

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE, WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE, ON TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2009, FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Stephen Parry  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**2 September 2009**

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## FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 2009

### 1. SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN PARK TRUST, COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

(Memo from the Parks and Recreation Manager – 21.08.09)

Over the past year the Parks and Recreation Manager has been working with members of the Gore A & P Association, Joint Management Committee, Southland Showjumping, Dressage, Pony Clubs and Riding for the Disabled along with other partner organisations with a view to setting up an all weather surface riding arena at the Gore A & P Grounds.

Following an initial application for funding to the Community Trust of Southland, a recommendation was forthcoming from the Chief Executive Mr John Prendergast, that the group needed to form a legal entity that would administer all funds raised and represent the interests of all stakeholders and partners of the project.

The group thereafter enlisted the help of Mr John Bannerman to draft an appropriate Trust document that can be utilised in the fundraising for the initial all weather surface and then into the future where at some point in time it is envisaged that there will be support to explore the covering of the arena.

The proposed draft lists a total of ten trustees representing Showjumping (2), Dressage (2), Riding for the Disabled (1), Eastern and Northern Southland Pony Clubs (1), Gore District Council (2), Gore Agricultural and Pastoral Association (2).

The Council is invited in its capacity as land owner, to appoint two persons to represent the Councils interest.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Council appoint one Councillor and the Parks and Recreation Manager to the Southern Equestrian Park Trust.**

2. NEW ZEALAND RED CROSS: EASTERN SOUTHLAND RURAL TRANSPORT SCHEME

(Memo from Chief Executive – 31.08.09)

As Councillors will be aware the Council in its 2008/09 Annual Plan opted to contribute the sum of \$7,500 towards a New Zealand Red Cross organised and managed transportation scheme. The scheme is principally targeted at the elderly and physically impaired who are without transport and need to attend essential medical appointments outside of Gore. However, the scheme is also available for any other members of the community who may have a transportation need.

- 1 Please find enclosed a report from New Zealand Red Cross profiling the success of the first year's operation and providing an income and expenditure statement, on a month by month basis, for the 2008/09 financial year.

Based on this report the final instalment for the 2008/09 financial year of \$2,500 will now be paid.

It is heartening to see that the new scheme is being well patronised and also that donations from the benefiting individuals have been made on a regular basis throughout the year under review.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report from New Zealand Red Cross be received.**

### 3. RATES OUTSTANDING AT 30 JUNE

(Memo from General Manager, Corporate Services – 28.08.09)

Summarised below are details of rates outstanding at 30 June for the last three years:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Arrears \$</b>	<b>Current \$</b>	<b>Total \$</b>	<b>% of Total Rate Struck</b>
30 June 2007	240,390.51	293,524.21	533,914.72	5.38%
30 June 2008	263,973.50	316,961.09	580,934.59	5.47%
30 June 2009	166,557.60	375,285.04	541,842.64	4.75%

A major highlight of this summary is the major reduction in the arrears outstanding, the figure having reduced \$73,832.91 to \$166,557.60, which is extremely pleasing and is a testament to the efforts of the Council's Office Manager, Margaret Evans. I would note the current rates figure has increased somewhat, due to the increase in rates struck over the three years, from \$9,930,000 in 2007 to \$11,396,000 in 2009, but overall the total percentage outstanding of the rates struck has decreased significantly. This is expected to improve further as the impact of payment arrangements entered into with a number of ratepayers over the last 12 months or so clear their arrears balances and begin to apply to their "current" balances.

Under the Council's current payment options direct debits are only available on a quarterly basis and in response to the increasing rates strike, along with the constraints of the current economic environment, staff are in the process of updating this option so that direct debits can be offered on a weekly basis. This is expected to be offered to all ratepayers for the next instalment.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**