

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee

F22/55/05 – D24/21643

Date: Tuesday 23 April 2024 at 3.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor – M McKay (the Chairman), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors: S J Beck, G W Boyde, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, E E Hall, V R Jones and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets Mrs V Araba, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Communications Advisor – Mrs S Clarkson (*part meeting*), the Environmental Health Manager – Ms R Otter (*part meeting*), the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Project Manager – Mr S Taylor and the Acting Community Development Manager – Mrs A Kingston (*part meeting*).

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

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

Apologies were received from Councillor W J Sandford and C M Tongaawhikau

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

DUDLEY/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/24/109

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

The District Mayor and Deputy Mayor declared an interest in Item 9 – Decision Report – Stratford District Licensing Committee – Position of Deputy Chairperson

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings, including Hearings, was attached.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy and Services Committee – 26 March (Hearing) D24/15333 Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the Draft King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan, held on Tuesday 26 March 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HALL/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/24/110

The Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant undertook to amend the Chairperson to be the Deputy Mayor.

6.2 Policy and Services Committee –26 March 2024 D24/15493 Page 20

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 26 March 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/111

The Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant undertook to amend the Chairperson to be the Deputy Mayor.

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 31

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

ERWOOD/BECK
Carried
P&S/24/112

8. Information Report – Fenton Street Parking

D2417469 Page 32

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/JONES
Carried
P&S/24/113

Recommended Reason

This report provides information about how parking in Fenton Street is currently managed and how it could be managed in the future to minimise conflict with Scout Hall users.

The Director – Environmental Services noted the following points:

- This information report is responding to concerns raised during the King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan hearing regarding freedom camping and parking along the Portia Street/Fenton Street corner.
- Further investigation shows these issues will be best dealt with under the Parking Bylaw review rather than creating a freedom camping bylaw.
- The websites directing people to this location have been contacted. It has also been suggested that the scouts be provided with a key for the Malone Gates to combat the loading and unloading issues.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted that one of the issues in the submissions had been parking after hours, in which case to enforce this officers would need to look at resourcing such as including it within the after-hours contract.
- Councillor Harris noted that she thought the opening hours of the Centennial Rest Rooms could impact the decision to park there overnight. It was noted that these were still accessible from other parking spots in the vicinity.

In accordance with Standing Order 14.2, to allow the chairperson to vacate the chair during Item 9, nominations were called for a Chairperson to preside as chairperson during this item.

Recommendation

THAT Councillor G W Boyde be the Chairperson during Item 9 – Stratford District Licensing Committee – Position of Deputy Chairperson

McKAY/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/114

The Deputy Mayor and District Mayor vacated the table and left the room at 3.08pm.

9. Decision Report – Stratford District Licensing Committee – Position of Deputy Chairperson

D23/37928

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Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BECK/JONES
Carried
P&S/24/115

2. THAT the committee approve the appointment of Min McKay as the Deputy Chairperson of the Stratford District Licensing Committee (DLC).

DUDLEY/HARRIS
Division
For 8
Against 0
Abstained 2
Carried
P&S/24/116

3. THAT the appointment of the Deputy Chairperson commence on 15 May 2024.

BOYDE/BECK
Carried
P&S/24/117

Recommended Reason

The Policy and Services Committee agreed to appoint a Deputy Chairperson to the Stratford District Licensing Committee on 22 September 2020 to complete the composition of the committee.

The Environmental Health Manager noted the following points:

- This process completes a necessary step to achieve the agreed composition of the District Licensing Committee.
- Elected members were asked in 2021 to lodge an expression of interest with the Chief Executive for the position of Deputy Chairperson. No expressions of interest were received.
- The Deputy Mayor has recently formalised an expression of interest in the position. She brings with her relevant experience to the position in terms of chairing meetings, legal decision making processes and knowledge of the local community. This experience meets the appropriate criteria in the SOLGM guidelines for appointing a deputy chairperson.

A division was called:

Those voting for the motion: Councillors: Beck, Boyde, Dudley, Erwood, Hall, Harris, Jones and Watt.

There were no votes against the motion.

The District Mayor and Deputy Mayor abstained and were not present for the vote.

