

MINUTES

TITLE: Corporate Services Committee
DATE: Thursday 1 September 2005
TIME: 9.30 am
VENUE: Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond
PRESENT: Mayor J C Hurley, Crs T B King, S G Bryant, T E Norriss, R G Kempthorne, E E Henry, R G Currie, M J Higgins, E M O'Regan, N Riley, P K O'Shea, J L Inglis
IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (R G Dickinson), Corporate Services Manager (D G Ward), Corporate Engineering Administrator (V M Gribble)

Apologies

**Moved Crs Bryant/O'Regan
FN05/090/06**

THAT apologies from Crs S J Borlase and E J Wilkins for absence be sustained.

CARRIED

1 WELCOME – CRAIG MILBURN

Cr King welcomed Craig Milburn who is visiting on a management exchange scholarship from Port Macquarie - Hastings Council, New South Wales.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

2.1 Mr R Ching

Mr Ching spoke to the meeting about the proposal to remove hawthorn hedges on his property. He is opposed to having to remove their hawthorn hedges.

2.2 Mr R Whalley

Mr Whalley said he has hawthorn hedges on his property over which he has a protection order. He is opposed to having to remove hawthorn hedges.

2.3 Mr G Praat

Mr Praat, Knapps Solicitors, spoke on behalf of Mr & Mrs Ching. He emphasised that there has been no agreement from them for removal of their hedges, and commented on the deep regard and attachment they have to the hedges. He said there doesn't appear to be any scientific evidence for removal and he questioned the process which has been undertaken.

2.4 Mrs M Ching

Mrs Ching said removing the hawthorn hedges will affect their livelihood and they do not want spray drift etc coming from adjoining orchards.

2.5 Mr B Wagner

Mr Wagner said his property is a long way away from the hawthorn hedges. Those growers in the affected area who want the hawthorn hedges removed should have budgeted to meet the entire cost themselves. He said he shouldn't have to pay for those people to have to eradicate hawthorn.

2.6 Mr G Buck

Mr Buck commented on the meeting held on 24 August 2005. He said questions were raised in opposition that were not recorded in the minutes, including comments that a 500 metre boundary inspection zone is in the strategy and should be applied. Statements were made that fireblight restricts market access for apples. He considers fireblight is easily manageable. He asked that a postal vote be undertaken, should Council decide to proceed.

2.7 D Easton

Mr Easton said fireblight can be spread on mature apples. Fireblight is transmitted through source of infection, and needs temperatures and moisture conditions that are suitable. He said there is no science in the 500 metre boundary.

2.8 J Raine, Wai-West

Mr Raine said the spray products that Mr Ching mentioned are no longer used and have not been used for a long time. The other property owners with hawthorn hedges accept the situation and we will be working with all affected landowners once the shelter belts have been removed. He said the main area is Swamp Road, McShane Road and Lower Queen Street and involves 2.9 km of hawthorn hedging. It has been costed according to previous experience in Riwaka. We would wait until 31 January 2006 to determine which growers will be affected. We are endeavouring to complete a project which was started several years and believes due process has been followed.

3 CITIZENSHIP

A Citizenship Ceremony was held for the following people:

Mr Kun-Yu Chen

Mrs Shu-Hui Chen

Miss Nien-Tzu Chen

Mr Dong Ha Kim

Mrs Myung Soon Kang

Master Seong Su Kim

Master Min Su Kim

Miss Rachel Emma Lean

Mrs Louise Joanne O'Donnell

Mr John Joseph Earl O'Donnell

Mrs Barbara Jane Stowe

Mr Patrick Leon Stowe

Mrs Margaret Ann Trenker

Mr Anthony Ralph Pearson

Mrs Vivienne Janet Pearson

A choir from Richmond Primary School sang the National Anthem and one other song and joined the new citizens and Councillors for morning tea.

4 MINUTES

4.1 Information and Publicity Subcommittee – 20 July 2005

**Moved Crs Higgins/Henry
FN05/09/07**

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Information and Publicity Subcommittee held on 20 July 2005 and containing resolutions numbered FN05/07/01 to FN05/07/05 be confirmed as a true and complete record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED

4.2 Council Enterprise Subcommittee – 20 July 2005

**Moved Crs Riley/Inglis
FN05/09/08**

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Council Enterprise Subcommittee held on 20 July 2005 and containing resolutions numbered FN05/07/06 to FN05/07/19 be confirmed as a true and complete record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED

4.3 Corporate Services Committee – 21 July 2005

**Moved Crs Higgins/Kempthorne
FN05/09/09**

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 20 July 2005 and containing resolutions numbered FN05/07/20 to FN05/07/33 be confirmed as a true and complete record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – AUGUST 2005

Cr King spoke to his report contained in the agenda which commented on the slow-down in the local economy and how it may affect Council's financial results, LTCCP consultation and the forthcoming elections.

