

FINANCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

[Unconfirmed minutes]

REPORT and MINUTES of a meeting of the **FINANCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Tuesday 4 May 2010, commencing at 1.30 pm.

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

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

APOLOGY His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley (lateness), Cr L J Leadley **Sustained**

Confirmation of Minutes

"That the minutes of the Finance and Community Services Committee meeting held on 25 March 2010, be taken as read and confirmed."

Brown/Sparks **Carried**

Corporate Services Activity Reports

"That the Corporate Services activity reports be received."

Brown/Kingsbury **Carried**

Information Systems Customer Survey

Results of the IT department's survey to determine in house 'customer satisfaction' were presented to the Committee. The Corporate Services Manager was asked whether a similar system could be set up to record feedback from building and resource consent applicants. Mr Allen said that the department would be able to assist with the system setup, however analysing survey data would be the responsibility of the Environmental Services Department. He agreed to progress this with the Environmental Services Manager.

Democracy & Community Services Activity Reports

"That the Democracy & Community Services activity reports be received."

Kilworth/Lowe **Carried**

Social Wellbeing Strategy – IPANZ Awards

The Manager Democracy & Community Services reported that Council's entry into the Institute of Public Administration NZ awards is one of three finalists and has received, at this stage, an award of excellence. Judging for the final place will be held on 18 June. It was noted that there are now 62 agencies (government and non government) signed up to the Strategy.

NRB Survey

The NRB survey has been brought forward and will now run from 30 April – 7 May. Mr Rollinson confirmed that a review of the survey and its questions will be carried out before next year.

Shared library management system proposal

The District Librarian reported that a public library software co-operative venture is being developed with the intention that it would be underwritten by the National Library if sufficient interest is shown by public libraries. The Committee heard that Council has indicated its tentative interest in staying part of the process at this stage.

Ashburton Business Estate

Landscaping at the business estate is continuing and all except one of the bunds have been completed with irrigation lines installed and grass seed sown.

An open day for members of the business community was held recently and a commitment has been made to have ongoing open days throughout the year.

Review of gambling venues

The Community Planning Manager advised that the review is on hold, pending completion of other projects. Mr Thomas said that legislation allows for the current policy to remain in force until the review takes place and this will be done as soon as time allows. Some of the key stakeholders who submitted in the early part of the process have been made aware of this.

The District Forester attended the meeting.

Sale of Forestry Carbon Credits

The District Forester reported that Council was credited with its first allocation of carbon credits earlier this year. Council now has the option to sell or retain the credits.

The Forestry Subcommittee recently agreed that Council could comfortably sell this first allocation of carbon credits, providing the sale would only go ahead if there was a way of insuring against catastrophic loss. Mr O'Neill said he was advised last week that if there is loss through catastrophic incident, Council won't be liable for a period of up to four years. He explained that the forestry blocks involved are isolated and unlikely to sustain total loss.

The Forestry Subcommittee agreed to the \$18 gross price, prior to the 5% brokerage fee being taken off.

The Mayor questioned the price and said the credits should be at a net return of \$18, rather than gross.

"That, subject to a minimum price of \$18.00 / unit being achieved, Council sells 7920 forestry carbon credits."

Lowe/Everest

Carried

The Mayor and Cr Sparks recorded their votes against the motion.

Railway Foot Overbridge - Acquisition

The Property Manager reported that negotiations with Rail have been completed and they have met their requirements to bring the railway foot overbridge up to an acceptable standard prior to gifting the structure to Council. Mr Rooney said that further improvements will be carried out, to be funded from Council's roading and footpath budget.

The Committee supported the retention of the overbridge as part of Council's pedestrian network and for heritage reasons.

"That approval be given for Council to take ownership of the Railway foot overbridge from OnTrack."

Kilworth/Sparks

Carried

Finance Activity Reports

"That the Finance activity reports be received."

Beavan/Kingsbury

Carried

Finance Reports

Financial reports for the period ended 31 March 2010, were received.

- Albert St – internal vested asset will be in place once valuation is finalised. Other assets don't become vested until finished.
- Rangitata huts – will be a carry-over, as will Methven medical centre and two fire sheds. A further report will be provided to the next meeting of the Committee. Plans will be referred to the Property & Investment Subcommittee for approval.

- Tenders for the Methven medical centre likely to be called in June / July with commencement date for work September at earliest.
- Outstanding rates to 30 June 2009 – legal action being taken on property owners other than those who have arrangements to pay off. Currently looking at legal process to sell properties in arrears.
- The Mayor asked what action is being taken on the 80K rental debtors now two months in excess. Also, water billing amounts and the 3 month restriction on parking and animal enforcement.
- The Finance Manager advised that parking and animal infringements go to Court (followed up on Council's behalf) and are cleared, once paid. Rental arrears are being followed up and will be reported in more detail to the Property & Investment Subcommittee. Some water billing has been written off and will also be reported in more detail.

Ashburton Golf Club Lease Application

The Mayor declared an interest as a member and indirect beneficiary and withdrew from discussion and decision.

Ashburton Golf Club Inc representatives Messrs R Bradford, G Brown, G Keen and B Nuttall were welcomed to the meeting. On behalf of the Club, Mr Brown asked Council to consider reducing the annual rental that has been set for the land the Club proposes to lease and develop as a golf driving range.

Mr Brown explained that the Club's intention is to provide a public recreational facility that will meet the needs of existing and future golfers. The Club disputes Council's view that this will be a commercial operation and has asked for the current rental to remain in place.

The Committee noted that one of the provisos of the lease becoming operative is that the Golf Club must obtain the necessary resource consents to allow the golf driving range activity on this land. On this basis, the Committee resolved –

“That the matter lie on the table until the Golf Club's resource consents have been granted.”

Holmes/Kingsbury

Carried

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.02 pm and resumed at 3.21 pm.

Rakaia Hall Insurance

It was reported that agreement was reached with Council's insurers to meet the cost of the new floor and a quote has been accepted. The Rakaia Hall Committee has asked Council to meet the cost of the shortfall rather than the Hall's revenue.

The Property Manager explained that because the Hall accounts are held by Council, the excess will be shown as a charge against the Hall account, resulting in a negative balance for a short time.

Business transacted with the public excluded (3.25 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 – 25/03/10 • ACL Presentation - LHEP [now in open meeting] • Water billing	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

8.2	Forestry Subcommittee 18/03/10	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.3	Property & Investment Subcommittee 25/03/10	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.4	Audit & Budget Subcommittee	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.5	ACL – Draft Statement of Intent	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.6	Property Matter (land sale)	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Brown/Beavan

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.05 pm.