

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE, ON TUESDAY 22 JULY 2008, AT 7:35 pm

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Crs Bolger, Davis, Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne, Grant, Harvey, Highsted 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), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones) and five members of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGIES Crs Heller and McLennan apologised for absence.

His Worship referred to the item in Committee relating to provision of a Mayoral vehicle. He said it was his intention to move it into the open section of the meeting. There were some personal details relating to him, but he believed it was appropriate for it to be considered in open meeting.

RESOLVED on the motion of His Worship, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the item in Committee relating to the provision of a Mayoral vehicle be considered in open meeting.

2008/82

Cr Gardyne referred to the disposal of the Council table, to be considered in Committee also. He believed due to public interest, the first part relating to the disposal of it should be debated in public with consideration of the tender received remaining in Committee.

His Worship agreed there was public interest, however the Council had entered into a tender process and it was owed to the tenderer in good faith to honour that agreement. He believed it should remain in Committee however, when it had been discussed, the full transcript of that section could be released to the public less the tenderers' details.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 10 June 2008, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Sharp THAT the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Wednesday 18 June 2008, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

Page 2 – Submissions on Healthy Homes project – Cr Gardyne suggested words to the effect that the Council's funds be expended within the Gore District should be added to the resolution.

The Chief Executive advised he had taken on the flavour of the meeting and had conveyed that to the submitters. It was not all cut and dried and how exactly the various contributions would be expended was still to be worked out.

His Worship said it was the intention of the Council for its contribution to be targeted only to the District. He did not want to relitigate the issue. The intention for spending the Council's funds in the District was already made clear in the resolution. Therefore, no change was needed.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 24 June 2008, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 1 July 2008, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

2. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Operations Bulletin, containing reports from the Roding Manager, Asset Manager, Utilities and the Dog Control Contractor had been circulated with the agenda and was perused by the Council.

Report of the Roothing Manager (2.1.7)

Cr Dixon referred to the mud having to be cleaned off several rural roads and hoped that the culprits were being charged.

His Worship suggested it be raised at the rooding contract meeting later in the week when the Roothing Manager would be present.

Report of the Animal Control Contractor (34.4.1)

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive advised that during the recent Bylaw review, it had been flagged that keeping of livestock and a water supply Bylaw were two issues that required further work. It was intended that in the latter part of the year, they would both be referred for consideration through the Regulatory and Planning Committee.

Cr Gardyne added spillage of stock effluent was also an area that should be considered and Federated Farmers could assist.

Cr Bolger did not believe it was an outside organisation's role to make a Bylaw but it could make submissions.

His Worship advised that a meeting had been held recently with Federated Farmers about issues around stock droving and as a result there would be a combined effort by both parties to develop a Bylaw that would be workable. He suggested the issue raised by Cr Gardyne could be incorporated into those discussions.

In response to Cr Bolger, His Worship expected the Working Party set up to progress the stock droving issue to meet within a couple of weeks. He thought there would be four representatives from both groups.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Harvey, THAT the Operations Bulletin be received.

2008/83

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES BULLETIN

The Council perused the Community Services Bulletin containing reports from the Gore Visitor Centre, District Arts and Heritage Curator, Library Manager, Parks and Recreation Manager and Aquatic Services Manager.

Report of Gore Visitor Information Centre (18.18)

Cr Harvey had visited the centre earlier in the day and said he had conveyed the Council's thanks to Mrs McMillan for her efforts.

Report of Aquatic Services Manager (24.11.1)

Cr Davis said she had recently spoken with the Manager and the hard work she had put in was certainly paying off. The new vacuum cleaner was also working well and good comments had been received from patrons.

In response to Cr Dixey who had expressed concern about the lack of swimming ability amongst school aged children, the Parks and Recreation Manager said the Council was working with one local school to encourage swimming programmes.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dixey, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the Community Services Bulletin be received.

2008/84

5. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION (46.11.1/37.28)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager together with a copy of a letter from the Gore Multi-Sports Centre Charitable Trust seeking confirmation of who the Council's appointees would be on the Management Committee that had been established for setting policy and operational guidelines. A copy of the Committee's proposed structure and make-up had also been circulated.