**Moved Crs King/Henry
FN05/09/10**

THAT Chairman's report for August 2005 be received.

CARRIED

6 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

6.1 Craig Milburn

Mr Ward introduced Craig who hosted him while he was on his scholarship in Australia in May/June of this year.

Mr Milburn said there are a lot of similarities between Port Macquarie - Hastings and Tasman District. He said his district has a population of 75,000 which is predicted to move to 120,000 in the next 15 – 20 years. He said there are similar environmental constraints, with sulphates in the soil that turn to acid when mixed with air, koala corridors created etc. Nine councillors represent the whole area. The key driver is construction based on growth and it is unsustainable. They are undertaking a joint venture commercial wharf for tuna fishermen and building a \$28 million arts and cultural centre in the central business district.

6.2 Waimea Fireblight Eradication

Mr Ward spoke to his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

He said Council was asked to include a hawthorn eradication programme for the Waimea area in its draft 2005/2006 annual plan. Council passed its annual plan for 2005/2006 incorporating the Waimea Fireblight eradication area, albeit there was a rider to the rate saying it would be introduced following consultation with affected owners in the area. 12 of the 23 property owners attended a meeting on 24 August 2005, which was attended by Julian Raine, Graham Strickett and David Ward, with Richard Kempthorne as Chair.

Cr Kempthorne said all growers who would be directly affected by having the rate imposed on them were issued written invitations to the 24 August 2005 meeting.

Mr Ward said in Riwaka the rate in the dollar was set at \$500 per property at request of the property owners. In the case of Waimea, they are in favour of planted hectares as several growers, between them represent 50% of the area and they are prepared to pay most of the cost.

Cr Kempthorne said the meeting was for growers who would pay the rate and the objective was to get clarity as to whether they were prepared to pay. Assuming we get a positive response today, then next week we will meet with the affected hawthorn owners and talk about the issues. He said the Nelson Tasman Biosecurity Strategy could be used to enter properties and get rid of the hedges if agreement was not reached.

Cr O'Regan expressed concern that we've got to this stage in the process and people who are affected have not been consulted as yet.

Cr Kempthorne said Mr Raine had approached all land owners concerned, but Mr Ching was not interested in talking about it.

Cr Kempthorne said costings were given to the meeting, based on the Riwaka experience. \$75,000 is a conservative figure and it could come in well below.

Mr Ward said the meeting was advised of the cost and what the elements of the cost were, ie eradication and fencing.

Cr Higgins said hawthorn could be sprayed with copper to control fireblight and the cost would be cheaper and the problem managed, rather than eradicated. He asked why that is not being considered as an option.

Cr Kempthorne said any spraying of hawthorn will only reduce it, not eradicate it. On an orchard if there is hawthorn nearby you can noticeably see the infection that comes from it. If you rely on spray control you'll have continual infections on orchards. The best management is to remove the source of infection.

Mayor Hurley said hawthorn is a disaster and it should come out. Council needs to be firm on its decision.

Cr Currie asked what would happen where an orchardist was charged the proposed rate but later pulls his orchard out.

Cr Kempthorne said once the decision is made all the orchardists will be notified and they will be given to the end of January 2006 to decide whether they're staying in orcharding. The project will be loan funded over five years. If an orchard goes out of production after two years it will still be liable for the levy.

Mr Ward said the base would be the planted hectares in January 2006, but a comment was made at the 24 August 2005 meeting that a group of growers would be prepared to underwrite the loan.

Cr Inglis noted that the farmers in Riwaka that had hawthorn eradicated saw a great increase in their property valuations. He advised not to eradicate hawthorn while it is flowering. If apples are going to continue to be grown, it is imperative that hawthorn be removed.

Cr Higgins said reconsideration of the rateable properties should be annually. He said come the end of January 2006, those that say they're in, will be rated for 12 months and then the rate will be reconsidered after 12 months.

Cr King said because it is a rate it must be reviewed when we set our rates in the annual plan.

