

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of a Meeting of the **ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 18 December 2007, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Mr M B O'Malley; Councillors R C Beavan, I J Burgess, N A Brown, J A Everest, K L Holmes, R J Kilworth, J A Kingsbury, L J Leadley, K W P Lowe, P W Reveley, J Sparks and B A Tasker.

Also in attendance Chief Executive, Manager Democracy & Community Services, Operations Manager, Community Consultation Manager and Committee Secretary.

Mr T Todd, Chairman Ashburton Licensing Trust, attended.

The opening prayer was offered by Pastor Rob Davison.

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the meeting of Ashburton District Council held on 22 November, 2007, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Matters Arising

Elected Members' Remuneration

The Manager Democracy & Community Services advised that the Remuneration Authority has notified its approval of Council's determination which will be gazetted prior to Christmas. The new salaries will be payable on 13 January 2008.

Clarification was also sought on the timeframe for reimbursement of candidate deposits and it was reported that these will be processed with Council's cheque run on 20 December.

Electoral Officer Debrief

Mr Rollinson reported on his attendance at the debrief meeting held in Wellington on 12 December, where he relayed Council's concern that the STV voting system contributed to a low voter turnout in this year's elections. The recently formed Justice Select Committee will also be discussing the downward trend of voter interest when it meets in February.

The Mayor reported that the issue was raised at the Auditor General's meeting on 12 December.

North East Business Park

The Chief Executive advised that a workshop to progress the Project Team has been scheduled for 31 January 2008. The workshop will look at the project to date, budget and policy implications and the process to move it forward. Work is continuing in the meantime on stormwater and rail issues. It is anticipated the Project Team will be operational by the end of February after which time final design concepts will be developed for tender.

Mayor's Report

“That the report be received.”

Leadley/Kilworth

Carried

Central and Local Government National Forum

The Mayor reported on his attendance at the forum held on 12-14 December in Wellington. Topics for discussion included the inquiry into local government rates which will be progressed over the next year. All Mayors and Chairs present at the forum conveyed their concern at the pressure local government is under and this was acknowledged by the Prime Minister.

In the Forum's discussion on safer communities it was reported that greater central government contribution is expected by local communities. It was noted that the current government is halfway towards its commitment of 1000 extra police, the majority of whom have been recruited to the metropolitan areas.

Chief Executive's Report

"That the report be received."

Tasker/Holmes

Carried

Triennial Agreement

"That the Triennial Agreement as attached be approved."

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

Job Expo

The Chief Executive reported on the positive response received at the Expo where around 260 expressions of interest were received by the Ashburton delegation. A debrief for the local groups will be attended by the Chief Executive this evening.

Regional Council

"That the Chief Executive works with the Mackenzie, Timaru and Waimate District Councils to prepare an options evaluation brief to bring back to Council."

Burgess/Holmes

Carried

Aquatic Centre / Stadium

In response to a suggestion that other sites should be identified by Council for further investigation, the Chief Executive advised that no new sites will be considered but if there are issues relating to the availability of the preferred sites, further analysis will extend to the sites that were discounted previously.

Art Gallery and Museum

The Mayor sought Council's agreement to re-order the agenda to consider the Art Gallery and Museum proposal with the Trust Chairman, Mr Tony Todd, in attendance.

"That speaking rights be granted to Mr Todd."

Tasker/Burgess

Carried

The Chief Executive advised that if Council approves the recommendation the next step will be to respond to submitters and progress the project through the Town Centre Subcommittee. Traffic, parking and the resource consent process are key issues for the Gallery complex and consultation with Transit and affected neighbours is continuing. A further report will be provided to Council in February to confirm the funding arrangement with the Trust and sign-off on plans and the consent process. Mr Lester said that the estimates provided by a Quantity Surveyor will be reviewed and confirmed as the process continues.

Council acknowledged the valuable input of submitters whose comments will be factored into the decision making process.

There was some concern that Council may not have identified the most appropriate site and clarification was sought on whether the consultation process would need to be repeated if an alternative site was required. The Mayor confirmed that if an alternative site is required, the outcome of consultation undertaken to date will be upheld.

“That Council continues to progress the proposals to sell the former County Council building and to construct a new Art Gallery and Museum facility, as detailed in the Statement of Proposal to amend the Ashburton District Community Plan 2006-16.”

Holmes/Leadley

Carried

- “1. That Council adopts an integrated approach, including
 - a) a letter to Transit – 20 December 2007;
 - b) an initial meeting with Transit to discuss the Art Gallery / Museum and Stadium projects – January 2008;
 - c) terms of reference for the Town Centre Subcommittee developed – January 2008;
 - d) terms of reference for the project developed – January 2008; and
 - e) a meeting of the Town Centre Subcommittee and key officers to agree terms of reference and discuss the project detail – 31 January 2008.
2. That Council adopts an integrated approach to those projects which affect the town centre urban design.”

Leadley/Kilworth

Carried

Mr Todd was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 2.22 pm.
The Community Planning Manager left the meeting at 2.22 pm.

