



**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2007, AT 5:03 pm.**

**PRESENT** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Bolger (Chairperson) Crs Davis, Harvey, Hellier, Sutherland and Turnbull.

**IN ATTENDANCE** The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Neil Jorgensen), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), the Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and five members of the public in the Gallery.

**APOLOGIES** Cr McLennan and General Manager, District Assets apologised for absence.

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1. BUILDING CONTROL FEES (17.3/2.14.3)

A memo had been received from the Building Control Manager about a number of new procedures that the Building Control Department had put into operation since the implementation of the Building Act 2004. He advised the services should be a user pays system and recommended additional fees:

**Cr Hellier moved THAT the following fees be accepted and included in the Gore District Council schedule of fees:**

**Swimming Pool Register**

<b>Initial inspection</b>	<b>\$120</b>
<b>Return inspections</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>3 yearly inspections</b>	<b>\$60</b>
<b>Amendment to Building Consents already issued</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<small>Per hour - minimum 1 hour charge</small>	
<b>Certificate Compliance schedule</b>	<b>\$200</b>

**Certificate of Public Use  
Advisory Inspections/Consultations**

**\$200  
\$150  
Per hour**

**The recommendation was seconded by Cr Turnbull.**

In response to Cr Hellier, the Manager advised swimming pools had to be inspected every three years.

His Worship was concerned about charging the public for advice from the Council's Building Department. He realised that compliance was an important issue and it needed to be mindful of that, but he wondered what sort of advice would be worth charging for.

The Manager replied because the Department was so busy, it had been thought to charge in those instances where staff were asked to inspect a property for purchase or to check whether it complied with building requirements. It was expected that the fee would give the Department the ability to charge on issues "outside the square".

Cr Bolger queried whether goodwill would prevail for help in filling out consent forms.

The Manager said staff were not consultants and advice could be given but he did not want to see it come back onto the Department if things went wrong.

In response to Cr Bolger, the Manager agreed there was some latitude extended with giving people direction.

In response to His Worship, the Building Control Manager said other neighbouring authorities charged a similar amount for this service.

His Worship said it was a change from the Council's policy.

Cr Hellier noted everything else was user pays so why not this.

Cr Harvey asked if the local building industry had been contacted about it.

The Manager said it did not really affect it as it was mainly for the a person who undertook projects on a DIY basis.

His Worship asked if there was anyone else in the area that could provide the service.

The Manager advised there was one agency in Gore who offered property advice.

Cr Turnbull was concerned the charge could result in people choosing not to apply for consents.

The Chief Executive said it was becoming widely known that any building work carried out without a consent would become an issue when selling the property or if an insurance claim was made.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Manager said the building accreditation process was a result of the leaky homes issue. He asked if it was prudent to add another charge to the recommendation.

Cr Bolger said he should discuss it with the Chief Executive first and bring it before the Council at another time.

**The recommendation was put and it was carried.**

2. POLICY ON GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING OF RURAL HALLS AND DOMAINS (1.7.4.2)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a copy of the existing policy for rural halls and domains. A suggested alternative to the current policy for the provision of grants had been circulated.

The Chief Executive said he had endeavoured to make the guidelines flexible as most of the applicants dealt with, had modest needs and needed to access funds without too much fuss. He hoped the changes would make the fund more user friendly and easier for the Sub-Committee to make decisions.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sutherland, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the revised criteria for the allocation of rural halls and domains grants as detailed in Appendix II be endorsed.**

The Chief Executive added that the request from the Council to review its policy on grants had highlighted the conditions set needed room to move.

3. GORE A & P ASSOCIATION JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT (50.12.1)

A memo had been circulated from the Parks and Recreation Manager together with a copy of the draft agreement between

the Council and the Gore Agricultural and Pastoral Association relating to the operation of the Joint Management Committee that required adoption prior to signing. The new agreement would commence from 1 July 2007 and expire on 30 June 2012. He added the financial amounts contained within the document were within the existing and proposed budgets under the Council's LTCCP.

