



**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2007, AT 4:04 pm.**

**PRESENT** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Harvey (Chairperson) Crs Bolger, Councillor – Elect Davis, Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne, Grant, Heller, Highsted and Sharp.

**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), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Library Manager (Mrs Jane Robinson), Office Manager (Mrs Margaret Evans), Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Aquatic Services Manager (Ms Kim Peterson), Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre Senior Consultant (Mrs Rose McMillan), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell), and two members of the public in the Gallery.

**APOLOGY** Cr McLennan apologised for absence.

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Councillor - Elect Nicola Davis read her statutory declaration before His Worship and the Council.

Cr Harvey was delighted to be Chair of the new Community Services Committee and looked forward to the range of community issues that the Council would have over the next three years.

1. COMMUNITY SERVICES BULLETINS

The Committee perused the September and October Community Services Bulletins containing reports from the District Arts and Heritage Curator, Parks and Recreation Manager, Library Manager, District Promotion and i-SITE Visitor Information Centre and the Aquatic Services Manager.

Report of the Library Manager (25.1)

Cr Harvey congratulated Community Services Librarian Penelope Perry and the Library Manager on their successful membership applications to the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA)

Report of the District Promotion and i-SITE Visitor Information Centre (18.18)

Cr Gardyne asked if receipts from the Visitor Centre could be provided with the Bulletin on a monthly basis.

The Chief Executive advised it was included in the financial report, although it was lumped in with other activities in the heritage precinct. He believed that subject to commercial sensitivity, there was no reason the financials could not be included with the District Promotions Report.

Report of the Aquatic Services Manager (24.11)

Cr Heller was concerned with the decreasing number of people visiting the Maitua pool.

The Aquatic Services Manager advised that due to a number of new initiatives, visitor numbers had progressed nicely in October.

His Worship noted the Council had set up a Working Party to review aquatic services which had resulted in a reduction of hours at the Maitua pool, and he felt this had accentuated the lack of numbers. However, the Council needed to be aware of that and he thought the Maitua Community Board should be involved in promoting the use of the pool.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Manager said there had been no feedback about the change of opening hours.

In response to Cr Dixey, the Aquatic Services Manager advised two smaller schools had cancelled their visits to Gore.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Grant, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the Community Services Bulletins be received.**

2. PARKS AND RESERVES WORKING PARTY (18.74)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager seeking the appointment of seven members to the Parks and Reserves Working Party.

Cr Harvey said the last meeting for the working party had been held prior to the local body. He felt it would be good to move it along more quickly than it had previously as there were a lot of people in the community who were concerned about potential disposals.

The Parks and Recreation Manager added his report provided the history and terms of reference the working party had worked with, as well as the progress to date. He said the potential disposals were what had been left to undertake. There was a lot of information available for new members to consider and a way would be sought forward thereafter.

His Worship agreed it needed to be moved along quickly as he had received a lot of comments during the election campaign and he felt the community was not interested in a wholesale change in the Council's infrastructure.

Cr Highsted asked whether the Working Party had looked at the cost of retaining the properties..

Cr Harvey said it had looked at the maintenance costs which had not been a lot, but the potential sale of sections was a different matter.

Cr Gardyne requested a budget for the Working Party.

His Worship said the new members would be given background information.

Cr Harvey asked that the four re-elected Councillors who had been on the previous Working Party to be reinstated.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT Cr Dixey be appointed to the Parks and Reserves Working Party.**

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT Cr Gardyne be appointed to the Parks and Reserves Working Party.**

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by His Worship, THAT Cr Dixon be appointed to the Parks and Reserves Working Party.**

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Grant, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT Crs Bolger, Davis, Harvey and McLennan be appointed to the Parks and Reserves Working Party.**

In response to Cr Gardyne, Cr Harvey said any other Councillors were welcome to join the Working Party.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixey, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the Council appoint Cr Harvey to continue as Chair of the Parks and Reserves Working Party.**

