Manager be delegated authority to negotiate and determine the amount, number and type of loan or facility, and the terms and conditions of the loan or loans, facility or facilities (and security), and to negotiate, agree enter into and execute any documentation which may be required, (including security documentation), and if required, to issue such debenture stock/bonds with a face value sufficient to yield up to the sum of \$28,194,206 and execute such; all arrangements entered into under this authority must be consistent with the Council's Liability Management Policy.
4. That the loans may be external or internal loans depending on the interest market at the time of raising the loan. Should external debt be raised, this external debt will be by way of a fixed rate bond issue.”

Brown/Kilworth

Carried

Additional Carry-over of Funds from 2006/ 07 Budget

“That the amount of \$60,000 in the Information Services capital budget 2006/ 07 be carried forward to the 2007 / 08 year.”

Everest/Kingsbury

Carried

Proposed Road Stopping – Unformed Road off Thompsons Track

1. That approval be given to commence the road stopping procedures pursuant to the 10th Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 in respect of the unformed road off Thompsons Track depicted on plan SO 373272; and
2. That in the event the road is stopped, the land therein be disposed of by sale to the adjoining landowner at market value.
3. All costs related to the stopping and disposal of the land be met by the purchaser.”

Kilworth/Everest

Carried

David Thomas Memorial Cup

Mr Bill Thomas was welcomed to the meeting to present the David Thomas Memorial Cup to the Council. The trophy, which has been in the Thomas family for one hundred years, was contested for by sporting clubs in the early 20th Century in memory of a former Mayor, David Thomas. The Thomas family has gifted the trophy to Council for its safe-keeping and with the suggestion that it be presented each year by the Mayor to a successful local sporting team or club.

On behalf of Council, the Deputy Mayor received the cup and thanked Mr and Mrs Thomas for attending the meeting to present it.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.50 pm and resumed at 3.07 pm.

The Mayor returned to the meeting.

The Chief Executive and District Forester attended the meeting.

Finance Activity Reports

“That reports be received.”

Brown/Beavan

Carried

Financial reports

The Finance Manager presented the financial report for the period ended 30 September 2007.

- Forestry – the greater than budgeted income is a result of carry-overs and harvesting of D.fir.
- District water management – the main item of expenditure is the ACWT consent application for the Rakaia take. The hearing scheduled for February 2008 will incur further cost.
- Debtors accounts –it was suggested that the policy allowing debt to remain outstanding after three months be re-evaluated. The Finance Manager acknowledged the Committee’s concern and advised that ongoing work is being carried out to address this.
- Market value adjustments – a new column showing these figures has been included in the investments report.

Cr Lowe attended the meeting at 3.40 pm.

Forestry

The District Forester reported on central government's proposed Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). The scheme will provide carbon credits for post 1989 'Kyoto' forests and will also make forest owners liable for CO₂ emissions related to deforestation of pre-1990 forests. Council will be affected by the legislation if it is passed and will have 18 months from the date of passing the legislation to decide whether it wishes to join the system, or to relinquish its credits and liabilities to government.

The Committee will be kept advised.

Items taken with the public excluded (3.54 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 – 13/09/07 • Property Matters	Section 7(2)(h) 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 activity report	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Brown/Kilworth

Carried

The Committee resumed in open meeting at 5.40 pm.

Young Farmer of the Year 2008

Mr Richard Fitzgerald, Co-ordinator for the Young Farmer of the Year 2008 competition was welcomed to the meeting at 5.40 pm. Mr Fitzgerald presented Councillors with an overview of the competition that will be held in Ashburton from 9-12 July 2008.

The presentation and the meeting concluded at 6.05 pm.