Cr Bolger said there were two major changes to the agreement, the first being the annual grant of \$67,056 being inflation adjusted and secondly a contribution to the operating costs of the Joint Management Committee of \$3,250. His impression was that the Committee had taken responsibility for the maintenance of the grandstand.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sutherland, seconded by Cr Harvey, THAT the Council adopt the new agreement for the operation of the A & P Joint Management Committee between the Council and the Gore Agricultural and Pastoral Association for a term of five years.**

4. PARKS AND RESERVES WORKING PARTY ISSUE OF POTENTIAL DISPOSALS (18.74)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager about the potential disposal of reserve lands as identified by the Working Party. A decision was made at an Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 April to defer discussions on the issue until August based on the fact that a lengthy process had to be gone through in order to revoke a reserves status and it was envisaged it would not affect the 2007/08 financial year. Details of the current costs of maintenance of the reserves had been circulated.

Cr Bolger explained it was appropriate for the Council to make an inventory of its reserves and he could not envisage a wholesale change to it. The Working Party had identified some land currently being grazed by stock and he wondered if it was the best use of the land. He said the Council's financial position was strong and it did not need to realise any of the reserves. The question he posed was where to from here - should a decision be reached at the meeting or held over for the next Council?

Cr Hellier said a lot of consultation with the public would be required and it had been advised at the last Council meeting that there was a lack of building space in the town. He thought it was a pity that the part of Bannerman Park that had been highlighted in the report could not be disposed of now. As far

as the playgrounds were concerned, he believed it would create too much of an uproar and may cost more for the Council to reinstate the areas as residential sites than it would receive for the land.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Manager said one could argue that grazing was a good way to look after the land. The report had provided the Council with a range of options that it could or could not choose to make.

Cr Harvey said the only new information was about the current cost of maintenance and income from the reserves highlighted for possible disposal. He noted that the maintenance costs were not high. He said the Council was at an early stage in the proceedings and with the election in October, he felt it was best to leave it to a future Parks and Reserves Working Party. He added that misinformation had been spread about the potential disposals in the past and felt if it was presented to the public in a rational way, it may not be such a difficult task.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Sutherland, THAT the report be received,**

**AND THAT the Council form a new Parks and Reserves Working Party after the October elections to discuss the potential disposal of parks and reserves as highlighted in the report.**

Cr Bolger asked if it was appropriate to have grazing on valuable land.

Cr Davis agreed that it was inappropriate, and felt the new Council would have to come to terms with providing a solution.

Cr Harvey did want to see the issue rushed and confirmed the area at Bannerman to be disposed of was not where the rhododendrons were. He was sure if public awareness could be achieved, the Council would be able to move forward.

Cr Bolger said whatever direction the Council took, there would be a long consultation process and it could result in no change to the parks and reserves.

**Cr Hellier moved as an Amendment, THAT the Parks and Reserves Working Party meet to discuss options to take to the next Working Party after the October election.**

**The amendment was seconded by Cr Turnbull.**

Cr Harvey was opposed to the amendment. He felt the election campaign could be an ideal platform for candidates to influence the public. He could see little advantage of having the Working Party meet before the elections.

His Worship said he saw little difference between the motion and the amendment. This was an issue where it was necessary to make haste slowly and consider how it had arisen. There had been strident calls from a sector of the community to investigate the costs of the parks and reserves and as a result the Working Party had been established to work through those issues. It had provided the Council with two reports, and discovered that parks and reserves actually needed more funding to maintain them. The Council had also been informed there was land not being used as a reserve and it needed to decide what it needed for the future. Time was required to make a decision and it could be an election issue. He thought the public should seek out elected members for their views. All the amendment would achieve was to make work for the next Council.

**The amendment was put and it was carried. The Amendment then became the recommendation, was put and it was carried.**

5. TOTAL MOBILITY (12.9.2)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive about Phase 2 of the Total Mobility Scheme which would allow the Council to be eligible for an increase in its financial assistance rate from 50% to 60% in the 2007/08 year. Given the increase, it was recommended that the Council formally endorse signing up to the amended scheme.

Cr Sutherland explained the subsidy had increased from \$17184.90 to \$18,000 and the scheme was working well.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Hellier, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the Council endorse signing up to Phase 2 of the Total Mobility Scheme.**

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive confirmed the amount paid by the Council would remain the same.

The meeting concluded at 5:26 pm