

Date: Tuesday 22 February 2022 at 3.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor A L Jamieson (the Chairman), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors G W Boyde (*via audio/visual link*), P S Dalziel (*via audio/visual link*), R W Coplestone, A K Harris, V R Jones, W J Sandford and G M Webby.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu (*via audio/visual link*), the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich (*via audio/visual link*), the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Community Development Manager – Mr C Julie, the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*), the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig (*via audio/visual link (part meeting)*), the Revenue Manager – Mrs J Erwood (*part meeting*), Mr B Ellis (Percy Thomson Trust Chairman (*via audio/visual link*)), Ms M Jordan and Dr A Probert (Venture Taranaki (*part meeting*), and two members of the media (Stratford Press and Taranaki Daily News (*via audio/visual link (part meeting)*))

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, and the media.

The Deputy Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

A leave of absence had been approved for Councillor J M S Erwood and apologies received from Councillor M McKay and the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

JONES/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/22/13

3. Announcements

The District Mayor requested Elected Members remain after the meeting.

The Chief Executive noted that the council's administration building had moved to a split team setting to ensure critical services could continue to serve the community in case of staff being exposed or infected by Covid-19. This may impact some interactions with staff.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

The Deputy Mayor requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts of interest.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance Schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings was attached.

6. Confirmation of minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee – 25 January 2022

D22/3321 Page 13

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25 January 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

COPLESTONE/WEBBY
Carried
P&S/22/14

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 23

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

DALZIEL/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/22/15

8. Quarterly Report – Economic Development Quarterly Report – Quarter Two

D22/5641 Page 24

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

JONES/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/22/16

Ms Jordan and Dr Probert of Venture Taranaki noted the following points:

- The pop-up shop in Eltham proved to be a great success for local food producers. An evaluation is currently being undertaken but it may be something that is on-going in the region.
- Quite a bit is being done through the Curious Minds programme with one Stratford school currently linked to this. It is going really well.
- Quite a lot of work is being done in the rural community in conjunction with Taranaki Catchment Communities and Federated Farmers.
- The Branching Out programme which works in a number of different initiatives with an aim to add value to the food and fibre area. One area where work is being undertaken is the medicinal herbs and what that could mean for the region. Venture Taranaki have partnered with the Stratford Herb Society and an event last week had almost 100 people present with another 60 joining online. The local herb society has been a real asset on this project.
- Support going into businesses is becoming more and more critical at the moment with more weariness amongst the business owners as they continue to contend with changing landscapes. Venture Taranaki is working with an increasing level of engagement and includes support for businesses moving forward, ensuring event organisers can access support and thinking about how the “Go Local” message can be relayed and enforced while bearing in mind that businesses have been hesitant in forward buying. The “Switch” regional promotion campaign has been on-going predominantly through

the North Island to encourage visitors especially with the option to drive here with hesitancy around flying at the moment. Support also includes helping businesses seek the advice they are after, navigating potential loss of income and legal and HR challenges.

The Services Asset Manager joined the meeting at 3.12pm.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that sports groups were also facing difficulties such as the Synthetic Turf Trust had had a 37% revenue loss due to Covid-19. Ms Jordan clarified that Venture Taranaki is working with a number of agencies including those who work for the not for profit sector as the impact on these groups is acknowledged. The support offered is different but the problems are very similar.
- Councillor Boyde noted his support for the shop local campaign and that there would be \$2 billion coming into the farming community this year. Ms Jordan noted that Venture Taranaki was also working with the farming community as they navigate their own challenges some of which are Covid-19 related, and some that are not.

Ms Jordan and Dr Probert left the meeting at 3.15pm

9. Information Report – Percy Thomson Trust – Half Yearly Report as at 31 December 2021

D22/5410

Page 56

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

WEBBY/JAMIESON
Carried
P&S/22/17

2. THAT Council receive the half yearly report for Percy Thomson Trust as at 31 December 2021.

DALZIEL/WEBBY
Carried
P&S/22/18

Recommended Reason

In terms of Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2002 the Percy Thomson Trust, being a council controlled organisation, must deliver to Council a half yearly report (as at 31 December 2021) on or before 28 February 2022.

The Chairman of the Percy Thomson Trust noted the following points:

- Visitor numbers are struggling but there has been an excellent standard of exhibitions including the anniversary exhibition. Unfortunately the celebration for this occasion has been delayed.
- The major change has been the retirement of Gallery Director Rhonda Bunyan who has been amazing for the gallery and the Stratford and wider community. The Trust has appointed Laura Campbell, who was previously with Puke Ariki, to the position and is looking forward to the contribution she will make.
- From a financial point of view the Trust has been running a bit behind, some of this is in relation to external funding. Council had been told at a previous meeting that a potential sale of the Todd Park property was looking likely, however due to this sale not receiving a 75% majority vote it did not proceed. The Trust is now looking to liquidate one of its shares for this property which was a \$50,000 investment and is looking to be liquidated at a bit under \$100,000 this will make a difference to the capital balance of the Trust.
- Work is continuing on extending the visual impact of the arboretum as well as continuing to see how the Trust can meet its performance measures in regards to the Herbarium by becoming a member of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.
- One of the upcoming issues will be the condition of the building, which may need some substantial work, and decisions will need to be made about how this work is funded.
- Mr Ellis noted the appreciation of the Trust for council's continued support.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Dalziel noted it was disappointing the Todd Park sale had not proceeded but was pleased to hear there was a potential buyer for one of the shares and that the Trust was keeping an eye on the other investments over the next 12 months. He congratulated the Trust on going a good job.