Cr Norriss said the Pest Management Strategy went through public consultation and fireblight was put in to give Council the ability to remove host hawthorn with the cost falling on orchardists.

Moved Crs Henry/O'Shea
FN05/09/11

THAT the Corporate Services Committee accept the recommendation from a meeting of affected property owners held on 24 August 2005 to proceed with the eradication of hawthorn from within a defined rating area on the Waimea Plains, once consultation with all hawthorn owners in the defined rating area has been carried out and that tenders for the eradication of these hedges and fence replacement be called.

CARRIED

6.3 Funding Requirements

A resolution is required to acknowledge a funds roll over that will take place on 19 September 2005.

Moved Crs Bryant/Inglis
FN05/09/12

THAT a loan of \$1,108,020.41 be raised for the purpose of repaying at maturity the Tasman District Council General Renewal Loan No 44 2005 and that such loan be known as the Tasman District Council General Renewal Loan No 45 2005.

CARRIED

7 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

Mr Ward advised he is the project manager and asked for Councillors to join the LTCCP project team. The idea is to give some form of Council ownership to the process.

Cr O'Shea suggested the Standing Committee Chairpersons would be appropriate representatives.

Cr O'Regan expressed concern that we're getting into a process and being advised not to worry government about this. This is the very time we should be worrying the political parties about the cost that this is putting on ratepayers. It will not just be a plan for infrastructural assets development, it will be an ongoing talk-fest overseen by our auditors who will pass judgement on the consultation. He said Councillors and staff are going to be doing nothing but attend meetings and it is not possible for them to keep up with all the meetings.

Cr King said we don't have a choice about whether we do it, or about whether it will be audited. Auditors will audit the process, not individual comments within it. The point is whether the opportunity is made for comments and how the Council responds to it. The process is unwieldy and excessively expensive, and the opportunity to do anything was when the law was made, the opportunity will come again if there is a change of government.

Cr Kempthorne said there are constraints, and it is a question of prioritising activities and realising we can't do everything at once with the resources we've got.

**Moved Crs Henry/O'Shea
FN05/09/13**

THAT the LTCCP Working Party include the Chairs of the Standing Committees.

CARRIED

Mr Ward said we have already established timelines for development of the plans, and decision making milestones have been established. These will come back to workshops later in the year. Likely risks being faced are the ability to review our asset management plans in time. Key accountabilities are analysing and identifying outcomes to the consultation process, putting down in front of Councillors what the community want, seeing if this is what asset and activity management plans are saying and seeing if there is a link between the two. At the last Council meeting it was agreed to distribute a special issue of Newline – The Mag and also Futures Discussion Paper. He advised there will be focus group meetings every night next week and asked for as many Councillors as possible to talk to the industry-based focus groups and school groups.

Mr Ward said the LTCCP Jigsaw booklet which was attached to today's agenda is the template that Local Government suggests its members follow through the LTCCP compilation process.

Mayor Hurley said much of what has been said is valid and all we can do is give it our best shot with the resources that we've got.

8 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

The document is required to be reviewed prior to inclusion in Council's draft Long Term Council Community Plan. It is appropriate that the document be reviewed in conjunction with the asset management plan and activity management plan reviews as section 3 of the policy refers to borrowing limits and interest rate management.

Cr Higgins said in terms of cash deposits, they should be limited to \$1 million per bank. He asked that credit ratings be put with Nelson Building Society and Southland Building Society.

Mr Ward said Council has four banks that it can borrow up to \$18 million from. The sum total of borrowings and investments will be no more than \$18 million. He said the four banks Council deals with are ASB, National Bank, Bank of New Zealand and Westpac Banking Corporation.

Cr O'Shea noted an amendment and said Tasman District Council has representation on the appointments committee for trustees (page 17 – Risk Management, Tasman Bays Heritage Trust).

**Moved Crs Higgins/Kempthorne
FN05/09/14**

**THAT a maximum of \$1 million be invested with any approved bank at any time.
CARRIED**

9 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JULY 2005

Cr Norriss expressed concern over some of the things Council is paying for.

Cr King said if Council is paying for consultation for cycling that is an issue, as we have other local groups that do not have payment for consultation.

**Moved Crs Henry/O'Regan
FN05/09/15**

**THAT the accounts for July 2005 be approved for payment.
CARRIED**

The meeting concluded at 1.30 pm.

Chair:

Date: