

**REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD,
HELD IN THE MATAURA BOWLING CLUB, OAKLAND STREET,
MATAURA, ON MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2008, AT 5:30 pm**

PRESENT His Worship The Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks) B Lee (Chairman), P Crake, N Phillips and L Turnbull.

IN ATTENDANCE Cr McLennan, General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler) HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan), and Mataura Service Centre Co-ordinator (Miss Pam Courtney)

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of P Crake, seconded by Laurel Turnbull, **THAT** the report of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Mataura Community Board, held on Monday 01 September 2008, as circulated, be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and complete record.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Margaret Gillan who had been elected at the recent by-election.

2. UPDATE ON MATAURA COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT
(37.19.4)

Mr Dave Driver from Signal Management Group was in attendance and provided an update on progress on the Mataura Community Centre project.

Mr Driver advised that the building was near completion, and on budget. The floor which had a slight spring to it would be completed by the end of the week; along with a final touch of paint to the back wall. The vinyl was laid. The new range, fridge and dishwasher would arrive this week. All mechanical work and wiring for a good sound/speaker system was complete that would enable a projector/screen to be used. The building would be ready for the official opening on 14 November.

His Worship asked for confirmation that the Elderly Citizens building would be painted the same as the new building.

The Parks and Recreation Manager confirmed that was correct and His Worship suggested that if funds allowed, maybe the Elderly Citizens exterior could be updated a bit.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of L Turnbull, seconded by N Phillips, THAT the report be received.

3. MATAURA SWIMMING POOL AND STAFFING HOURS (24.2.3)

A letter had been received from Keri Lee and 32 signatories expressing concern at the change of opening hours at the Mataura Pool.

The Administration Manager advised that the Board agreed to amend the opening hours of the Mataura Pool at its previous meeting in the hope of attracting additional patrons. The Board was also advised that the operational cost of the Mataura pool in the 2007/08 year amounted to \$86,000, of which \$27,000 related to maintenance. The operational cost in the 2006/07 year amounted to \$63,000. This followed adoption - in December 2006 - of the Aquatic Services Working Party recommendations that resulted in savings of approximately \$35,000, primarily relating to staff costs.

The Manager reported that compounding the current situation was the overwhelming lack of interest in the Seasonal Supervisor position that had been advertised in local newspapers on seven occasions since 11 September as well as a further 8 days on the radio. At the time of writing, the advertising had cost a total of \$1,530 without one application being received.

Whilst the pool had been able to be open during the school holidays, that has only been achieved by having student lifeguards on duty as well as the Aquatic Services Manager covering a total of four days herself. Coverage by the Manager was unsustainable beyond the end of the school holidays.

The Mataura Swimming Club had booked the pool for its season due to commence after the school holidays, and had been kept informed about the staffing situation by the Aquatic Services Manager.

Swimming lessons were also due to start on Monday 13 October however, these had been relocated to the Gore pool in the interim.

Unless there were sufficient staffing resources available to man the pool after the school holidays, it would not be possible to open it until at least a Supervisor has been recruited.

The Chairman advised that meetings were held on Saturday 11 and Monday 13 to try and find a solution to the recruiting problem at the Mataura Pool and suggested getting the press on side and making the position a possible job share position.

The Parks and Recreation Manager confirmed that the Council was struggling to resource the position from the existing staff. There were 5 vacancies at the Gore Pool alone, so there was no ability to move staff from one pool to another.

Cr McLennan disagreed and said that Mataura should be entitled to a proportion of Gore Supervisors on a temporary basis and that mileage could be paid as Mataura serviced a wide rural area. There should be equal opportunity for both Gore and Mataura with staffing. On a rated population basis, 30% came from Mataura, so Mataura Pool should be entitled to a fifth of supervisor time.

Cr McLennan also added that as the Pool was a Memorial Pool to could not be closed.

L Turnbull disagreed with his statement. She said despite Mataura community perception, staff did not want to see the pool closed and urged locals to put their heads together to come up with new ideas.

N Phillips stated that staff had done their utmost to keep the pool open and that they were trying to get the use of Gore staff temporarily. He said that Mataura was not a unique problem; other communities faced the same challenges.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by P Crake, THAT the Mataura Pool not be closed away from normal hours.

