



REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 2008, AT 5:33 pm.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Bolger (Chairperson), Crs Davis, Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne, Grant, Heller, 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), Roading 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.

APOLOGY Crs Harvey and McLennan apologised for absence.

1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS SWIMMING LESSONS
(24.12)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive after an approach from the Mataura Licensing Trust to ascertain whether the Council would be receptive to joining the Trust in providing financial assistance towards swimming lessons for primary school children. A letter from the General Manager of the Trust, together with an accompanying request for funding assistance from the West Gore Home and School Committee had been circulated.

Cr Highsted declared an interest due to being a member of the West Gore School's Board of Trustees.

The Chief Executive advised he could participate in any debate that did not involve West Gore School.

Cr Davis thought the discussion should involve all the District's schools.

Cr Heller said the Council was already making a 25% reduction in fees for school children. He felt that only \$3,045 of the funding request made by the West Gore Home and School Committee to the Mataura Licensing Trust related to the Council. The balance of \$3,552.50 was for tuition which he did not think was the Council's responsibility to fund. In Invercargill, the Invercargill Licensing Trust funded the entry fee and tuition costs entirely and he believed this application should be funded wholly by the Mataura Licensing Trust.

Cr Dixey asked whether the Council was double dipping by paying wages for the tutors and then on-charging the tuition provided. He said there had been some schools that had opted out of providing tuition. He said the Government granted funds for school's physical education programmes and some of it was set aside for swimming. He felt the Mataura Licensing Trust should take responsibility for it and not pick on the Council. He recognised that swimming needed a boost over the whole District.

Cr Gardyne asked why the letter from the West Gore Home and School Committee did not have the endorsement of its Board of Trustees. There was an opportunity for the Council and the Mataura Licensing Trust to work together. He thought there could be an avenue of funding available during the LTCCP review.

Cr Gardyne recommended THAT the Council decline the request from the Mataura Licensing Trust about the concept of making a financial contribution for swimming lessons for primary school children in the Gore District.

The recommendation was seconded by Cr Heller.

His Worship said the Council needed to be mindful of the cost for such a project, but it also had to look at what it was costing the community. He asked the Council to think about what its reason was for having swimming pools. Was it for recreation purposes only or was it to teach children to swim so they could be safe around water in the future? He felt discussions should be made with the Trust and the Principals Association to ascertain what opportunities there could be. He was hesitant to discard the request.

Cr Dixon thought children had the opportunity to learn to swim through school.

Cr Highsted asked whether there was a fixed cost for the coaches employed and was it an additional cost. Was there a true cost to the Council under this system?

The Chief Executive said most of the instructors performed other duties at the pool. The instructors were on the payroll and a fee was charged for their tuition which was a good earner for the pool.

Cr Highsted said it was apparent that the current method of using parents to teach children to swim during the school programme was not effective. He opposed the motion and thought it would be good to see how much it would cost over the whole District before any decision was made.

Cr Davis moved as an Amendment, THAT the report be tabled until a further meeting was held with interested parties to get an indication on what the costs involved would be District wide.

The amendment was seconded by Cr Dixey.

Cr Dixey said it was part of the deal to employ the instructors and many schools had chosen to use staff to teach swimming.

Cr Bolger thought those who paid for an instructor would require funding assistance from the Trust.

Cr Highsted said the children needed professional instruction not parents.

Cr Heller thought the Council was double dipping with the instructors charging their services at \$35 per hour and being paid staff wages.

His Worship said the Council needed some clarification and he supported the amendment.

Cr Bolger said the suggestion of double dipping needed to be investigated.

Cr Davis said there was not enough information available and the Council did not know what the Trust was going to offer.

Cr Gardyne thought West Gore School should be invited to come back to the Council with endorsement from its Board of Trustees and what it could bring to the table. He noted the Trust's borders extended beyond the Gore District.



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

2. 2009 OTAGO GOLDFIELDS HERITAGE TRUST CALVACADE: WAIKAKA (1.62)

A memo from the Chief Executive had been received, together with a letter from the Waikaka Host Committee for the 2009 Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust Cavalcade seeking a grant of \$5,000 to provide seed capital for administration of the 2009 event which was to be held in Waikaka on Saturday 28 February 2009.

Cr Dixey questioned why the request had come to the Council when it had already turned down a number of other worthy causes. He wondered why it had not approached service groups and he suggested there could be some funds available from the Rural Special Fund.

Cr Sharp said the Rural Special Fund had been frittered away. He had attended Cavalcade's in the past and the host town stood to make a lot of money from the event. He thought the Council should loan the amount to the Waikaka Host Committee.

Cr Sharp recommended THAT the Council approve an interest free loan of \$5,000, subject to receipt of a satisfactory business plan, in favour of the Waikaka Host Committee of the 2009 Otago Goldfields Trust Cavalcade, repayable immediately after the event.

The recommendation was seconded by Cr Dixey.

Cr Highsted thought the Council needed to sight a budget or business plan so it could be discussed. The Council did not know how the \$5,000 was to be used.

Cr Gardyne clarified it was the Otago Goldfields Trust that ran the event. There was a cost to the hosting community, although it would on-charge what it could. He added the Waikaka Host Committee would not possess a balance sheet as it was a one off situation.

Cr Highsted agreed it was a new organisation, but it could still provide a business plan.

Cr Gardyne referred to the various uses for the Rural Special fund. He felt affronted to consider the request as a loan.

Cr Gardyne moved as an Amendment, THAT the Council advance a grant in the sum of \$5,000 in favour of the Waikaka Host Committee of the 2009 Otago Goldfields Trust Cavalcade,

AND THAT funding recovery for the grant be included in the 2009/10 budget.

The Amendment was seconded by Cr Dixon, was put and it was lost.

The recommendation was put and it was carried.

Cr Dixey asked if anything had happened with the Waikaka Area Development Committee.

Cr Bolger said it would need to be re-addressed.

The Chief Executive thought there would be dialogue with the Committee on how to make the recommendation work.

His Worship asked for an update to be provided to the Council about the Waikaka Area Development Committee.

The meeting concluded at 6:04 pm.