

COVID-19 Response Committee – 18 June 2020

Minutes of the COVID-19 Response Committee meeting held on Thursday 18 June 2020, commencing at 9.30am, in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, John Falloon, Rodger Letham, Lynette Lovett, Angus McKay, Liz McMillan, Diane Rawlinson and Stuart Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Toni Durham (Strategy & Policy Manager), Bevan Rickerby (Economic Development Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports:, Rachel Thomas (Policy Advisor), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner) and Jim Henderson (People & Capability Advisor).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Item 5 - Cr Wilson an interest as a residential D property owner, noting he would participate in debate and decision.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the COVID-19 Response Committee meeting held on 4 June 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

Braam/Rawlinson

Carried

• Ashton Beach enhancement project

That the matter be uplifted for discussion and decision.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

Council undertook a site visit to Ashton Beach on 11 June. Following this there was general agreement that the preferred approach would be to fence the land around the donga and biodiversity areas and work with the motorcycle club to provide a recreational area for public use on the adjacent Ocean Farm land.

Sarah Mosley outlined the feasibility study proposal which will include asking the motorcycle club to prepare a track plan and setting up a Council-led stakeholder group with representation from DOC, ECan, Forest & Bird, Aoraki Environmental Consultancy and the motorcycle club. The group will be required to engage with the community and report to Council on the outcome of the project's feasibility. Council officers would commence work to ensure legislative compliance and maximise external funding opportunities.

The Committee heard that, in addition to the \$15k fencing cost, a further \$50k may be required to comply with biodiversity management legislation and to ensure the project is sufficiently resourced. It was noted that the Wildlife Act requires the management plan and permitting process for protected species and areas of ecological value, however DOC have suggested that the lizard survey component may be achieved at less cost if it is part of the salvage operation. Stakeholder meetings will be able to refine the details and confirm what can be achieved.

In supporting the proposal the Committee agreed to elected member representation on the stakeholder group and that further consideration will need to be given to the additional funding requirements when the stakeholder group reports back.

That Council supports further work and consultation to enable the establishment of an alternative area for recreational motorbike riding on Council owned land within the Ashton beach area.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

That Crs Leen Braam and Lynette Lovett be appointed to the Ashton Beach project stakeholder group.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

5 Drinking water allocation – ‘residential extraordinary’ connections

The Committee was reminded that a decision is required today to meet the Annual Plan timeframe and any change to allocations would be captured in Annual Plan 2020/21. Officers propose the Annual Plan defines Residential D and Rural A zones as ‘residential extraordinary connections’. A high level definition of extra-ordinary connection (including commercial and industrial) is already included in the Water Supply Bylaw.

Cr Wilson questioned the report figures. He referred to consumption figures for Lake Hood properties (6,000L/day) and asked why that information hadn’t been included.

The Assets Manager advised that smart metering data show the actual use from a property boundary and referring to bulk figures is misleading.

The Assets Manager also responded to the suggestion that properties could be given a ‘credit’ for allocated water that is unused which could be carried forward to the next quarter. Mr Guthrie confirmed that Council could change its policy to allow this but cautioned that it would then need to determine whether the allocation should be smaller. He explained the purpose of the current approach is to try to protect schemes at the height of summer but acknowledged that if demand is equivalent to what is being seen, cost increases may be eventually offset.

It was further noted that an increased allocation would allow more water to go unchecked and that would assume more water would be used which, in turn, may affect how soon planned extensions and bore upgrades are required.

1. **That** Council defines ‘residential extra-ordinary’ connections in the Annual Plan 2020-21 to include Residential D and Rural A properties.
2. **That** Council approves the quarterly allocation for ‘residential extra-ordinary connections’ at 108m³ per quarter (on average, 1,200 litres per day).

Rawlinson/Lovett

Carried

Amendment

1. **That** Council defines ‘residential extra-ordinary’ connections in the Annual Plan 2020-21 to include Residential D and Rural A properties.
2. **That** Council maintains the status quo quarterly allocation for ‘residential extra-ordinary connections’ at 90m³ per quarter (on average, 1,000 litres per day).

Braam/Letham

A show of hands gave 4 for and 6 against and the amendment was lost.
The original motion became the substantive motion.

The Committee generally agreed to an increase in the allocation threshold but the suggestion of 'credits' and annual invoicing was not fully supported.

The Assets Manager advised that an assessment of annual use could be undertaken, at Council's request, to show the impact on revenue and water consumption from invoicing annually rather than quarterly.

That meters for Residential D and Rural A meters be read quarterly but invoiced annually.

Wilson/Rawlinson

Carried

A show of hands gave 6 for and 4 against and the motion was passed.

Post meeting note: while Residential D properties will be invoiced annually, quarterly readings will continue to pick up any extraordinary usage that might indicate a leak or changed activity. At the end of the year, the total of the four quarterly readings will be matched with the annual allocation. Properties where use has been more than the annual allocation will be invoiced the difference.

6 Suspending the Covid-19 Response Committee

In receiving the report, the Committee agreed that weekly meetings of the Covid-19 Response Committee had shown benefits through having all Councillors present and being able to deal with issues in a timely way. The Committee supported reinstating the standing committees but agreed that a review of the committee structure would be useful.

The Chief Executive confirmed the intention to undertake this review later in the year when Council has completed the first 12 months of the term.

Recommendation to Council

1. **That** Council receives the report.
2. **That** Council suspends the Covid-19 Response Committee, effective immediately.
3. **That** Council reinstates the Standing Committees, with committee meetings to resume as scheduled on the 2020 meeting calendar
4. **That** Council gives notice to the Methven Community Board that Board meetings will resume as scheduled on the 2020 meeting calendar, with the next meeting being Monday 29 June.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

7 Business transacted with the public excluded – 10.48am

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – 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:	
7	Covid-19 Economic Recovery Advisory Group 3/06/20	Sections 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Braam

Carried

The meeting concluded at 10.50am.