



REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2008, AT 4:40 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 Paul Withers), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and eight members of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGY The Roading Manager apologised for absence.

1. AUDITING THE 2009-19 LTCCP (46.35.3)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, Corporate Services, together with a newsletter from the Controller and Auditor General relating to the audit process for the next LTCCP.

A Self-Assessment checklist had recently been circulated and it was expected that preparation of the LTCCP process would start in August 2008.

The Chief Executive advised it provided the Council with an idea of what expectations were, from the Auditor General's perspective, of the 2009 review of the LTCCP. It was not getting any easier and it had been designed to give the new Councillors an appreciation of the workload expected. The bulk of the planning for the 2009 LTCCP was expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Policies would be reviewed by December so the LTCCP could be provided to the Auditor by February 2009. It would involve a number of workshops and was a chance to look at strategic direction and trends while

reflecting on the past three years. From his point of view, the 2006 LTCCP was a good base document and had not required amendments unlike a number of other Council's. However, issues had changed since the bulk of the document had been put together and there was a fairly high workload ahead.

The General Manager, Corporate Services added it was necessary to get everything correct, as additional costs would not be overlooked by the auditors this time.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the newsletter from the Controller and Auditor General be received.

Cr Dixon asked what the projected cost of the LTCCP would be.

The Chief Executive said there two major components to the cost of the LTCCP, one being the audit fee and the other, the asset management plans update at a cost of \$20,000 in the 2008/09 budget.

The General Manager thought it would cost \$100,000 for the annual report and LTCCP review. He had not had any indication from the Auditors about the fee, but expected it to be around \$30,000.

Cr Dixon asked what the benefit of the LTCCP was to the community given it cost 1% of the rates.

The Chief Executive said personally he was a fan of the long term planning process as it mapped out direction for the community and it made sense. From a pure long term perspective, setting direction and having projects prioritised was a step forward, but self assessment and auditing was quite demanding.

The recommendation was put and it was carried.

2. CHANGES TO RATES REBATE SCHEME (44.2.1)

A memo from the General Manager, Corporate Services had been received, together with the latest information released from the Minister of Local Government on the Budget.

The General Manager, Corporate Services added the scheme was relatively well set out and self explanatory. There was a lot of work involved but it was important to get those who were entitled to apply. A note would be sent out with the next rates notice to promote the scheme.

His Worship asked if the recent publicity had generated more interest.

The General Manager replied it had. He was unsure what the percentage of uptake had been over the last year.

Cr Heller advised it was about 57%.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of McLennan, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the letter from the Minister of Local Government be received.

Cr Harvey noted that he had received good comments about the way in which the Office Manager had conducted the applications.

The Chief Executive advised there were a lot of people who were entitled to a small rebate but felt the application was too involved.

3. PRESENTATION FROM GORE MULTI-SPORTS COMPLEX CHARITABLE TRUST (37.24)

Representatives from the Gore Multi-Sports Complex Charitable Trust, Messrs Grant Barron and Bill Dore were in attendance and spoke about the background to Stage 3 of the complex.

G Barron refuted the recent comments in the media by the Council about the Trust's inability to pay for the fees. He asked whether the fees charged by the Council were fair and reasonable.

B Dore gave background information of the three stages of the complex. He noted the fire report had been produced by Bruce Collins, a Dunedin consultant at a cost of \$1,500 who had advised a peer review should not cost more than \$2,000. The MWH peer review had cost \$6,000 and he had contacted them with his displeasure at the fee and comments made. He hoped the Council would be a bit more open in the future.

G Barron noted Council's help had vanished after stage 1 and 2 of the complex had been completed. He acknowledged Council's wish for the consent to be peer reviewed at an estimated cost of \$6,000, but the actual account issued had been close to \$25,000. The project had been started with no money, and there had been delays while more money was raised. He questioned how the Council would feel about receiving such a large account. Was it fair and reasonable?

Cr Bolger thanked the Trust for their presentation and acknowledged its achievements thus far.

Cr Bolger moved THAT a report on Stage 3 of the Multi-Sports Complex be provided at the June Council meeting.

Cr Bolger invited questions to the Trustees for clarification but he would not accept any cross examination.

Cr Dixon asked if paying the Council's total outstanding account would be detrimental to the completion of the project.

G Barron said further funding would need to be raised due to cost overruns, but the Trust could pay the account.

Cr Bolger clarified that the issue was for outstanding fees, not funding for the project.

G Barron said the Trust had further funding to find for variations to its design, such as toilets, but it was confident from discussions with major funders that it would be looked upon favourably.

Cr Gardyne asked the Trustees to elaborate on what amendments had resulted from the peer, sub-consultants and fire service reviews.

P Cooper advised there had not been many changes only clarifications required by MWH. Outstanding issues such as smoke detection and a fire hydrant to be located outside the had yet building to be dealt with.

Cr Gardyne asked if there were any amendments made for the provision of toilets.

P Cooper advised the issue with the toilets was the number of occupants allowed in the building, not about the design of the building.

Cr Grant noticed there had been some variation to the building itself and asked if it had contributed to the increase in fees.

G Barron thought it had not, as it had been mainly a building contract issue, not the consent.

The Building Control Manager said with variations to the plan, the fire report required peer reviewed, and as such it had happened three times. He added the fire design review was purely a comment on fire fighting safety and egress only as

opposed to structural fire design, hence the considerably lower fee.

B Dore felt the issues would have been resolved far quicker if MWH had liaised with the engineers from the outset, but MWH had said it had been told to deal with the Council directly.

The recommendation was seconded by Cr Davis, was put and it was carried.

His Worship asked the Trust to attend the June Council meeting to answer any further questions the Council may have.

The meeting concluded at 5:43 pm.