His Worship acknowledged Cr McLennan's passion about the pool issue. He said staff had been making a huge effort to see that the Mataura Pool was open as much as possible. The problem was that it was difficult to attract people to the area. There had been seven weeks of advertising and the current advertisement had been revamped, suggesting a job share option.

Mr Brendan Murray volunteered some time to help out at the pool.

The General Manager, District Assets said the timeframe for advertising and filling the position had to be taken into consideration for the interim.

The Chairman said they could possibly manage on a temporary basis for one month.

Mr Ray Shanks advised there were currently 60 swimmers waiting for the Monday night Swimming Club to commence. He suggested that a Gore employee travel to Mataura to assist. The pool also needed a cleaner, as lifeguards had not cleaned in the past.

N Phillips asked the Chairman to make the Swimming Club a priority for the Aquatic Manager.

L Turnbull also asked that aquarobics be made a priority.

Mr Murray said that the pool was in need of a good clean. There had been green slime on the concrete floor in the changing rooms and the walls needed a waterblast.

The Parks and Recreations Manager advised Mr Murray to complete a Customer Service Report at the Mataura Service Centre. Getting a problem reported in writing helped to get it actioned.

RECOMMENDED on the motions of B Lee, seconded by P Crake, THAT the information be received AND THAT every endeavour continue to be made to recruit a seasonal Supervisor for the Mataura swimming pool.

4. NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY BOARDS CONFERENCE (46.36.2)

A copy of the programme for the 2009 New Zealand Community Boards conference to be held in Christchurch from 19-21 March had been circulated.

The Administration Manager advised the estimated cost of sending a delegate would be in the order of \$1,163 which included travel, registration and accommodation.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of L Turnbull, seconded by B Lee, THAT the Board appoint 3 delegates to attend the conference - being L Turnbull, B Lee N Phillips.

Cr McLennan opposed stating that three attendees were too many.

The General Manager, Districts Assets suggested the delegates analyse the workshop choices thoroughly.

N Phillips said that with 3 delegates attending that they could work through all the workshops. There were a number that were relevant for the future of Mataura.

5. RAILWAY CROSSING REINSTATEMENT (3.13)

Following receipt of a letter from Mr Kevin Harpur, the Roding Manager advised that Selbourne Street and Albion Street railway crossings had been reconstructed by Ontrack some time ago. Unfortunately Ontrack had not carried out the permanent reinstatement of the asphalt surface at the crossings yet. The Council had made several requests to Ontrack for that work to be completed.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the letter be received and Mr Harpur advised of the response from Ontrack.

The Roding Manager added that the work was now completed.

6. BRIDGE STREET TRAFFIC MIRROR (3.1.2)

A memo had been received from the Roding Manager advising that a customer service request had been forwarded to the NZ Transport Agency via its network consultant asking that it investigate the possible installation of a traffic mirror at the Bridge street (SH93) intersection with River Street.

There was very limited sight distance to the west for the drivers of vehicles turning onto Bridge Street from River Street due to the obscuring effect of the concrete arches on the Mataura River Bridge.

RECOMMENDED on the motions of P Crake, seconded by N Phillips, THAT the information be received.

Cr McLennan advised there had been several near misses on Bridge Street.

The Roding Manager had viewed the site and communicated the situation to Opus. He advised that vegetation blocking the view appeared to also be a problem with Kana Street traffic and that a mirror had merit. He was confident that Opus would come up with a satisfactory solution to the problem.

7. MAIN STREET FOOTPATH (3.24.2)

A letter had been received from Mr Kevin Harpur, requesting the extension of the footpath on the west side of Main Street (SH1) from 297 Main Street to Cardigan Bay Road.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of L Turnbull, seconded by P Crake, THAT the letter be received and Mr Harpur advised of the comments from the Roding Manager.

The Roding Manager advised he had inspected the footpath and said there was quite a wide footpath already, however it needed maintenance. A Contractor had been requested to remove moss and back blade the puddles and spray the weeds. The footpath was still quite serviceable, but would be monitored in wet weather.

8. NOXIOUS WEEDS – MATAURA BRIDGE (40.3.1)

Following an approach from the Chairman to Environment Southland concerned at the growth of broom, gorse and other weeds on the north side of the River Street bridge, a response had been received from the Senior Biosecurity Officer, Mr Keith Crothers.

Mr Crothers reported that the riverbed problem would be taken up with Land Information New Zealand and the issue of rubbish in the waterway would be referred to the compliance section at Environment Southland. A township inspection was scheduled within the next fortnight for noxious weeds within Mataura.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of P Crake, seconded by B Lee, THAT the information be received.

