

**Report of an extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 21 November 2017, at 6.46pm**

**Present** Cr Bolger (Chairman), Crs Beale, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

**In Attendance** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standing), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Communications/Promotions Manager (Sonia Gerken) and one member of the public in the gallery.

**Apology** His Worship the Mayor apologised for absence.

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**1. MATAURA ENRICHING LIVES TRUST – PROPOSAL FOR RETENTION OF MATAURA SWIMMING POOL (SC1935)**

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive following an approach by Birgit Schonberger and former Cr Steven Dixon to His Worship the Mayor approximately six months ago, to be given time to formulate a proposal that could see the retention of the Mataura swimming pool as an operating facility. A commitment was given that no ir retrievable action would be taken in respect of the Mataura swimming pool until around November to enable the two people to formulate a business plan for presentation to and consideration by the Council.

A copy of the proposal from the newly formed Mataura Enriching Lives Trust had been circulated. It had been made abundantly clear that any proposal could not be reliant on continued ratepayer funding and the decision to close the pool and develop an alternative recreation facility in Mataura had already been included in the Council's Long Term Plan. The proposal was far from a completed business plan with a fair degree of optimism rather than tangible facts. One of the key problems seen with the proposal was the suggestion that operational grants of \$60,000 per annum needed to be secured to maintain a viable operation.

Cr Bolger commended the Trust on its enthusiasm, however, he had some concerns about the financial report presented.

The Chief Executive noted there were a number of gaps in the financial report that appeared to rely on some revenue coming from grants which were difficult to obtain on a regular basis. The Council had also closed the pool on the basis that a destinational recreation facility would be established at Tulloch Park. He felt on balance the Council had reached a point where it needed to move on with what had been stated in the Long Term Plan.

Cr D Grant said while he applauded the Trust's efforts, there was no real business plan provided which was what had been requested.

Cr Beale felt the Council would be setting the Trust up to fail if the proposal was accepted.

Cr Bolger said when he looked at the business plan and where the potential revenue was possibly going to come from it would need a very "fair wind" for the proposal to succeed. For the pool to remain open year on year, reliance on grants and revenue from a laundromat and dog wash was a very big ask from a small community. The Council had closed the pool and he did not see a reason to change that decision.

Cr Phillips agreed the report fell short from the expectations of the Council and the Maitara Community Board. The Trust had had six months to obtain the pledges etc and he favoured moving forward with the proposal for Tulloch Park.

In response to Cr Bolger, the Chief Executive advised the intended elements of the Tulloch Park recreation facility project.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the proposal from the Maitara Enriching Lives Trust be received and noted,**

**THAT the Council confirm its commitment to closing the Maitara pool and offering an alternative recreational facilities to the Maitara community in concert with the Maitara Community Board,**

**AND THAT a letter of thanks be sent to Birgit Schonberger and Steven Dixon.**

**2017/113**

**Cr Sharp voted against the motion and asked for his vote to be recorded.**

The meeting concluded at 7.29pm