

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NELSON CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2008/09 FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HOUSE, TRAFALGAR STREET, NELSON ON THURSDAY 27 MARCH 2008 COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

- PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor K Marshall (Chairperson), Councillors I Barker, A Boswijk, G Collingwood, M Cotton, D Henigan, M Holmes, A McAlpine, A Miccio, P Rainey, R Reese (Deputy Mayor), D Shaw and G Thomas
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive (V Altmants), Divisional Manager Support Services (P Dougherty), Divisional Manager Infrastructure (F Galloway), Divisional Manager Community Services (S Coleman), Divisional Manager Planning and Consents (R Johnson), Chief Financial Officer (C Fitchett), Manager Strategy and Planning (M Tregurtha) and Administration Adviser (A Rose)
- APOLOGIES:** An apology for lateness was received and accepted for Councillor A McAlpine
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1.0 STORMWATER CHARGES

Document No 630274, dated 7 March 2008, agenda pages 1-19 refer.

The Chief Financial Officer presented the report.

The Council supported the recommendation in the report but during a discussion it was agreed that for next years Annual Plan, Council would consider stormwater rating for apartment blocks. It was also noted that when this issue was being considered there would be interconnecting planning issues to be taken into account.

Resolved

THAT the stormwater rate be charged on the basis of one charge per rating unit;

AND THAT the residents of the Nelson City Council portion of Hill Street also be charged the stormwater rate, but that they no longer be expected to maintain the stormwater system in their area.

Shaw/Holmes

Carried

2.0 RATING POLICY FOR BED AND BREAKFAST PROVIDERS

Document No 630039, dated 4 March 2008, agenda pages 20-28 refer.

The Chief Financial Officer presented the report.

Resolved

THAT the rating policy for bed and breakfast establishments be amended through a proposed amendment to the 2006 Long Term Council Community Plan so that they pay a proportion of the residential and commercial rate as follows:

Max no of guests	Residential Rate %	Commercial Rate %
1 to 4	100%	
5 & 6	75%	25%
7 & 8	50%	50%
9 & 10	25%	75%
11 and over		100%

Thomas/Holmes

Carried

3.0 RATING OF MULTI UNITS

Document No 631232, dated 4 March 2008, agenda pages 29-33 refer.

The Chief Financial Officer presented the report.

Although the recommendation in the report found general support with the Council, there was some concern regarding the use of the term “dependent relative”. It was considered by some Councillors that this could be too narrow a definition. It was pointed out that the request for this remission policy had come as a result of the submissions received from ratepayers who were looking after a dependent relative.

In answer to a question the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that the statutory declaration referred to in the recommendation would be a standard one prepared by Council staff.

Resolved

THAT the remission policy be amended so that where a rateable property has a second unit which is occupied by a dependent relative who is on a disability allowance, or an invalid benefit, or is over 65, the ratepayer may apply for a remission of the second uniform annual general charge, waste water charge and stormwater charge;

AND THAT the rating policy be amended so that where a rateable property has a second unit, but it is not being used as such, the ratepayer will not be charged the second uniform annual general charge, wastewater charge or stormwater charge if they sign a statutory declaration stating that it is not being used, is not likely to be used and that they will advise the Council if the situation changes. These statutory declarations would be required every three years.

Barker/Cotton

Carried

4.0 CHARGE FOR WATER FOR SHIPPING AT PORT NELSON

Although this item was not on the agenda the Chief Financial Officer raised the issue, seeking Council’s confirmation of its policy with regard to charging for water supplied to visiting ships at Port Nelson.

Resolved

THAT the status quo remains regarding charging for water for ships visiting Port Nelson i.e. that the charge be two and a half times the standard rate.

Miccio/Boswijk

Carried

5.0 COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION – DRAFT LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Document No 647290, dated 12 March 2008.

The Policy Planner, Debra Bradley, joined the meeting and answered questions on the report and the draft Local Action Plan.

