

**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 12
FEBRUARY 2008, AT 5:46 pm.**

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Bolger (Chairperson), Crs Davis, Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne, Grant, Harvey, Heller, Highsted, McLennan 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), Roothing Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and one member of the public in the Gallery.

1. WAIKAKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AREA (46.6.2)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets, following a request at the November Council meeting by Cr Gardyne that a Community Development Area be formed for Waikaka. Cr Gardyne had since supplied a list of six organisations (Waikaka Public Hall, Waikaka Reserves Board, Waikaka Combined Sports, Waikaka Progress League, Waikaka Cemetery Trust and the Waikaka School) he thought should be represented on an Area Development Sub-Committee with another 18 groups that existed locally.

A draft policy based on the Southland District Council's policy had been circulated.

The Chief Executive gave a brief explanation of an Area Development Committee. It was halfway between an informal community Committee and a Community Board which the Waikaka District was not eligible for as it had a population of less than 1,500. He asked for feedback on the draft policy.

Cr Bolger suggested that it could be tried and asked Cr Gardyne for his input.

Cr Gardyne said it would not work. His original suggestion had been to set up a Committee with the six groups, thus providing a conduit between the community and the Council. He felt the policy was far too structured and believed a representative from each of the six groups aforementioned should make up the Committee with the other 18 groups and organisations around the Waikaka District being invited to attend meetings. The Council needed to follow the simple process suggested and more structure could be added at a later date.

Cr Dixey advised he had been involved with a Pukerau Community Committee which met when the need arose and with a Council representative in attendance. It was open to all the groups around the Pukerau community and seemed to work well.

Cr Bolger got the impression that the policy needed to be more informal. He agreed with Cr Gardyne that the Council needed an interface with the community but asked if it should be formalised as an Area Development Board.

His Worship noted that the Waikaka Progress League already existed and believed for an informal relationship to work, it needed to be formalised. However, it did not need to be set in concrete. He was disappointed that Cr Gardyne did not think the draft policy would work before it had been tried but it appeared to need a little more work.

Cr Harvey suggested Cr Gardyne and the Council meet with all the groups and present the draft policy for their consideration.

Cr Davis said this issue had been brought to the Council by Cr Gardyne and she thought it might be better to send letters to all the community groups for feedback before making a decision.

Cr Grant was concerned about the six groups being perceived as “pushing their own barrows” by other Waikaka residents and thought all the groups should be contacted first for input.

Cr Sharp asked if the six groups had been approached by Cr Gardyne.

Cr Gardyne said he had spoken with them and the suggestion had been made to have an annual meeting to establish a better link with the Council and the Waikaka District. He felt the Waikaka community needed to decide the structure of the Committee. It had not been driven by him. He envisaged a meeting held with the six groups inviting the others to participate to overcome any criticism.

His Worship asked what would be different to what was currently in place with the Waikaka Progress League.

Cr Gardyne said the League did not represent the other groups he felt should be involved.

Cr Bolger felt it should remain on the table until more consultation was forthcoming.

Cr Dixon believed the easiest way was to hold a meeting to get the community to formulate what it required.

Cr Davis said although Cr Gardyne did not agree with the draft policy put forward, it did not necessarily mean the other groups would not agree. It needed to be community driven and until that happened, the Council could not move forward on the issue.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Heller, THAT a meeting be held with all the Waikaka community groups and organisations to discuss the draft Community Development Area Policy.

2. ELECTED MEMBERS REMUNERATION (46.18.2)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that the Remuneration Authority had recently announced its total indicative pools and Mayoral gross salary levels for the 2008/2009 financial year. A copy of the Authority's funding formulae and factors summary for all local authorities had been circulated.

Cr Bolger requested that an amount be included in the 2008/09 estimates currently being formulated for the cost of running the Mayor's vehicle.

In response to Cr Gardyne, His Worship advised that Councils treated Mayoral vehicles in many different ways. In the past this Council had not been involved apart from mileage reimbursement. He claimed mileage at present for his travel outside the District but did not for travel within and it was possibly something that could be considered.

Cr Bolger said it was a full time job for His Worship with about 80% of his travel being work related and he thanked the Council for its support.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the Council approve a distribution of the new remuneration pool to elected members on the basis of a



4.39% increase to each elected member and notify the Remuneration Authority of the following new salaries for members with effect from 1 July 2008:

Deputy Mayor	\$19,013
Chair	\$19,013
Councillor	\$10,486
Community Board Chair	\$3,060
Community Board Member	\$873

3. UPDATE FROM THE CONTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL
(1.2.6)

A memo from the General Manager, Corporate Services had been received, together with a letter from the Auditor General, Mr Kevin Brady outlining the present reporting environment as seen from an auditor's perspective.

The Chief Executive added the Council needed to take cognisance of the comments about the LTCCP as the requirements were getting higher each time. As soon as the 2008/09 Annual Plan had been dispensed with, the team would be holding discussions about the 2009/19 LTCCP.

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

The meeting concluded at 6:06 pm