

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD, HELD IN THE ELDERLY CITIZENS CENTRE, McQUEEN AVENUE, MATAURA, ON MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2006, AT 5.30 pm

PRESENT N Phillips (Chairman), R McGowan, D Edwards and D Lee.

IN ATTENDANCE His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Crs Davis, McLennan and Turnbull, Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Neil Jorgensen), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore) HR Manager (Susan Jones) and Mataura Service Centre Co-ordinator (Miss Pam Courtney)

APOLOGIES S Dixon apologised for absence.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of R McGowan, seconded by D Lee, THAT the Report of the Ordinary Meeting of the Mataura Community Board, held on Thursday 20 July 2006, as circulated, be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and complete record.

2. UPDATE ON BRIDGE STREET FUNDING (3.1.2)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets advising that there was a total of \$40,000 currently available to fund the project, and that it would be managed by the Roading Manager.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of D Lee, seconded by D Edwards, THAT the information be received.

3. ASQUITH STREET SPEED PROBLEM (3.1.1)

The Roading Manager reported that residents adjacent to the no exit section of Asquith Street, south of Albion Street, had expressed concern about an ongoing problem of "hoons" travelling at speed on the short section of gravel road.

Closing the road was not an option as it provided access, via a pedestrian bridge over the Waimumu stream, to Burton Road. It was suggested that fencing be allowed close to the existing road edge with hazard reflectors also being installed.

Cr Turnbull asked why it could not be closed. There was pedestrian access available.

The Roading Manager advised there were people who used the area for picnics and it provided a turn around area. Access was also required to the bridge. The proposed measures were a first option and if they

did not work then something more permanent would be investigated. The cost of the fencing would be met by the adjoining landowner.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of R McGowan, seconded by D Lee, THAT fencing be permitted close to the existing road edge,

AND THAT hazard reflectors be installed at the northern end of the fence to warn motorists of the constriction at night.

4. MATAURA SWIMMING POOL HOURS (24.5.1)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets following discussions by the Aquatic Services Working Party about changes to swimming pool hours to better fit with patronage levels versus expense. The Working Party had come up with a new proposal for the opening hours of the Mataura pool which roughly cut the hours open in half. This would result in a saving of approximately \$35,000 on staff costs and made the Mataura operation more efficient. A point to note was that the Mataura School could book the pool at any time to fit its needs and staff would be provided.

Cr Davis, Chair of the Working Party addressed the meeting and reiterated there was no intention to close the Mataura Pool. The main reason for reducing the hours was due to poor patronage levels and the resultant cost of maintaining the pool being open for so long. The proposed hours were not set in concrete and would be reviewed periodically depending on demand and pool usage.

In response to D Lee, the General Manager said the major cost of operating a pool on a public holiday was the new Holidays Act which significantly impacted on staff costs. When analysing previous usage of the Mataura pool on public holidays it did not have a level of patronage to justify having it open. It made sense to retain the Gore pool open which had better patronage but still enabled Mataura people to attend a pool to swim if they wished.

R McGowan was concerned about the proposal to close the pool on public holidays. He felt the pool should be open on some public holidays that occurred during the summer. It was hard to ascertain if there was demand for the pool to be open when it was closed.

His Worship said it was important to ensure the pool was open during the summer period in particular as the community did not want young people going to the river or jumping off the bridge.

Both the Gore Aquatic Centre and Mataura pool were closed to the public on Christmas Day and Boxing Day as well as New Year's Day and 2 January.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of R McGowan, seconded by D Lee, THAT the Board endorse the following pool hours, noting that the pool will remain open on public holidays during summer months (December to February) when the Gore Aquatic Centre is also open.

NB this will mean the pool will be open to the public on Waitangi Day.

Proposed Term Hours*		
		(23 hours per week)
Monday		2.30 pm - 5:30 pm
Tuesday		10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Wednesday		2.30 pm - 5:30 pm
Thursday		10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Friday		2.30 pm - 5:30 pm
Saturday		1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Sunday		1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Waitangi Day		1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Other Public Holidays		closed
Proposed Holiday Hours*		
		(32 hours per week)
Monday		1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Tuesday		11.00 am - 5.00 pm
Wednesday		1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Thursday		11.00 am - 5.00 pm
Friday		1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Saturday		1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Sunday		1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Waitangi Day		1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Other Public Holidays		closed

5. MATAURA POOL UPDATE (24.2.3)

An update from the Utilities Manager, Assets had been received following the decision to install a new pipe from the main pool to the balance tank. Other maintenance work had been undertaken and the pool was due to open on 23 September for the new season.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of D Lee, seconded by D Edwards, THAT the report be received.

6. TULLOCH PARK TOILETS (18.24)

The Parks and Recreation Manager had advised there had been quotes and estimates received for the planned upgrade of the Tulloch Park toilets to make them legally compliant with the building code for paraplegic access. The cost of the work was expected to be in the vicinity of \$8,000 and it was felt the cost of the conversion should be borne by and included in the new Community Centre funding equation.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of N Phillips, seconded by D Lee, THAT the information be received.

7. MATAURA COMMUNITY CENTRE (37.19.3)

The Chief Executive had advised that funding requests for additional funding for the Community Centre project had been submitted to both the Mataura Licensing Trust and the Community Trust of Southland. Copies of the replies from both institutions had been circulated with the agenda. Both had stipulated that no decision on extra funding for the project could be made until questions posed by the Mataura Licensing Trust had been satisfactorily answered.

The Chief Executive did not think the Board needed to be pessimistic about the questions but it needed to assure the key funders that the project was the best way to proceed for the community. It was up to the Board to work through the questions. He added one question that was not really relevant was the ongoing operational costs as they would be met by the Council.