10. Information Report – Percy Thomson Trust – Statement of Intent 2022-2025

D22/5541

Page 78

Recommendation

1. THAT the report be received.

WEBBY/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/22/19

2. THAT Council receive the Statement of Intent for Percy Thomson Trust for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025.

WEBBY/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/22/20

Recommended Reason

In terms of Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002 Percy Thomson Trust, being a Council Controlled Organisation, must deliver a statement of intent on or before 1 March 2022.

The Chairman of the Percy Thomson Trust noted the following points:

- He noted the maintenance plan on page 99 of the agenda but clarified there were other items that could be added including the roof and internal refurbishment which could add another \$100,000 of expense.
- The Trust works towards a break even situation but is reliant on external funding. They are now looking at options outside of grant funding and also the intention to liquidate some of the investments with substantial capital value.

Mr Ellis left the meeting at 3.26pm.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

JONES/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/22/21

2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that the Stratford District Council proposes to close Toko Road from its intersection with Raupuha Road (RP4.6) to the end of the road (RP10.3) on Sunday 27 March between the hours of 7.30am to 5.30pm for the Taranaki Car Club to host a sprint motorsport event.

JONES/COPLESTONE
Carried
P&S/22/22

Recommended Reason

In order for the Taranaki Car Club to host a hillclimb motorsport event, it is necessary to close Toko Road for safety reasons, for the participants and for any spectators. The proposed road closure requires formal endorsement by a council resolution. This event was cancelled in March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the country going into lockdown.

The Roding Asset Manager noted that this report sought approval to close Toko Road on Sunday 27 March 2022 between 7.30am and 5.30pm. The group will be using Huinga Hall for a lunch stop. No objections have been received.

The Revenue Manager joined the meeting at 3.28pm.

12. Monthly Reports

12.1 Assets Report D22/3707 Page 122

Recommendation

- THAT the report be received.

COPLESTONE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/22/23

The Roding Asset Manager noted January had been a reasonably quiet month returning after the Christmas shut downs, however the most notable piece of work was the start of the Monmouth Road culvert replacement.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted that notification for an electricity closedown now required five weeks notice, with this and also two weeks of wet weather the completion date for the Monmouth Road culvert was now 25 March.
- It was noted that asphalt should be finished at the pump track over the next couple of days and with a bit of decamping and apart from landscaping yet to be done it should all be finished by the end of this week.
- It requested that under 3.5, page 133, *Ward Boundaries*, clarification on the statement regarding no changes to the ward boundaries be given as council had adopted changes to the mesh blocks for the upcoming elections. The Director – Corporate Services noted that the adopted changes had been lodged with LINZ and the Electoral Commission, council officers were working through this process. This would be added to matters outstanding.

- It was clarified that the re-read verification of water meters was a huge improvement as previously a lot of the meter boxes got flooded, officers had been proactively draining these and also provided training to ensure photographs were legible.
- It was noted that when able, council do charge those responsible for creating mess at the Esk Road disposal site however it is not always clear which company it was.

The Services Asset Manager left the meeting at 3.38pm

12.2 Community Services Report
D22/3351 Page 154

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/COPLESTONE
Carried
P&S/22/24

The Director – Community Services noted the following points:

- Youth Council applications opened and closed in January. There will be six new youth councillors being sworn in next week with a total council of 15.
- The annual pool safe audit was completed this month and the facility received its accreditation.
- The Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund is now open for funding applications. She asked that Councillors encourage community and school groups to apply. The Creative Communities grant pool opens on 7 March.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Webby noted that the Stratford Positive Ageing Group had cancelled its March Forum due to Covid-19.
- Ms Whareaitu clarified that planned events that had not proceeded this year were currently only postponed and the aim is to run them this financial year if able.
- The Deputy Mayor requested that when the Stratford Business Association presents to council it would be nice to hear how they are going forward, especially with economic development and the work currently being undertaken in the district.

12.3 Environmental Services Report
D22/3465 Page 164

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

JONES/WEBBY
Carried
P&S/22/25

The Director – Environmental Services noted the following points:

- The start of 2022 was pretty busy in terms of applications partly because more was carried over the Christmas period than usual.
- January took a bit longer to get up and running again as people in the industry took a longer break over Christmas, but trends were tracking as normal by the end of the month.
- There has been a reduction in building inspections taking place and officers are putting this down to material availability. Other councils are experiencing a similar trend, however Stratford is still tracking well in terms of applications coming in.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Mr Sutherland clarified that the team was working really hard on the Earthquake Prone Buildings and it was hoped the list of buildings would be completed by the end of this month.

12.4 Corporate Services Report
D22/2656 Page 172

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

SANDFORD/AHRRIS
Carried
P&S/22/26

The Director – Corporate Services noted that work was being undertaken to adopt ,and release for consultation, the draft Annual Plan at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday 8 March. Officers are currently preparing the document, consultation documents and the revenue and financing policy. She noted there will be specific consultation on the forestry element.

13. Questions

There were no questions.

14. Resolution to Exclude the Public

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Agenda Item No: 15 and 16

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution to each matter	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Legal Proceedings	To protect a person's privacy	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons who is the subject of the information. Section 7(2)a of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
Land purchase	The withholding of the information is necessary for commercial sensitivity	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. Section 7(2)b(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

BODYE/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/22/27

The Corporate Accountant and members of the media left the meeting at 3.45pm.

15. Public Excluded Item

16. Public Excluded Item

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resume.

SANDFORD/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/22/32

17. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 204

The meeting was closed with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 3.51pm

A L Jamieson
Chairman

Confirmed this 22nd day of March 2022.

N C Volzke
District Mayor