The Divisional Manager Planning and Consents, Richard Johnson, explained that the draft Local Action Plan had originally been presented to the Council at its 6 March 2008 meeting. That meeting had felt that there should be more opportunity for Councillor input into the Plan and had resolved accordingly.

The draft Local Action Plan had been re-circulated with the agenda and included suggested changes from Councillors Henigan, Shaw and Reese.

The Council considered the Plan page by page with the various Councillors explaining the reasons for their suggested changes. Councillor Shaw proposed that the targets suggested in the draft Plan needed to be more ambitious.

In reply, the Chief Executive advised the Council that, at this stage, he could give them no idea of the cost of implementation on the Council of setting a more ambitious target than 2012 and it was agreed to leave the targets as they were stated in the draft Plan at this time.

The meeting continued to go through the plan page by page and it was agreed that while most of the changes suggested by the Councillors were to be incorporated, the language used should be amended so that it is not prescriptive.

Attendance: Councillor McAlpine arrived at 9.59am.

The Mayor adjourned discussion on Communities for Climate Protection draft Local Action Plan and directed the meeting's attention to the report on Natureland.

6.0 NATURELAND UPDATE

Document No 648097, dated 20 March 2008, Supplementary Order Paper No 1 pages 1-10 refer.

The Manager Parks and Facilities, Paul McArthur, joined the meeting and presented the report.

His presentation was prefaced by the Chief Executive who advised Council that with regard to certain statements that had been published in the media, he stated that Council had acted appropriately in terms of the Local Government Act in the way that it has responded to the Abel Tasman Gateway Trust's notification that it could

not continue with Natureland and any long term sustainable decision with regard to the Natureland facility will be made at the end of the Request for Proposal process. He reminded the Council that there was also opportunity for the public to make submissions on this matter via the draft Annual Plan 2008/09 process.

His Worship the Mayor directed the Council to address the two options set out in the recommendation to the report. The majority of the Council favoured option two as it was more logical to keep Natureland open until the Request for Proposal process had been completed because it was the cheaper option.

In answer to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Abel Tasman Gateway Trust would remain the governing body for the time being but they would delegate authority to the Council staff to manage the facility. Natureland staff will remain staff of the Trust for this period, he said.

There was concern expressed from some Councillors that the Council should not be in the business of running a zoo with exotic animals or caged native birds. In answer to another question, the Manager Parks and Facilities said he would hold discussions with the Department of Conservation regarding where the native animals would go if the facility was shut.

There was some support for the suggestion that Natureland would have to shut for a period if another organisation took the facility over in some form or another so that a transition could be managed effectively.

Councillor Cotton proposed, and seconded by Councillor Miccio,

THAT the report be received and that Council delay its decision to close the Natureland facility until a Request for Proposal process has been concluded by 4 July 2008.

Councillor Collingwood moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Shaw

THAT the report be received;

AND THAT Council delay its decision to close the facility until the Request for Proposals process are considered at the 29 April 2008 Community Services meeting.

The amendment was put and lost.

Councillor Shaw moved another amendment

THAT the report be received;

AND THAT Council delay its decision to close the facility until the Request for Proposal process had been concluded.

The amendment failed for lack of a seconder.

The meeting then considered Councillor Cotton's original motion.

Resolved

THAT the report be received;

AND THAT Council delay its decision to close the facility until the Request for Proposal process has been concluded by 4 July 2008.

Cotton/Miccio

Carried

The Chief Executive advised that a further motion was needed giving the Abel Tasman Gateway Trust an extension of its lease until 4 July 2008.

Resolved

THAT the Abel Tasman Gateway Trust's lease of the Natureland facility be extended to 4 July 2008;

AND THAT the resolution passed at the Corporate Governance Committee meeting of 28 February 2008 be varied accordingly.

Thomas/Cotton

Carried

In answer to a question, the Divisional Manager Community Services outlined the process that would be followed regarding the Request for Proposal process. A short list of proposals would be drawn up and brought to the Community Services Committee meeting of 29 April 2008 for consideration, she said.

