



**REPORT OF THE GORE DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING,  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON  
TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2009, AT 7.45 pm**

**PRESENT** Cr Dixey and Youth Crs J Bone, N Dickson, R Gibson, A Heslip, F Maslin, A Rennie, B Stark and H White.

**IN ATTENDANCE** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks), The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), and Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan).

**APOLOGIES** Crs K Barron, D Luoni, E Paterson and R King apologised for their absence.

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1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED** on the motion of N Dickson, seconded by A Heslip, **THAT** the report of the Youth Council meeting held on 09 December 2008, be accepted as an accurate and complete record.

2. SIR PETER BLAKE YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

A letter had been received from Environment Southland inviting any 15-18 year old youths interested in attending the National Youth Environmental Forum as an ambassador for Southland to apply. The conference would be held in Wellington from 19-23 April 2009. None of the Youth Councillors expressed any interest in attending.

3. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND

The next funding round for applications from the Youth Development fund would close on 2 March 2009. The meeting perused the letter from the Ministry of Youth Development.

His Worship thought the timeframe would be too tight for the Youth Council to come up with an initiative before the closing date this year, so it should look forward to next year and take time to think of an appropriate project. The new Community Development Officer would soon be available to help and liaise

with the Councillors to develop ideas. He encouraged the exiting Councillors to leave any ideas with those remaining.

The Chief Executive thought there were a lot of good ideas that the Council could look at; ways of improving safety to an alleyway, removal of graffiti, or perhaps a youth art show. The Councillors needed to have a good think and go whole heartedly into a project.

Cr Dixey thought a project for a drop in youth centre in either Gore or Mataura could be a possibility and suggested approaching M Redhead from the Calvin Church to assist with a proposal for funding.

F Maslin thought the alcohol strategy could be another project that could be looked at.

The Chief Executive thought that once the community had adopted the strategy, any initiatives that came from it could be developed and then funding sought through the Youth Development Fund.

#### 4. PERUSAL/REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION, NOMINATION PROCESS FOR NEW COUNCILLORS

The constitution of the Youth Council was perused along with the nomination process for new councillors.

The Youth Council agreed that March was a good time for the changeover of the departing and new Councillors and this needed to be included in the constitution.

His Worship wondered if the applicable age of up to 19 years could be extended to 25 years. He thought maybe some youths who had entered the workforce could be interested in becoming a Youth Councillor.

N Dickson felt 19 years was a good age. He thought once people left school, their opinions and views changed.

J Bone did not think many 20-25 year old people would be interested.

Cr Dixey reminded the Council that if they were unable to attend a meeting, they were entitled to send along a replacement young person to the meeting. He thought that Reap and other community groups could be approached to have representation.

Cr Dixey thought that a representative could report to the Council on a regular basis and put their ideas forward.

His Worship asked the Council if there was anything it would like changed for this year.

J Bone thought that the new incoming Councillors should be year 12 age, so that they could serve more than one year on the Council.

The Chief Executive confirmed that year 10 was the minimum age at present in the constitution. He was presently drafting letters to various institutions that had representation on the Youth Council, and would emphasise that nominees lower than year 13 would be welcome in order to bring some continuity to the Youth Council.

#### 5. SOCIAL EVENT AND ART/GRAFFITI EXHIBITION SUB COMMITTEES UPDATE

N Dickson reported that due to Christmas holidays and Councillor's work commitments, the sub committees had not managed to meet and move forward with their plans.

A new sub-committee needed to be formed for the social event that would possibly be tied in with the National Youth Day in May.

The art/graffiti exhibition unfortunately never eventuated. Funding would have been available through Jim Geddes, however an application had not been submitted.

#### 6. GENERAL

The Christmas parade float had been fun, but very last minute. Next year the Council would start its preparations for a float a lot earlier.

Cr Dixey reported that plans for the Community Connections Centre to relocate to the Xavier House building had fallen through.

Nathan Judd had resigned as the local Community Youth Worker.

N Dickson thought that once a new Youth Worker was appointed, more communication was required between him or her, the Council and the community.

His Worship asked if the present system used for the Youth Council was user friendly enough.

F Maslin thought the Councillors had supported the Youth Council ideas, but had not taken enough initiative. More action was needed as a whole. With new Councillors commencing, now was the right time to do that.

The Chief Executive suggested the Youth Council commit to paper, some key things they wanted to achieve this year and to ask for help from the Council when required, in order that they achieve their goals.

H White thought more emphasis needed to be put on meeting attendance. Once a date had been set, the Councillors needed to make a real effort to attend.

The Chief Executive suggested that if a Councillor failed to attend the meetings, their punishment could be that a particular task became their responsibility.

His Worship suggested some informal time before commencement of monthly meetings, perhaps with pizza and beverages. Making contact with other Youth Councils to share ideas was another possibility.

N Dickson thought a few Councillors could travel to Invercargill or Balclutha to attend a Youth Council meeting there.

His Worship suggested that Council agendas could be mailed to the Youth Councillors.

The Chief Executive thought some committee meeting issues could be of interest to the Youth Councillors. They could peruse the committee agendas and recommendations, and offer alternatives to be put forward to Council, through either Cr Dixey or the Youth Council Chairman. This was the concept behind the Youth Council. To share the workload, sub-committees could be formed for the different agendas.

Cr Dixey thought the Youth Councillors had a lot of ideas that they could offer with current issues including Pakeke Lions recycling, water restrictions and sports venues.

His Worship said the community appreciated the interest the Youth Councillors had shown in their first year and thought the Youth Council would provide a valuable interest in the community in the future. He wished the departing Councillors

well with their studies and welcomed back the returning Councillors.

The meeting concluded at 8.21pm.