The Chairman has liaised with Environment Southland and the rubbish had since been cleaned up.

Cr McLennan questioned why Transit New Zealand was not responsible for cleaning up gorse.

The Roding Manager said that lack of money prior to Transit New Zealand's restructure had prevented this. He suggested PD workers could be used for the rubbish clean up.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised that residents should report any gorse or broom growth to Environment Southland.

Cr McLennan advised that the wire netting and wind break behind the Mataura Paper Mills was untidy and needed cleaned up.

The Roding Manager said that he would take up the issue.

9. PLANS FOR OPENING OF MATAURA COMMUNITY CENTRE
(37.19.4)

A memo had been received from the Administration Manager outlining the programme agreed upon to mark the official opening of the Mataura Community Centre on Friday 14 November.

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

The Chairman advised that the programme had not been totally finalised yet, but hoped to by the following day. He said that the Centre would be blessed prior to 7.30am by two kaumatua.

10. REPORT FROM THE ROADING MANAGER (2.1.7)

The meeting perused a report from the Roothing Manager.

P Crake asked if care was taken when weed spraying, not the plants and whether a dye was used in the spray.

The Roothing Manager advised that urban spraying had commenced. He would look into the spraying practices of the Contractor. But there were spraying guidelines for windy conditions. Dye was not used.

The Roothing Manager advised that an amendment would be required to the bylaw to legitimise the McQueen disability parks.

RECOMMENDED on the motions of P Crake, seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the report be received.

11. REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER (18.1.2)

The meeting perused a report from the Parks and Recreation Manager.

P Drake asked whether an all night light would be erected at the Tulloch Park public conveniences.

The Parks and Recreations Manager advised that there would be a night light erected.

N Phillips advised that with the shifting of the toilets to Tulloch Park that the Service Centre toilets were available during hours of business.

P Drake asked if there would be signage for the new toilets.

The Parks and Recreational Manager advised that signage was being looked at.

P Drake advised that the fence that had a sign about the new toilets was now gone...

RECOMMENDED on the motion of N Phillips, seconded by P Crake, THAT the report be received.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS (46.36.2)

L Turnbull advised that Bliss Brown from The Ministry of Social Development would be holding a presentation on Saturday 29 November from 10am-4pm. Everyone was welcome and it would be well advertised.

An advertisement advising people how to register would be arranged.

Mr John Prendergast had advised that the Community Trust was very keen to work with the Mataura Community Board.

N Phillips congratulated the Board for organising this and encouraged people to come along with their ideas for the community.

L Turnbull advised that a Mataura Gala Day would be held on 30 November.

Harley Ware advised that the Youth Centre was still seeking a building for its events and asked if the Board had any suggestions. He wondered if the old Mataura Town Hall would be available on a permanent basis. A permanent residence was needed to be able to employ the Youth Officer on a fulltime basis.

B Lee advised the Council needed to make the decision about this. Dr Phillips had been approached, but did not have a building available. He asked if the new Community Centre would be an option.

H Ware replied that the old building would be more appropriate. It was an environment that the youth could relax and call home.

N Phillips suggested a formal proposal be put forward containing information about areas of usage and costs. The youth were still welcome to use the hall in the interim.

H Ware replied he would present a proposal at the next Community Board meeting in November.

His Worship said the Board needed to decide what it saw the old hall being used for. The Council would be very much guided by the Board and that a call for submissions from the Maitava public was an option.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of L Turnbull, seconded by P Crake, THAT Harley Ware approach the Youth Centre Trust to buy or lease suitable premises.

The Chairman advised that N Phillips and he attended two Civil Defence meetings. The meetings were used to recruit and as a training exercise.

The General Manager, District Assets advised that the Councils Civic Defence Officer hoped to confirm a date for a training exercise by the end of the week. He congratulated the Chairman and N Phillips on the number of volunteer names gathered and reiterated that on the day of a crisis, trained leaders were also needed.

N Phillips suggested advertising the Civil Defence day as all walks of life and age groups were needed.

N Phillips advised that a "Last Harrah" was being organised for the old Town Hall, on 7 November, by the Maitava Kilties and the Lions Club. He acknowledged Don Neilson's initiative in organising the event.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 17 November at 5.30pm

The meeting concluded at 7.04pm.