The Deputy Mayor and District Mayor returned to the table at 3.12pm. The Deputy Mayor resumed chairing the meeting.

10. Decision Report – Communications and Engagement Strategy Adoption 2024

D24/11385 Page 40

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/24/118

2. THAT feedback on the draft Communication and Engagement Strategy 2024 is acknowledged and considered, and any amendments agreed to by elected members, are incorporated into the final Communication and Engagement Strategy 2024.

3. THAT the Communication and Engagement Strategy 2024 (attached) be approved, and recommended for adoption by Council at the May 2024 Ordinary Council meeting.

HALL/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/119

Recommended Reason

The recommendation from the Committee will enable Council officers' to formally use the strategy as a framework for communications and engagement activity.

The Communications Manager noted the feedback from Te Whatu Ora – Public Health Unit had been tabled. This had been circulated to the committee.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that all respondents had been contacted and thanked for their feedback, they would also be notified of the final outcome for the document.
- The District Mayor noted the comments made by Alex Corlett relating to him personally. He noted that both instances where it stated the mayor had been advised of the matter and not taken any action were incorrect.

Points noted in discussion:

- Ms Gibson noted the level of consultation was very dependent on the activity that is being discussed. In some instances direct conversation will be needed with hapu as well as iwi. Noting hapu in the strategy does not change the consultation process but it documents that council is not just acknowledging the post settlement agencies for engagement.

11. Monthly Reports

11.1 Assets Report D24/14553 Page 64

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/24/120

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the generator had been put in its own shed for protection against the weather. There were examples given where frames had rotted away and required a full generator replacement.
- Councillor Boyde noted there seemed to be a massive increase in fly tipping, particularly around his area. The Director – Assets noted there had also been an increase in the urban area with an example on Portia Street given from this week. Officers are following through with investigations when able.
- Councillor Boyde noted the farm was up by 5% for the month and 4% up for the year for production. The sematic cell count was 50% lower than last year. Worksafe had visited today and had noted the health and safety system was one of the best systems they had seen in place.
- It was clarified that a request for proposal is a request to consultants to put together a proposal for an investigation around wetland.
- It was noted that members of the public had questioned the accuracy of the kerbside collection contamination, a second audit had been undertaken to validate those concerns and still showed our contamination level was very low. Councillor Harris congratulated the community for providing such a low contamination rate and asked that the second results be relayed to those who raised the concerns.
- The District Mayor asked if the changes to the Resource Management Act and suspension of the Significant Natural Areas would impact the wetlands at the subdivision? The Director Environmental Services noted the changes so far will not make a difference but it is unknown what subsequent changes will be.
- It was clarified that \$150,000 of the better off funding had been committed to the Flint Road connection for wastewater, but it was not known at the time where the nearest point with sufficient capacity would be. The modelling has since come back and indicated that the capacity is significantly better than anticipated so the idea is now to go to a central point on the boundary of the Stratford Park. Internal infrastructure would be their responsibility. Mrs Araba noted that this would only get 100 metres towards Stratford Park from the connection point.
- Councillor Jones commended the inclusion of routine maintenance under roading and noted this had been quite insightful.

11.2 Community Services Report
D24/15391 Page 87

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/121

The Director – Community Services noted that those who wanted to march in the ANZAC Day parade needed to meet at 5.40am at the netball courts. The service will begin at 6am.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde questioned when the report on cost savings and future plans for the pool would be received. Ms Whareaitu noted this was currently a working draft and could not give a definite date at this point.
- It was noted that there had been a meeting with MTFJ this month and there was discussion about re-negotiating the current contract and targets. There was a definite indication that Year 2 funding will continue. The District Mayor noted the target was being revised and reset at 28. Funding will be reduced to reflect the lower target but the programme will still be able to continue.

11.3 Environmental Services Report
D24/11879 Page 94

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

McKAY/BECK
Carried
P&S/24/122

The Acting Community Development Manager left the meeting at 3.33pm.

11.4 Corporate Services Report
D24/17581 Page 101

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

JONES/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/24/123

The Director – Corporate Services noted that \$1 million of debt had been refinanced in April for four years at 5.41%, this had been at 1.14%. There was a further \$2 million maturing in May which was currently at 2.35%. It was not possible to see which way the rates will go so council will be only borrowing what it needs.

