



**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2009, AT 4.45 pm.**

**PRESENT**

**His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Bolger (Chairperson), Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne, Harvey, Heller, Highsted, McLennan and Sharp.**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and three members of the public in the gallery.**

**APOLOGIES**

**Crs Davis, Grant and Highsted apologised for absence.**

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**1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS SWIMMING LESSONS**  
(24.12)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets and the Parks and Recreation Manager regarding the possibility of the Council making a financial contribution for swimming lessons for the children of the Gore District. A copy of a memo from the Chief Executive dated 6 August 2008 and the minutes pertaining to the memo had also been circulated.

Cr Dixon said when the budgets were being set, he had asked if the funding allocated for the swim instructors was sufficient and had been advised that it was. When was enough, enough? He thought maybe a submission to the Government was required.

Cr Heller agreed with Cr Dixon. He thought it was a case of double dipping. The draft LTCCP had shown an increase in aquatic centre wages of \$81,000. Ratepayers should not have to pay twice.

Cr Gardyne thought the narrative of living in a floodplain and the horror statistics were irrelevant to the local area. He said schools had a responsibility through their funding and delivery of sport to children, to teach them to swim. It was not up to the

Council. It had to draw the line. He opposed the recommendation.

The Chief Executive said the situation had come about from a request for funding from the West Gore PTFA to the Mataura Licensing Trust. The Trust had then approached the Council to find out if it would contribute half of the finance. He understood where Cr Heller was coming from and wondered where did it draw the line in terms of providing infrastructure, subsidised recreational swimming and learn to swim programmes, through rates? Or, was it a responsibility of individual parents. Council staff had gone through a matrix of looking at community outcomes and believed it was worthy of consideration.

Cr Harvey had mixed feelings about the whole issue and said he could see the point of view of ratepayers who did not have children needing to learn to swim. But it lived in a water nation. Non swimming parents could not teach their children to swim.

Cr Dixey suggested the money set aside for the bus to transport people to hospital that was never used could be applied to the cost of swimming lessons.

His Worship was in a similar frame of mind to Cr Harvey. He wondered where to draw the line between what was a parental responsibility and a Government responsibility. There was a cost to living in the community and the Government did not always fund what it should. Over \$10 million of public funding was required for the operations of Southland schools.

He said because of the proximity to the river, people would use it for recreational use. Responsibility was needed from all parties to give children the opportunity to learn to swim. He was comfortable to see it go to the LTCCP for consideration. If there was an outcry from the community the Council could take heed of that. He thought the cost was about \$1 per head of population. The Council had a responsibility for building its future generation and making sure it was fit for all challenges.

Cr Gardyne added that although schools had a responsibility through funding received to teach the children to swim, that did not exclude the responsibility that parents had to teach their children to swim. If they could not teach the children themselves they had the ability to pay for them to receive tuition either through the aquatic centre or through school programmes. He wondered, as an ex school Board of Trustee member, if schools were maybe not earmarking funds for swimming.

He also thought the Matura Licensing Trust had a community responsibility as a funder, which was quite different from the Gore District Council. He thought it should let the situation drift a little longer until the other funding avenues had been explored, being the parents, school fund raising and the Ministry of Education.

Cr Dixon thought \$370 was a lot of money for a 30 minute lesson.

In response to Cr McLennan, Cr Dixey said that the \$12,820 commitment would be required for one year only, not every year for 10 years.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Heller, THAT the report be received,**

**THAT the Council decline \$12,820 being added by way of a staff technical submission to the 2009-19 LTCCP estimates process,**

**AND THAT staff progress discussions with the Matura Licensing Trust in relation to this overall funding mechanism.**

Cr Bolger thought the Matura Licensing Trust could be approached in regard to its financial support with the swimming programme.

**Cr Dixon moved as an amendment to the third part THAT the Council's decision be relayed to the Matura Licensing Trust and that it be encouraged to take up the cudgels in respect of funding of the swimming lesson programme.**

**This amendment was seconded by Cr Dixey, was put and was carried.**

2. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2009 (1.1.4)

A financial report for the eight months ended 28 February 2009 had been received from the Management Accountant and was perused by the meeting.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by His Worship, THAT the financial report for the eight months ended 28 February 2009 be received.**

3. REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS REGISTER (46.12.9)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising it was custom and practice of the Gore District Council to review

its Delegations Register on an annual basis. A copy of the current register had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by His Worship, THAT the Delegations Register be adopted.**

The meeting concluded at 5.05 pm.