

**REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD, HELD IN THE MATAURA COMMUNITY CENTRE, MCQUEEN AVENUE, MATAURA, ON MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER AT 5:46 pm**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** **The 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. STATUTORY DECLARATION (46.36.2)

His Worship took the statutory declaration from Mrs Margaret Gillan, who had been declared elected in the recent by-election.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of L Turnbull, seconded by P Crake, THAT the report of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Mataura Community Board, held on Monday 13 October 2008, as circulated, be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and complete record.**

The Board noted that page 6, in the recommendation for item 10, should have read P Crake, not P Drake.

The Board also noted on page 7, in the Report from Board Members that Bliss Brown was an independent facilitator brought over from America by the Ministry of Social Development, and she would be facilitating a workshop, not a presentation.

3. URGENT LATE BUSINESS

N Phillips advised a letter had been received from McDonough Contracting that needed to be included on the agenda.

4. UPDATE ON MATAURA COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT (37.19.4)

Mr Dave Driver from Signal Management Group was not able to attend the meeting to provide a final update on the Mataura Community Centre project.

N Phillips discussed an emailed report from Tony Burton, of Signal. Overall everything had been completed on budget with only a couple of minor hiccups.

He thanked the Elderly Citizens and other people who had vacated their rooms for five months and found alternative premises in order for the construction of the new Centre. He hoped that when they came back that they would settle in easily.

The Chairman asked the Parks and Recreation Manager if provision had been made to recompense the people that had temporarily vacated their premises.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised it would be addressed once the new centre was completed.

N Phillips thanked the Gore District Council, in particular the Administration Manager for all the work that had been undertaken for the opening of the Centre.

#### 5. MATAURA SWIMMING POOL AND STAFFING HOURS (24.2.3)

A memo had been received from the Human Resources Manager advising that it was hoped a formal offer would be made that week to preferred candidates to fill the seasonal supervisor position. A chronic shortage of staff had meant that the Mataura pool was closed on 15 and 16 November and would also be closed on 22 and 23 November. To alleviate any inconvenience the Council had arranged for bus transport to be available to transport swimmers to the Gore pool.

The Mataura Swimming Club had commenced its season on Monday 20 October.

An additional memo from the Human Resources Manager was tabled, updating the Board. The memo advised that one of the preferred candidates had since withdrawn their application, but an interview with another candidate had been held that afternoon.

On a more positive note, the school bookings at Mataura during December were able to be retained. Regular updates would be provided to the Community Board as further information came to hand about the Supervisor position.

The Chairman said that he realised there were staffing problems, and the Board had been told the pool would not close down again, yet it had been closed down the past two weekends. He was disappointed and wondered if hours could be cut off the Gore pool to enable the Mataura pool to open on the weekend.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised that the assurance of the pool remaining open was on the provision that staffing was available. The pool had been operating with the assistance of student lifeguards, who now had other commitments with exams. The hours were on a week by week basis. He pointed out that Mataura swimmers had access to the Gore pool, at the Mataura entry price, a bus was being provided free of charge. He discussed the number of swimmers that had used the service and confirmed that as per memo, the bus would be provided again for the next weekend.

P Crake advised he had fielded phone calls from parents who would not let their children utilise the bus, because there was no supervision.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised it was up to the parents to make sure that the children were safe, not Council. Lifeguards were employed to supervise the children while they were in the pool.

The Human Resources Manager made the comment that it was no different for children travelling to school on a bus.

His Worship said the Council was making the best of a bad situation. Energies needed to be focused on obtaining new supervisors. The Board needed to get the message out there to the community.

The Chairman advised that he had been informed that a member of the public with a lifeguard certificate had phoned the Council with interest in the position but was told she was not needed.

The Human Resources Manager advised that everybody who had applied had been considered. She was unaware of anyone being told they were not needed. The person had certainly not contacted her directly. There were three new lifeguards that would support Gore and Maitua currently being trained.

N Phillips said kids got into a routine and relied on the pool being open, so consistency of days of opening would be good. He asked that it be reiterated to the Pool Manager that the community would like some consistency. He thanked the Council for its efforts and for the buses. The Board needed to work with the Council to get the pool up and running again.

The Chairman asked if the Human Resources Manager thought the problem of retaining staff might become a long term one.

The Manager replied aquatic centres were renowned for having staffing problems throughout the country.

His Worship said the Board was the voice of the community and that they should start thinking about ideas for next season.

The Chairman asked if the Maitua Licensing Trust was going to fund the cost of the buses to the Gore pool.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised the Council had organised the buses, so it would cover the costs.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of P Crake, seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the information be received.**

6. FUTURE OF MATAURA TOWN HALL (37.9.1)

A memo had been received from the Administration Manager together along with a letter from the Maitua Youth Centre Trust seeking agreement to lease the former Maitua town hall building and possibly purchase it in the future.

An advertisement had been placed inviting community views on the future of the hall.

His Worship did not want to see the final decision on the outcome of the old town hall rushed, and wondered if the advertisement in the local paper was going to be the only public advice. Everybody needed to have the opportunity to partake in any decision.

The Chairman said that it had been advertised in other newspapers.

The Administration Manager recalled the Board agreeing to hold a public meeting a few months ago.

L Turnbull wondered if the building was an earthquake risk.

The Administration Manager thought a building report had been completed a few years ago.

The Chairman questioned if the Mataura Youth Centre Trust took a lease of the hall, who would be responsible for costs and maintenance.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised that the Council's position would be with having the new centre, the old hall would be surplus to requirements. It would be the Council and ratepayers who would be liable for any maintenance if there was a lease.

N Phillips thought that the decision of the future of the town hall should go to public meeting with a proposal of what it should be used for. The letter from the Mataura Youth Centre Trust stated three possible scenarios to be explored and there was also the possibility of other interested parties to be investigated. To make a decision now would be unethical and too soon.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of N Phillips, seconded by P Crake, THAT the Board agree in principle, and subject to an endorsement to the proposal being received at a public meeting, to sell the Mataura Town Hall to the Mataura Youth Centre Trust on terms and conditions to be agreed upon in consultation with the Council.**

In response to P Crake, the Parks and Recreation Manager advised the value of the old Town Hall was in the vicinity of \$40,000.

7. REQUEST TO PURCHASE FORMER MATAURA LIBRARY BUILDING (37.9.1)

A letter was tabled from McDonough Contracting advising it wished to purchase the former library building to convert to a new office facility for the company.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of P Crake, seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the Board with McDonough Contracting in the New Year to discuss the proposal.**

8. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS (46.36.2)

L Turnbull reported on the progress of plans for the Mataura weekend event to be held on 29-30 November. Bliss Brown would be attending on the first day which would be held in the new community centre. She invited all to attend to offer views and ideas for the town of Mataura.

The second day would be a Christmas Gala Day. Fliers advertising the weekend had been distributed to the town and rural deliveries.

A request had been received from the organisers of the Community Market for use of the old town hall until a decision was made on its future and also use of wooden trestle tables that were stored at the hall.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of L Turnbull, seconded by N Phillips, THAT until a decision on the future of the Mataura town hall was reached, the request be held over, but approval to use the tables be granted.**

The Chairman thanked the Council and parks staff for their involvement in the opening day of the new Community Centre. A great day was had by all.

P Crake thought the rugby grounds and parks of Mataura were looking great and asked the Parks and Recreation Manager to pass his comments onto staff.

The Chairman advised that a Civil Defence meeting would be held on Thursday 20 November in the New Community Centre.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING -Monday 26 January 2009

The meeting concluded at 6.42pm