Services and Operations Committee – 6 December 2007

“That the report and minutes of the Services and Operations Committee meeting held on 6 December 2007, be received.”

Tasker/Leadley

Carried

Mt Somers Water Supply

Cr Tasker advised that at a meeting of the Mt Somers District Citizens Association last week the community supported Council’s proposed upgrade but requested urgent approval for installation of tanks that will provide approximately 40,000 litres of extra water storage. The community is concerned that the anticipated number of visitors to the holiday park and camping ground over the holiday period will impact on the current demand for water.

“That Council approves the installation of additional tanks to provide approximately 40,000 litres of extra storage at Mt Somers as soon as practicable.”

Tasker/Lowe

The Operations Manager reported that it is the view of staff that provision of additional tanks, at an estimated cost of \$23,000, won’t provide the level of security that the community is seeking. Mr Rouse explained that the issue is the trunk main and the operating levels of the reservoir and if supply is lost, the additional tanks would only provide one day’s supply.

Crs Lowe and Reveley supported the community's request. Reference was made to the Booth report, which indicates the need for increased storage, and to the Mayfield supply which has benefited from an additional storage tank.

The Operations Manager advised that the \$23,000 cost estimate would cover purchase of the tanks, transport and installation and the necessary pipe work and fittings. Existing treatment facilities would be used.

The Mayor sought Council's agreement to defer discussion pending further information being obtained by the Operations Manager on costs for the tank purchase and installation.

Footpath Maintenance

It was noted discussion took place on the condition of the footpath in the Alford Forest Road area followed by a request for maintenance work to be carried out to repair damage to the footpath surface.

Environmental Services Committee – 6 December 2007

"That the report and minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 6 December, 2007, be received."

Kilworth/Beavan

Carried

Council heard that consent applications requiring decision before the next round of meetings will be considered by a Hearing Panel. Information on the consents will be made available in early January.

Finance & Corporate Services Committee – 13 December 2007

"That the report and minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee meeting held on 13 December 2007, be received."

Holmes/Brown

Carried

Road Closure (New Year's Eve) – East Street

- "1. That the Finance & Community Services Committee decision of 13 September 2007 be revoked.
2. That East Street, from **Havelock Street to Tancred 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
3. That East Street, from **Tancred 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.
4. 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.
5. 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."

Holmes/Tasker

Carried

Ashburton Water Supply – Tinwald Borefield Development

The Water Services Manager attended the meeting.

“That Council approves:

1. that no further borefield development work shall take place at George Glassey Park at this point in time;
2. that a new site to the south-west end of Tinwald be identified for establishment of a fourth borefield to serve Tinwald; and
3. that an additional budget provision of up to \$212,000 be made to the Tinwald borefield development project.”

Leadley/Lowe

Carried

Mt Somers Water Supply

Discussion resumed on the request for storage tanks to be provided and the recommendation to progress this.

The Water Services Manager advised that delivery of continuous monitoring, to identify fluctuations on the scheme, would provide an improvement in the level of service and reservoir storage for additional emergency storage would be dependent on this monitoring being in place.

Cr Beavan raised a point of order, questioning the urgency of the debate being held when no report had been prepared for Council today and the matter had not been raised as an extraordinary business item at the commencement of the meeting.

The Mayor ruled that the matter would continue to be discussed to urgently address the practical implications of levels of service issues likely to arise over the summer from additional demand on the Mt Somers water supply.

On the basis of the cost details provided by staff, Council agreed to withdraw the original motion.

“That staff be asked to review engineering estimates, to be presented to the Mt Somers District Citizens Association, and be given the delegated power to proceed before the next meeting of the Operations Committee at a cost agreed to by the Association but not exceeding \$23,000.”

Kilworth/Leadley

Carried

Young Persons Forum 2007

The Young Persons Forum was held in the Council Chamber on 15 November 2007 and 10 schools participated. The theme of this year’s forum was water safety and a drowning prevention brochure produced by St Josephs School is to be published and distributed with the assistance of ACC. Other issues included concerns with safety at the skatepark and the domains.

It has been suggested that future forums be open to any topic, rather than a particular theme.

The minutes of the Forum will be amended to show Cr Brown in attendance.

“That the report be received.”

Leadley/Holmes

Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.01 pm and resumed at 3.15 pm.

Cr Brown left the meeting at 3.15 pm.

Items taken with the public excluded (3.15 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:
5.1.1	<p>Council 22/11/07 [now in open meeting]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget matter • Potential driving range • Staff matter • Sale of land – Arundel-Rak Gorge Rd • Plunket rooms rent review • Rural fire units • Stadium Trust • Performing Arts Theatre Trust • CEO Appointment process 	<p>Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities Section 7(2)(i) Conduct of negotiations</p>
5.1.3	<p>Finance & Com Services 13/12/07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Matter • Performing Arts Theatre Finance <p>[now in open meeting]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing Arts Theatre Management 	<p>Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities</p>
5.2	Property Matter	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Burgess/Beavan

Carried

Confirmed this 28th day of February 2008 by

MAYOR