The Manager added the Committee was currently operational and two Sub-Committees dealing with operations and finance had also been established.

Cr Dixey moved THAT the information be received,

AND THAT the Council appoint the Community Services Chairman (Cr Harvey) and the Parks and Recreation Manager to represent the Council on the Committee.

The motion was seconded by Cr Davis.

Cr Gardyne suggested that the Council could be better served by a Councillor who had some business experience and perhaps had children who would be involved with the complex. He wondered about Crs Highsted and Dixey.

Cr Gardyne moved as amendment THAT Crs Highsted and Dixey be appointed.

Cr Dixon seconded the amendment, pro forma.

His Worship said with respect to Cr Gardyne, the Chair of the Community Services Committee was appropriate for the role. He believed there was business experience there and an awareness of community needs.

Cr Harvey took exception to Cr Gardyne's comment - who was junior and a just beginning Councillor - about his not being married. He objected strongly to it. Secondly, Cr Gardyne thought he was a baby and stated he had just as much experience about business matters as Cr Gardyne did who was not the king about everything.

Cr Davis was aware that Cr Harvey had been representing the Council on the Committee for some time informally and had a good knowledge about what needed to be done in the future and his experience in this case was essential.

Cr Highsted agreed with Cr Davis and said the experience Cr Harvey had was appropriate.

The amendment was put and it was lost.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2008/85

6. SOUTHLAND SHARED SERVICES FORUM AND OUR WAY SOUTHLAND (46.34.1)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with minutes of the meeting of the Southland Shared Services Forum held on 29 May. Item 6 of the minutes recorded a discussion held on the governance of Our Way Southland which had concluded in August 2005 with the release of a comprehensive report profiling community consultation and the regional outcomes sought by the community about what the province was aspiring to achieve in areas such as lifestyle, health, environment, social wellbeing, law and order, education and leadership.

Elected representatives of the Forum believed that it was well positioned to act as a governance body for the work being performed by the Regional Outcomes Co-Ordinator.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the minutes of the Shared Services Forum held on 29 May 2008 be received,

THAT the Council rescind the last two bullet points of resolution 2003/33,

AND THAT the Council endorse the Shared Services Forum as the appropriate entity to provide governance and oversight of the monitoring and reporting on progress of regional outcomes contained in the Our Way Southland report.

2008/86

7. MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT (46.36.2)

A copy of the report of the ordinary meeting of the Mataura Community Board held on 19 May had been circulated.

Cr Harvey advised that L Turnbull had raised an issue about the collection of refuse bags, however, His Worship said it was a matter for the Community Board to deal with.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the report of the meeting held on 19 May be received,

AND THAT the recommendations contained within the report be ratified.

2008/87

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (46.12.9)

Cr Harvey reported on his attendance at a Management Committee meeting of the Stage 3, Indoor Events Centre. He had recently visited the site and was impressed with the progress.

Cr Davis attended a meeting of the St James Fly Tower project which was progressing very well and according to schedule and budget.

9. PROVISION OF VEHICLE (46.9.3)

His Worship said since the item related to himself he vacated the Chair and departed the meeting. Cr Bolger assumed the Chair.

Cr Bolger said the item was about the provision of a Mayoral car and his request to the Chief Executive to provide a report. He had mentioned it during estimates workshops and raised concern that the Mayor was not claiming anything near what he was entitled to. It had not been progressed at that time and had subsequently not been included in the 2008-09 budget.

He added he had been concerned for some time that the Mayor had not been claiming expenses as he was entitled to. He asked the Chief Executive if the matter got the support of the Council, whether it be funded from within the existing budget.

The Chief Executive responded that he was confident that it could be funded from within budget. The Council had recently been advised that its insurance premiums would be \$12,000 less than budgeted which could be used for the car. That, coupled with the fact that if the Council funded a Mayoral vehicle, the cost of claims from His Worship would need to be deducted from the cost of the vehicle. The total was about \$6,600 for the 2007-08 year. He was confident there would be a fiscally neutral effect. With regard to the issue of FBT - if the Council allowed that - the Remuneration Authority would calculate and deduct a sum from the Mayoral salary which was likely to be about \$3-4,000 which would be about the same as would be paid in FBT.