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by His Worship, THAT a separate tour of all sites earmarked for potential disposal by the last Working party be organised for all Councillors.**

3. SPORT AND RECREATION NEW ZEALAND'S RURAL TRAVEL FUND (18.81)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager about SPARC's Rural Travel Fund designed to subsidise travel for rural junior teams participating in local sport competitions. The Council had been granted \$9,000 to distribute via a panel to applicants meeting the strict criteria.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised that as a result of the last census, the Gore District, now met the correct demographic make up for the programme. It was a contestable grant that would be run twice per year through a panel. It was a new fund and he hoped to have it up and running prior to Christmas.

Cr Davis suggested the panel be made up from rural Councillors.

The Parks and Recreation Manager said the fund was in essence for rural families.

Cr Dixey said the travel being specified was local travel and was ambiguous as far as he was concerned.

His Worship thought it was for rural people who came to Gore or Maitai to play sport.

Cr Gardyne asked for the criteria from SPARC to be distributed to the Council for clarification.

His Worship said the Grants Committee would sort through the requirements.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the Council appoint Cr Gardyne to the panel together with the Parks and Recreation Manager and a representative from Sport Southland to act as the Contestable Grant Committee for disbursement of the Rural Travel Fund.**

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of His Worship, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the Council appoint Crs Grant and Sharp to be included in the panel to act as the Contestable Grant Committee for disbursement of the Rural Travel Fund,**

**AND THAT the Council's Corporate Support Officer be appointed as the fund administrator.**

4. CHRISTMAS PARADE (18.80)

A memo from the Administration Manager had been received advising a Christmas Parade of floats and associated activities was being organised by a small group of interested people and co-ordinated by the Council. The parade would be held on Sunday 16 December, prior to the Christmas in the Park concert. A further report was tabled at the meeting.

His Worship said it was a really good initiative and something that had not happened for some time. He was pleased to see the initiative by the staff, especially from Melissa Whitefield and hoped the community would support it. He suggested that the Councillors could enter a float in the parade.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of His Worship, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the information be received.**

5. CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK (18.80)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive about the Christmas in the Park concert to be held on Sunday 16 December from 3 pm. Church groups had been given the opportunity to put on performances in a 45 minute time slot followed by ten singers who had agreed to take part.

The Chief Executive added that he had obtained a good level of buy in from the local entertainers and was hopeful the performance would reflect most tastes. He was also pleased to have the support of the local churches.

His Worship congratulated all those involved in planning the event.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixon, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the information be received.**

6. GORE DISTRICT COMMUNITY AWARDS (46.44)

A memo had been received from the Administration Manager about the inaugural Gore District Community Awards which had been held on Saturday 27 October in the form of a gala dinner, with guest speaker Eric Rush, and culminating with the

presentation of six awards. Planning had already commenced for the 2008 event to be held on Saturday 1 November.

Cr Harvey noted it had been a great night and was extremely well organised and offered his congratulations to the Administration Manager on her success.

Cr Davis had also attended the Awards and believed the Council was lucky to have a sponsor like Solid Energy. She said it was beneficial for many organisations to run this event together and hoped more would join in the future.

His Worship congratulated the staff who had been involved and believed it would become a cornerstone of the events calendar for Gore.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the information be received.**

7. DRAFT CONSTITUTION: GORE DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL  
(50.47)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a copy of the draft constitution and a list of the interested parties who had been forwarded a copy for comment. Copies of responses received from interested parties on the draft constitution for the Gore District Youth Council had also been circulated.

The Chief Executive added that the constitution was designed to give the Youth Council a framework to operate within and he thought the Council needed to be cautious about imposing its own ideas on it.

Cr Dixey believed the membership should remain the same.

Cr Gardyne asked if the Gore District's boundaries had been taken into account or was the Youth Council to be regional.

Cr Harvey explained there were a number of students who resided in Mataura or Gore and who attended Menzies or Blue Mountain Colleges.

