

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 25 March 2010, commencing at 1.41 pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley; 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 L J Leadley, I J Burgess, P W Reveley and B A Tasker; Chief Executive, Finance Manager, Corporate Services Manager, Community Planning Manager, Property Manager and Committee Secretary.

Confirmation of Minutes

"That the minutes of the Finance and Community Services Committee meeting held on 11 February 2010, be taken as read and confirmed."

Brown/Kingsbury

Carried

Matters Arising

Aquatic Park Trust Deed

The Finance Manager reported that the Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust Deed has been signed and forwarded to Council's solicitor.

Youth Health Trust

Cr Kingsbury reported on her attendance at the recent Ashburton Youth Health Trust meeting. The Trust has expressed its disappointment that Council has not made budget provision for the Trust's rental after 30 June.

Methven Gun Club

The Property Manager acknowledged the urgency of the Club's situation and advised that he is continuing to assist with their relocation.

Corporate Services Activity Reports

"That the Corporate Services activity reports be received."

Brown/Beavan

Carried

Data integrity

The Corporate Services Manager reported that work is continuing on improving Council address data and updating property and rating data.

Incoming Calls

The Committee noted that the number of calls made to Council in February appeared to be greater than usual. It was reported that letters sent out to properties with trees shading roads generated a high response during this period and it's likely that this would have contributed. The Corporate Services Manager advised that he has encouraged managers to give warning of large items of correspondence going out, which may increase calls, so that extra customer services staff can be made available.

The Corporate Services Manager left the meeting at 1.52 pm.

Methven Heritage Association's Alpine and Agricultural Encounter

Correspondence from the Chairman of the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board was tabled, along with an updated copy of the Constitution and the draft Deed of Lease. Chairman of the Hall Board, Mr Viv Barrett, confirmed the dissolution of the Board, and his resignation as Chairman, in favour of the new management regime.

Cr Lowe, who is a member of the Methven Heritage Trust, gave assurance that the Memorial Hall component will remain a fundamental part of the new facility which will include the Rolls of Honour and similar historical records.

The Property Manager confirmed this, noting that further consideration will be given to Council's responsibilities in respect of the memorial hall component. Mr Rooney said the whole complex can be leased to the Methven Heritage Association, however there will still need to be some residual apportionment within that. Details are still to be finalised.

The Committee acknowledged the valuable role that Cr Lowe has had with the heritage project and recommended him as the Councillor representative on the new Appointments Committee.

Councillors have been invited to make an informal visit to the new Heritage Centre on Friday 26 March.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

"That Council

1. notes and approves the Constitution of the Methven District Heritage Association Incorporated;
2. appoints Cr Ken Lowe and the Manager, Democracy & Community Services, John Rollinson, as its representatives on the Appointments Committee of the Association;
3. approves the terms of the lease / management agreement between the Association and the Council; and
4. agrees to dissolve the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board, such dissolution to take effect from the time of signing of the above mentioned lease / management agreement."

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

Rakaia Sports Partnership

The Committee was pleased to hear that the partnership approach being taken by sports clubs in the Rakaia community has been very successful. It was reported that representatives from the various clubs have met with Sport Canterbury and Sport Mid Canterbury to discuss the process and establish a working party.

"That the Committee approves the allocation of \$5,000 from the 2009/10 Physical Activity Strategy budget to assist with the development of the Rakaia sports partnership."

Brown/Everest

Carried

Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club

The Ashburton Car Club's request for a road closure on 9 May 2010, has met with an objection from a business owner who operates within the vicinity of the proposed street sprint course.

The Committee heard that a hearing panel of Councillors Kilworth, Brown and Burgess will convene to hear the objection, with the outcome to be reported to Council on 8 April.

"That the matter lies on the table until the 8 April Council meeting."

Kilworth/Brown

Carried

Democracy & Community Services Activity Reports

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

Kilworth/Beavan

Carried

Social Wellbeing Strategy

A successful Forum was held in the Council Chamber on 9 March and feedback is now being sought from attendees. Cr Beavan advised that staff have nominated the Strategy for a public sector award in the category of “working together for better services”. It was noted that the IPANZ (Institute of Public Administration NZ) award recognises excellence and significant public sector achievements. The Strategy has been a catalyst for change in this community with local government and central government, and local social service agencies working together to address social issues for the first time in this district. The outcome of the nomination will be known on 3 May.

Ashburton Funders’ Expo

Staff will be providing information on Council’s grant schemes during the Funders’ Expo, being held at the Hotel Ashburton on 12 April. Cr Brown asked whether the major community project grant application forms could be updated to make it clear that educational facilities do not meet this fund’s criteria.

NRB Survey

The annual residents’ survey will take place between 7-16 May this year. The Community Planning Manager was asked whether some of the questions could be reworded and made more relevant, for example in the roading area. Mr Thomas said that questions will be similar to previous years’, however a full review of the whole survey is to be undertaken over the next 12 months. It was noted that a Government initiative to develop a way of benchmarking all councils is underway and the outcome of this is likely to be taken into account. Mr Thomas confirmed that Councillors will be invited to take part in a workshop to review the survey.

Parks & Recreation

The Committee congratulated the Parks Staff and thanked those who were involved with Council’s successful entry in the Ellerslie Flower Show.

Youth Cafe and Children’s Day

The Mayor referred to the recent opening of the Youth Cafe and the very successful Children’s Day event. On behalf of Council he thanked the organisers of these events for their involvement and commitment.

Finance Activity Reports

“That the Finance activity reports be received.”

Everest/Brown

Carried

Finance Reports

Financial reports for the period ended 28 February 2010, were received.

- No movement in bonds currently
- Debt facility \$25m – when the Aquatic Park Trust Deed is implemented, some of that will be transferred into bond issue
- \$76K granted to Lyndhurst was balance from previous year. There is no further funding going to Lyndhurst – scheme users will be rated over 15 years until the loan is paid.
- Mill Creek investigation work hasn’t been done.

The Mayor reported that he recently viewed the section of Mill Creek behind Hanrahan Street which needs considerable work. He said that Council's ability to access that section of the creek will soon be limited and action should be taken now. This will be followed up with the Operations department.

- Capital projects – wastewater, stormwater, roading are running behind time – resulting in a high variance being shown.
- Councillors requested an update on the LTCCP projects in the current year.

Forestry

A report on emissions trading will be made to the next meeting of the Committee. Minutes of the Forestry Subcommittee meeting are to be included.

Ashburton Airport Authority Meetings

Property owners within the general vicinity of the Airport have been invited to meetings to discuss the implications of the new designation. The meetings will be held in the Council Chamber at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 March.

Business transacted with the public excluded (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 – 11/02/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit & Budget Subcommittee • Property & Investment Subcommittee 	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities Commercial activities
8.2	Water Billing	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.3	ACL Presentation	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Everest/Brown

Carried

Staff Retirement

The Committee adjourned to welcome Mr David Robertson, Council's Roading & Street Services Manager, and acknowledge his impending retirement. Mr Robertson commenced his employment with Council on 4 August 1997.

Councillors took the opportunity to thank Mr Robertson and wished him well in his retirement.

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

Water Billing

- “1. That the delegations not be limited to the \$5,000 general delegation.
2. That any write-off in terms of the remission policy be limited to being once only for any individual organisation / entity.”

Kilworth/Kingsbury

Carried

The meeting concluded at 5.02 pm.