Cr Bolger gave each Councillor the opportunity to speak. He was aware it may be controversial but he had raised it and if anyone was concerned then they should be directed to himself, not the Mayor.

Cr Harvey was supportive of the proposal and said the Mayor was called on to visit many places. One of his strengths was his interpersonal skills and the ability for him to continue with that should not have any personal cost.

Cr Highsted was also supportive. As a challenge to the Councillors, if there was any opposition, then Councillors own mileage claims should be looked at.

Cr Grant said if the Mayor was working anywhere else he would be provided with a car. He thought it quite ludicrous that he was not. He supported it.

Cr Dixey was happy to support it.

Cr Dixon was happy to go along with it. The Managers had vehicles so there was no reason why the Mayor should not have one.

Cr Sharp said the Mayor had made it clear to him that he did not wish to claim anything. At the least he should have a fuel card, but he did support the proposal.

Cr Gardyne had an email from Cr Heller whose thoughts were the Council should not own or lease a vehicle. In his view, Mayor Hicks should be reimbursed monthly for expenses and complete a log book.

He added that the Mayor had made a pledge before the election and to the public that he would not claim for mileage. Clearly there had been a change with the cost of fuel and running costs. The lease was quoted at \$641 per month. He asked if the lease was for an XR6.

The Chief Executive confirmed it was.

Cr Gardyne believed the lease for that type of vehicle rolled over would not be that amount, it would be \$900 so perhaps some recognition as to where the current term of the lease was would be appropriate. The Council's Vehicle Policy stated that the appropriate size of the vehicle and environmental matters should be taken into account. He wondered whether a Mondeo or a smaller 2L vehicle would be more appropriate. When in the XR6 category, the costs did climb away. He had issues about the Council taking the full cost of the lease. He drew the Council's attention to the fact that past Mayors had done the job in association with private business, such as Mr Farry and Mr Tulloch. He believed a Council of this size was not a full time job, yet Mayor Hicks was making it into one. He believed he had made a pledge; but by going down the track of the Council picking up the lease and fuel costs, was now going against that pledge. However, the Mayor should be encouraged to claim mileage at the same rates as the rest of the Council did.

Cr Davis reminded Cr Gardyne that the Mayor had not sought this out for himself; it was an issue that had concerned the Deputy Mayor for about 18 months. She understood that the Gore Mayor was the only one in Southland who had no vehicle provided, other than claiming mileage. She supported the recommendation and stated that she did not think it should be up to the Council as to how the Mayor went about his duties. He went where he was asked and invited to. She did not think the Council should be restricting him.

Cr Bolger thanked the Council for its comments and the way they had been expressed. He believed the Mayoral position had become a full time job. He took his hat off to him for the commitment and dedication that he demonstrated in discharging his responsibility. His workload was quite extreme and was not to be envied.

In response to Cr Bolger, the Chief Executive said the key issue was whether to provide a vehicle with the second part of the resolution being particular to Mayor Hicks. He said the Remuneration Authority would make a calculation in the event that he chose to take private use. He believed the debate was about providing a vehicle and under what conditions. The finer details could be worked out with His Worship.

Cr Bolger said he doubted there was much time for private use.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Harvey, THAT the Council approve the office of the Mayor being provided a vehicle to enable the Mayor to effectively carry out his/her duties,

THAT to give effect to the above, in the particular circumstances of Mayor Tracy Hicks, the Council agree to pay for the current private lease arrangement in respect of his Ford Falcon vehicle with effect from 1 July 2008,

THAT the Council provide a fuel card to enable His Worship to acquire fuel at the cost of the Council when carrying out Mayoral duties,

AND THAT the cost of vehicle maintenance, insurance and registration costs be met by the Council.

2008/88

The meeting concluded at 8:20 pm