The Communications Advisor left the meeting at 3.37pm.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted the roading budget was to be exceeded by at least \$600,000 and that the expenditure for the aquatic centre was well over budget and felt this was a hugely concerning trend.
- The Roading Asset Manager explained that current cost escalations were at 20.3%. NZTA releases cost escalations every quarter based on CPI and the difference in cost from when the contract was awarded. This is done all the way through long term contracts. The next cost escalation will be released at the end of May/June. He noted that within the contracts themselves there are lump sums that council needs to pay for work such as potholes, bridge maintenance, street cleaning, leaf clearance and rubbish collection from fly tipping. These lump sums add up to about \$67,000 per month. Discretionary work could be cut back to save costs.
- It was clarified that the capital costs at Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre were work that had not been completed and now these have been paid out as the jobs are closed off and finished. This work was always within the budget, but it would have been tidier if these expenses had been carried over into another budget. The pool build is still under budget.
- Councillor Jones noted his concerns with the interest rates on debt registered and asked if the A&P Association would be able to sustain a 5-6% interest rate when it comes off 1% in a year or so. Councillor Hall felt it would be worthwhile starting those conversations now to communicate the anticipated increase. The Chief Executive noted there was a request for a subgroup of council to have a conversation regarding the loan with the association and to look at ways forward.
- Councillor Jones asked if CPI and increasing annual costs was factored into all contracts? It was clarified that this is factored into all long term contracts and the indices are provided by an independent authority.
- The District Mayor noted that putting the deficit for the roading spend against the reserve is not sustainable. Council cannot continuously put expenses against the reserve till the point it gets to nothing. He asked how this was being addressed in the Long Term Plan (LTP)? Mr Hanne noted the overdrawn reserve was addressed in the LTP and an increase made to the roading budget. Mrs Radich noted this was identified as a key issue in the consultation document. She noted there were also options within the Revenue and Financing Policy for consideration as operational work is funded by rates and not loans, so it is proposing to allow some flexibility as there are not many funding options.
- Mrs Araba noted that just today a report had been received on damage caused by forestry trucks to a road, this will cost about \$250,000 to fix. She noted there was no solution other than overspending due to the safety issues.
- The District Mayor noted this type of expenditure was effectively bringing the FAR rates down substantially. Councillor Hall noted there are the requirements on council to pay for these services but with capped funding there are complete ambiguities in the format they are following for the funding. She noted she would rather have a budget that is bigger and being met as opposed to a budget council cannot meet.
- The District Mayor noted he will be taking the opportunity to raise these issues at Local Government level. Mayor Holdom is the chair of the subcommittee that deals with these issues and he is right across these issues. He will also raise them at the regional transport committee.
- It was noted that there were no bonds received for the pensioner housing but the table states rent and bond in advance. This will be amended.

12. Questions

There were no questions.

13. 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: 14

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
Land Acquisition	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.

ERWOOD/JONES
Carried
P&S/24/124

14. Public Excluded Item - Decision Report – Cardiff Road Realignment

D24/9616

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Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/24/125

2. THAT Council consent to the acquisition for road pursuant to Section 17 of the Public Works Act 1981 of the land described as Lot 4 DP 20954 containing approximately 450 square metres as shown on Drawing D1 attached to this report (**Attachment 1**).

4. THAT the subject and discussion regarding this matter be released from being public excluded, with the exception of the compensation amount.

ERWOOD/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/24/126

Recommended Reason

To achieve safety improvements along Cardiff Road, the road requires widening along the curve approach immediately to the north of the Patea River bridge.

The Roding Asset Manager noted this report seeks endorsement to purchase 450 square meters of land on Cardiff Road to complete safety improvements.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The compensation price was based on 450 square meters, however the resolution noting *no more than* was to provide an allowance if any additional land was required to complete the safety work. The price per square meters was established through a calculation completed by Telfer Young.

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resume.

WATT/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/24/127

15. Closing Karakia

D21/40748

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The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.03pm.

M McKay
Chairman

Confirmed this 28th day of May 2024.

N C Volzke
District Mayor