The Chief Executive added that the inclusion of Menzies and Blue Mountain Colleges had been to recognise that all youth who reside in the District were not necessarily educated or working in the Gore District.

In response to Cr Heller, Cr Dixey thought there would be about 20% of students who attended schools outside the District.

Cr Harvey felt the membership could be fine-tuned after it was up and running.

The Chief Executive asked whether the Council believed an age range should be stated.

Cr Sharp felt that it would be better to include school age students.

Cr Davis suggested that the minimum age be Year 10 (14 years of age).

Cr Grant felt that the maximum age should be Year 13 (18 years old).

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the members of the Gore District Youth Council be limited to between 14 years and under 19 years of age.**

Cr Dixey thought the comment from the Rector of Gore High School about a greater number of representatives was not necessary as he felt there was probably a number of Gore High students who were members of Church groups.

Cr Gardyne noted that the letter from the Rector of Gore High School had mentioned the difficulty in getting issues to be discussed and wondered if the constitution should include objectives or outcomes. As a father of four teenage children, he believed their lives were full enough with other activities and he thought meetings could be held less often. He believed it was the Council's role to help them facilitate around the District and it could be an educational tool, but he could not see 20 year olds wanting to sit in the Council Chambers on such a regular basis.

Cr Harvey said the young people were quite sophisticated with their opinions and he thought it would have been useful to have their input with the Skateboard Park.

Cr Davis noted that Cr Gardyne had not been to the workshop held with the Invercargill City Council representative which had been pushed by its community to establish a Youth Council. It was now in its second year. It was not up to the Council to tell the Youth Council what to do and not all the ideas brought forward would be able to be implemented. She said the Council needed to take guidance from Invercargill and it would evolve in time.

His Worship agreed with Cr Gardyne that it was not for everybody, however, there were some who were interested. He believed one of the challenges the Council had faced was that it had not tapped into the youth populace and if it expected to build a community and keep the youth of the District here, then it needed to involve them.

Cr Gardyne said he did not oppose the concept but wondered if the meetings could be held less regularly and the expected outcomes outlined in the constitution.

The Chief Executive advised that the constitution could be amended but it was hard to determine at this stage.

Cr Dixey said the Council needed to help the youth get interested in issues in their District.

Cr Gardyne asked whether the Waikaka Youth Group could be invited to put someone forward.

The Chief Executive replied that he had involved local people who worked with youth to try and construct the constitution in terms of what organisations should be represented versus via community nominations. Some of those organisations had not responded to his invitation but there were certain Churches that had stronger youth groups than others and that was the reason for their inclusion in the constitution. He suggested that those who were not specified could be included as part of the community nomination process.

His Worship said he did not want any group to be excluded and asked how it could be allowed for.

Cr Davis felt it needed to start somewhere and once it was widely known, then those groups that were not included, could possibly join in.

Cr Bolger said the Youth Council needed to have plenty of scope to encourage it to take a wider interest in the community.

Cr Harvey said the four youth councillors to be elected from the community would encourage people to be included.

The Chief Executive said the age range had narrowed it down and he hoped it would have a good cross section of local youth to bring issues to the Council.

Cr Davis thought it could be advertised annually allowing any group wishing to be involved the opportunity to do so.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Heller, seconded by His Worship, THAT the draft Gore District Youth Council constitution be amended by the recommendations made earlier by the Committee,**

**AND THAT the revised constitution be tabled at the November Council meeting.**

Cr Gardyne asked if Clause 5(b) and 5(c) would be discussed at the Council meeting.

The Chief Executive advised that the wording in Clause 5(c) could be amended to “*The Gore District Youth Council will meet monthly or less frequently*”. He believed a sum of \$1,000 should be provided for the annual operational grant to cover administration costs.

Cr Bolger hoped the Youth Council would approach the Council for funding but he did not want it being made too easy.

The meeting concluded at 5:06 pm.