

Community Services Committee

17 November 2020



Community Services Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17 November 2020, commencing at 9.31am, in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Councillors Angus McKay (Chair), Carolyn Cameron, Leen Braam, Lynette Lovett and Diane Rawlinson.

Also present:

Councillors Liz McMillan, Stuart Wilson.

In attendance:

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Steve Fabish (GM Community Services), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner), and Aisling O'Reilly (Governance Officer).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 8 October 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

Lovett/Rawlinson

Carried

5 Ashburton Youth Council

That the minutes of the Ashburton Youth Council meeting held on 7 October 2020, be received.

Rawlinson/Lovett

Carried

Cr Braam arrived at the meeting at 9:34am

6 Biodiversity Advisory Group

That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 6 October 2020, be received.

Lovett/Rawlinson

Carried

7 Ashburton Domain Aviary

Recommendation to Council

1. **That** the Ashburton Domain aviary be closed at the end of the current contract term, being 29 March 2021.

Cont'd

2. **That** staff work with the Aviary contractor to begin a programme of reducing and rehoming bird stocks in accordance with the guidance provided by the SPCA and with priority given to placing birds at other Council aviaries.
3. **That** the site is redeveloped in accordance with the Ashburton Domain Development Plan.

Rawlinson/Cameron

Carried

8 Cemetery Fees and Charges

It was requested that comparisons of fees with neighbouring councils be included when this report is brought to Council.

It was discussed that the cemetery fees and charges should be discussed in an LTP workshop and that officers find out what fee and charges would be if Council were to go to full cost recovery.

Recommendation to Council

That Council adopts the cemetery charges and fees proposed in *Table 1* below.

Table 1

Fee/charge to be changed	New or existing charge	Proposed fee	Reason for change
Burial plot with concrete beam i.e. 'conventional plot'	Existing	Purchase of plot fee increased from \$1,421 to \$1,657	Change to the service. The fee increase reflects the increased conventional plot widths.
Natural burial - Adult	New	Purchase of plot \$1,657	New service within the Ashburton Cemetery extension area. This is the same fee as a conventional burial plot. Natural burial plots don't require a concrete beam but are considerably larger than a conventional plot.
Natural burial - Child	New	Purchase of plot \$414	New service within the Ashburton Cemetery extension area. Natural burial plots for children are approximately a quarter of the size of adult plots.
Muslim burial - Adult	New	Purchase of plot \$1775 Interment fee \$1,981 (including fee for Muslim board)	New service within the Ashburton Cemetery extension area. Fees are higher than those for conventional burial plots and interments. This is because Muslim plots are wider than conventional plots and also require a concrete beam. Interment is also more complicated than a conventional plot.
Muslim burial - Child	New	Purchase of plot \$887 Interment fee \$1,981 (including fee for Muslim board)	New service within the New service within the Ashburton Cemetery extension area. The plot area required for children is approximately half of that required for an adult. Interment is also more complicated than conventional interments.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

Post meeting note: The 2020 Revenue and Finance Policy review (which Council has adopted to take effect from 1 July 2021) signals that the cemetery activity opex will be funded fees and charges 60-80%, general rate 20-40%. Councillors will recall the hearing of submissions on 18-19 August 2020 followed by adoption of the policy on 24 September 2020. A Council workshop to consider funding from a full cost recovery perspective is effectively a conversation around amending the R&F Policy, which would likely trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and require full consultation.

Council will get the opportunity to review the fees and charges through a budget workshop in the New Year, but this will be primarily to see fees and charges changes and to ensure that Council is giving effect to the new R&F Policy.

The Committee asked for fee comparisons with other councils (shown below). All figures quoted are for single depth burials.

	Ashburton	Timaru	Selwyn	Southland	Waimakariri	Manawatu	Matamata Piako	Hurunui
Plot Purchase (average = \$1,040)	Current (\$1,421) Proposed (\$1,657)	\$1,445	\$1,370	\$138	\$518	\$1,634	\$1,525	\$650
Interment (average = \$1,242)	Current (\$1,257) Proposed (\$1,257) and (\$1,981 including fee for Muslim burial)	\$1,195	\$1,231	\$1,940	\$672	\$1,225	\$1,130	\$1,300

Business transacted with the public excluded – 9:54am

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:	
9	Minutes 8/10/20	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
10	Covid-19 Economic Recovery Advisory Group 14/10/20	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
11	Caring for Communities Welfare Recovery Group 6/10/20	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
12	Caring for Communities Welfare Recovery Group 3/11/20	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons

Brown/Cameron

Carried

The meeting concluded at 10:24am.