N Phillips referred to the letter from the Mataura Licensing Trust. When the building was first mooted the costs were only ball park and until community support was forthcoming no money would be spent. That had been done as far as he was concerned and the reason why Signal Management Group had subsequently been approached for firm costings. He thought the cost was achievable.

R McGowan thought it was important to note that no large amounts of money had been spent on plans to date but there had been increases in the cost of steel and other items. The project was not extravagant.

The Chief Executive thought the increase in cost had perhaps generated a question of whether the project was what the community really wanted.

N Phillips said there was a comprehensive report undertaken about five years ago. The Board had also done extensive consultation with the community. It had the backing of the community after that to proceed with the project.

He believed there was demand for the facility and that it would be well used.

D Lee departed the meeting at 6:04 pm

D Edwards spoke on behalf of the Maori community and said he was probably one of the few elders left. He had noted interest and support in the Mataura Marae had diminished in recent years compared to 20-25 years ago. In recent times he had attended two Maori weddings at the town hall. He knew interest was waning in the Marae, there were financial and other problems and support had gone away from it. Many of the young people were supportive of the Community

Centre. He thought he spoke for most of the Maori community. He had been involved with the shearing industry and a speed shearing competition could be held at the Community Centre in the future.

N Phillips referred to publicity in July about the Mataura rugby club and whether there had been any consideration about siting the centre at its location. The Board set a number of goals when it decided to progress the community centre project and one of the goals was that it should be sited somewhere so that it provided the best possible usage for Mataura citizens now and in the future. It had consulted with the rugby club, RSA and other sporting groups like hockey and soccer. The outcome was that it was best to move away from the rugby club and have a standalone building mainly due to what the rugby club was asking for in terms of usage. As far as the rugby club was concerned no further contact had been made with it after the community meeting. It was assumed that the club was happy with the decision of the Board so he had been disheartened to read the comments from the club in the media in July.

R McGowan believed a lot of the issues raised now had already been considered and had been there from the start. The Mataura Licensing Trust had been aware of them from the beginning and to raise questions at the 11th hour was very disappointing in his view. Obviously the \$100,000 granted was appreciated but the plight of the rugby club was not new and it had been addressed as far as the community centre project was concerned. Many of the questions had also been addressed and the information was available when the Trust granted \$100,000. They were not new. Other than the article in the paper, the rugby club and its situation was well and truly identified. There was one faction in the community who wanted the centre sited at the rugby club, but there were others who did not think one sporting group should be propped up. The same had been said about the RSA, hence a neutral site. Whilst he was not anti-drinking, there was support for a stand-alone facility that did not necessarily have to encounter noise from patrons in a bar which may have happened at the rugby club.

The Board was disappointed with the letter from the Trust, but was grateful for the contribution already made.

The Chief Executive said his take on the funders questions was the plight of the rugby club and whilst it was well known to the Board and the community it had struck a chord outside of it. The rising cost will also have caused concern so the questions were asked. The Board had said unequivocally the strategy was right. He could understand where the funders were coming from – they were sitting outside of the community and seeing things from a different perspective to the Board. He suggested drafting a response for comment from the Community Board members before sending it to the funders.

Cr McLennan thought it odd to get a letter from funders who questioned the contribution of social and ethnic groups to the project.

The Chief Executive did not think there was any argument that the Mataura community lacked a decent venue for functions.

His Worship disagreed with Cr McLennan, and said funders had a right to ask any questions they wanted. The project had been on the go for a long time and the Mataura Licensing Trust had flagged some questions and those had been picked by the Community Trust of Southland. It was not unfair of them to ask those questions. It would not be difficult for the Community Board to take a check and ask if it was the doing right thing. He thought the Board was missing a great opportunity of getting a reinforced view from the community. He was on record as supporting the project but thought it would be worthwhile checking again with the community to confirm what the Board was proposing was the right way forward.

N Phillips agreed it may be appropriate for the Board to canvass the community or businesses to get a reinforcement of support.

His Worship said the plight or otherwise of the rugby club should be absolutely irrelevant. The siting of the community centre in Mataura was paramount and whether the rugby club was in dire straits or not was unrelated in his view. Had the Board considered the views of other sporting groups as far as expected usage of the facility was concerned? Mataura was a unique community in that it had the highest population in the South Island of Iwi which made it different. He added social issues were high on funder's priorities.

The Chief Executive said if a survey was done, thought needed to be given about how and who should do it.

N Phillips did not think a survey was necessary but the Board needed to reassure itself that its project was the right one and he was happy to go back to the community to do that.

R McGowan said he had not had any comment from anyone saying the project was wrong.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of D Edwards, seconded by R McGowan, THAT based on the discussions at the meeting, the Chief Executive draft a response to the Mataura Licensing Trust and the Community Trust of Southland for approval by the Board.

8. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER (2.1.6)

The Board perused an operational report from the Roding Manager.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of D Edwards, seconded by R McGowan, THAT the report be received.

9. REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER (18.1.2)

The Board perused an operational report from the Parks and Recreation Manager.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of D Edwards, seconded by R McGowan, THAT the report be received.

10. CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT (46.36.1)

The Board perused a summary of customer service requests received for the period 11 July until 11 September 2006.

In response to N Phillips, the Roading Manager said neither Gore nor Mataura was any worse than the other in respect of cars being abandoned on Council property. It was a costly exercise for the Council and often difficult to track down the owners, but every effort was made.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of R McGowan, seconded by N Phillips, THAT the information be received.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 20 November 2006.

The meeting concluded at 6:44 pm