It was felt by Council that the Councillors who had been involved in the public meetings regarding Natureland should comprise an informal working party to work with staff in preparing the short list of proposals.

Resolved

THAT His Worship the Mayor and Councillors Barker, Boswijk, Cotton and Reese comprise a working party to assist the staff in preparing a short list of proposals to be presented to the Community Services Community meeting of 29 April 2008.

Shaw/Holmes

Carried

The meeting adjourned from 11.15am until 11.25am.

7.0 DRAFT ESTIMATES AND ANNUAL PLAN 2008/09

The meeting then turned its attention to the draft Estimates and Annual Plan 2008/09. The discussion was introduced by the Chief Financial Officer who referred Councillors to the paper circulated at the workshop on 25 March 2008.

His Worship the Mayor then called for comments and any additions or reductions that Councillors wished to make to the draft Estimates as presented.

Councillor Rainey requested that the budget for upgrading the Trafalgar Centre be increased by \$270,000 to enable the existing stage to be relocated and to upgrade the toilets and provide an additional acoustic door.

He also requested an extra \$60,000 be added to the Saxton Field budget for the security fence around the cricket oval and the athletics track.

Councillor Reese tabled a 2008/09 Work Programme for the Environmental Policy Unit. She said that she believed the unit needed more resources and in particular if a full Resource Management Plan review was envisaged then this would need four extra staff members and cost in the region of \$500,000.

This, she said, was option one. The second option was a more limited approach to provide for an additional senior planner to commence working through the issues 9-16 on the Work Programme that she had tabled.

The Chief Executive said he had not had any detailed discussion with the Divisional Manager Planning and Consents or other Council staff and it came down to what Council wanted to do. If Council wishes to address these issues it will need more funding. After further discussion it was agreed to put an additional \$160,000 in the Annual Plan to address these outstanding issues.

Councillor Collingwood requested more information with regard to the increased funding for events and festivals and the sesquicentennial funding. She said she did not believe Council needed to spend in the region of \$70,000 on the sesquicentennial in the next financial year.

Councillor Reese said she had attended meetings with Cathedral staff and they saw the sesquicentennial as a very significant event and are looking to the City to suitably acknowledge the anniversary. Their preference was for a public inclusive event and \$70,000 would be considered a tight budget for such an event, she said.

The meeting adjourned from 12.35 to 1.15pm for lunch.

Attendance: During this time Councillor Henigan left the meeting.

On resumption, the meeting continued to consider the draft Estimates and Annual Plan for the year ended 30 June 2009.

Councillor Barker requested that some Frisbee golf holes be established in Isel Park. He also expressed his concern at the size of the rate increase proposed in the draft Annual Plan. He said the Council needed to think harder about what it did and whether it needed to do certain things. He cited such activities as greenwaste, solar energy, waste minimisation, the Hub, Festivals/Events and the Brook Sanctuary fence as items where he believed money could be saved. He also urged Council not to get carried away with Environmental Management and questioned the amount of money being spent in that area.

Councillor Barker also alluded to the crematorium saying that he believed that it should have been put to private enterprise. He also stated he believed Council was overstaffed in some areas.

Councillor McAlpine defended the Hub, saying that the Trust that is running it has turned this facility around and it is a real help to the Youth of the city.

In answer to a question from Councillor Miccio, the Divisional Manager Community Services, Susan Coleman, said that the budget of \$175,000 for employment services covered:

- Youth Nelson
- Mayors Task Force for jobs and the Connections programme
- Youth Shadow/Nelson City Council Cadetships
- A project to develop employment profiles

Councillor McAlpine said she thought it was timely to review some of these initiatives.

Attendance: Councillor McAlpine left the meeting at 1.40pm.

There was some discussion on the tendering process for Capital Works Projects, particularly in the Infrastructure area, and how Council could ensure that funding set aside for these projects was spent in the year that it was set aside. The Divisional Manager Infrastructure, Fraser Galloway, explained the process by which tenders were let and the costs controlled.

In answer to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that the current staff vacancy rate was 17.26% over 12 months, which equated to 8.79% of total hours.

Attendance: Councillor Henigan returned to the meeting at 1.52pm.

7.1 Water

The Divisional Manager Infrastructure, Fraser Galloway, warned that there could be a significant shortfall in the water account this year. One of the major users, he said, had signalled an intention to reduce their use by a third and that this was equivalent to the use of water of 1,000 houses.

It was suggested that to make up this shortfall the Council could no longer support the Waimea West Augmentation Committee Stage II investigation and save \$100,000 which would be put towards the water account.

7.2 Rating Review

It was suggested that there be a short Live Nelson article on the Council's view of the suggestions in the recent rating review.

Attendance: The meeting adjourned from 3.05pm to 3.25pm.

His Worship the Mayor then directed Councillors to make formal decisions with regard to the draft Annual Plan.

7.3 Trafalgar Centre Upgrade

Resolved

THAT the budget for the Trafalgar Centre upgrade be increased by \$270,000 to include the relocation of the stage and the upgrade of toilets and an additional acoustic door.

Rainey/Cotton

Carried

7.4 Saxton Field Security Fence

Resolved

THAT an additional \$60,000 be placed in the budget for the Saxton Field Security Fence.

Holmes/Miccio

Carried

7.5 Environmental Policy Unit

Resolved

THAT an additional amount of \$160,000 be funded to the Environmental Policy Unit to address the issues set out in the Work Programme tabled by Councillor Reese.

Reese/Miccio

Carried

7.6 Events and Festivals

Councillor Rainey declared an interest in this part of the meeting and took no further part in discussions or voting.

Proposed, by Councillor Collingwood and seconded by Councillor Holmes

THAT the budget for events be reduced to \$100,000.

The motion was put and lost.

The meeting then discussed the proposal to increase the festivals budget to \$300,000. It was suggested that this funding be split into \$100,000 for staffing and \$200,000 for underwriting.

Resolved

THAT the budget for festivals be increased to \$100,000 to provide additional staffing.

Henigan/Cotton

Carried

Resolved

THAT an amount of \$50,000 be put into the Festivals and Events budget for underwriting purposes.

Shaw/Miccio

Carried

The Chief Executive then explained the resolution required to enable the draft Annual Plan for 2008/09 to be put out for public consultation.

Resolved

THAT the estimates and draft Annual Plan for 2008/09 as amended, including proposed amendments to the LTCCP proposed sustainability policy, proposed resource consent fees and a statement of proposal to sell land at Blackwood Street, be adopted for consultation according to Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Henigan/Shaw

Carried

It was agreed that the Council sustainability policy would be included as appropriate within the draft Annual Plan.

It was also agreed that Councillor Boswijk would assist staff in preparing a brochure to encourage more public participation and understanding in the Annual Plan process.

8.0 COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION – DRAFT LOCAL ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

Document No 647290, dated 12 March 2008, agenda pages 29-54 refer.

The Policy Planner, Debra Bradley, joined the meeting and answered questions on the draft Local Action Plan.

The meeting considered the remainder of the Action Plan page by page, and it was agreed as before that with certain softening of the language of the proposed changes, the draft Action Plan be approved.

Resolved

THAT the Council approve the draft Communities for Climate Protection Local Action Plan attached to document No 647068, dated 12 March 2008, with the amendments as directed by Council for consultation with the community.

Reese/Henigan

Carried

There followed discussion on the process by which submissions on the Local Action Plan would be handled. It was agreed that there will a separate day or half day where submissions on the draft Local Action Plan could be heard separately from submissions to the draft Annual Plan.

The meeting closed at 4.38pm.

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

_____ CHAIRPERSON

_____ DATE