

Date: Tuesday 27 August 2024 at 3.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

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

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Acting Director – Assets – Mr S Bowden, the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig, the Committee Secretary – Ms E Coulton, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson (*part meeting*), the Communications Advisor – Mrs S Clarkson (*part meeting*), the Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain (*part meeting*), the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight (*part meeting*), the Sustainability Advisor – Mrs V Dombroski (*part meeting*), one member of the public and one member of the media (Stratford Press).

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

There were no apologies.

3. Announcements

The Chief Executive noted a workshop is scheduled for 3 September to discuss the water reforms. He emphasised that he has sent out an email regarding this. It was noted that due to the depth of the information sent out, the Chief Executive is available the Friday and Monday prior to the workshop to meet with Councillors individually to explain this information to ensure that each Councillor can get the maximum benefit from the workshop.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

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 –23 July 2024

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 23 July 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/201

It was noted that the recommendation for item 10 (draft Sustainability Policy) had not been adopted by the Ordinary Meeting of Council. Council had amended the wording of the resolution and adopted the policy.

7. Matters Outstanding

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

ERWOOD/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/202

It was noted that the Parking Bylaw review will be put into workshop once it has been confirmed as legally correct.

8. Decision Report – Policy Reviews – August 2024

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/24/203

2. ~~THAT the following, updated policy, being the:~~

~~1. Solid Waste Kerbside Collection Policy~~

~~be adopted.~~

Recommended Reason

This is part of council's rolling review of policies. Policies require review from time to time to ensure they still reflect current legislation and best practice, as well as elected members' views and meet the business needs of the organisation. Any policies recommended for withdrawal have either been found to be not required, amalgamated into an existing policy or replaced by a new policy as outlined in the body of this report.

The Chief Executive noted:

- This review is part of the regular maintenance required of the by-law, therefore not much has been changed.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Beck suggested that the objective 'to encourage appropriate behaviour in the district towards reducing contamination in all our waste streams', listed under 3.2 should be edited to include the word educate. The Chief Executive expressed that he believes that the addition of the word educate is in line with other statements within the policy and will edit this objective accordingly.
- Councillor Harris pointed out that section 6.1 specifies that the policy for replacing damaged bins, states that council aim to have them replaced within 10 working days. She expressed that she feels that this is a long period of time and questioned if council typically replaces bins faster than this. The Chief Executive noted that typically bin replacements are resolved quicker than the stated 10 days in the policy, it was noted that this is usually a period of 3 working days. The Chief Executive additionally highlighted that typically damaged bins are still useable, this is because the most common form of damage are broken hinges and other similar damages.
- The District Mayor sought clarification on the regulations surrounding bins and separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit (SUIP), he noted that clause 4.5 states that extra bins incur a set extra fee and wanted to know if this applies for SUIPs. The Chief Executive clarified that because SUIPs pay rates, their charge for bins is included within the rates, the extra fee only applies if one rate paying household or SUIP requires an extra set of bins.
- The District Mayor noted that clause 5.5 states that churches, sports clubs and maraes can opt in for bin collection, he questioned if the rate is the same as domestic. The Chief Executive clarified that that is correct. The District Mayor further questioned if schools and ECEs get this service for free. The Chief Executive clarified that this is correct, he noted that the reason for this is to teach kids about recycling and make it easily accessible.
- The District Mayor noted that clauses 8.1 and 8.2 are similar, he questioned if it is necessary to have these two separate clauses and if it would be reasonable to combine these clauses. The Chief Executive noted that it will be amended accordingly.
- The District Mayor questioned if clause 10.1, dispute resolution, is fair. He questioned this as the Director makes the final decision without consultation, he expressed that a better option may be that the Director makes a recommendation to the Chief Executive for approval. Councillor Hall noted her support of the Mayors views.
- Councillor Boyde noted that he agrees with the District Mayors views on this, he noted that he believes only a small amount of cases would escalate to the Chief Executive for sign off and he would not be inundated with requests. He expressed that whilst it is out of the Chief Executives scope, it makes the process equitable and fair. He questioned as to how many incidents there has been where the Director – Assets has had issues with disputes. The Chief Executive noted that if the Chief Executive was to do this, it needs to go to the Director first and then the Chief Executive. It was noted that there are typically 10 disputes a year.
- Councillor Erwood expressed that he is happy with clause 10 as is.
- Councillor Harris noted that the policy notes Monday as the collection day, she questioned if this is subject to change and if it does will we need to update the policy. The Chief Executive noted that we are currently locked into a 7 year contract in regard to rubbish collection, he expressed that it is good practice to update the policy when a new contract is put in place.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that clause 5.7 states specifically the left kerbside, she noted that this may be taken too literally and suggested to drop the word left. The Chief Executive noted that he is happy with that change.
- Councillor Dudley noted that an issue not addressed within the policy is wind and the impact on bins, she questioned if it would be possible to include something in the policy on knocked over bins due to wind such as providing clips to residents. The Chief Executive noted that it is a matter that extends outside the policy but if council had the desire to provide clips for residents we can investigate, it was noted that this will be added to matters outstanding.
- The Deputy Mayor questioned as to how many schools and ECEs utilise the free recycling. The Chief Executive noted that all schools within the rubbish collection programme distance, utilise the service, he was unsure on the number of ECEs.

- Matters of dispute resolution were discussed further and it was decided that two voices are required to make the final decision. It was agreed that this will be amended in the policy and councillors are happy to approve that policy without seeing the final wording.
- Councillor Boyde noted that he was concerned with the cost of allowing schools and ECEs to have free bin collection. Councillor Erwood noted that he is happy with the current arrangement as it is about educating our young people. Councillor Hall noted that she is on the fence as she agrees with Councillor Erwood but after the LGNZ conference she is feeling money conscious.
- It was decided that officers will supply councillors with information such as how many schools utilise this service and how much it costs.

Recommendation

2. THAT the Solid Waste Kerbside Collection Policy remain on the table awaiting further information as requested.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/204

9. Decision Report – Stratford Croquet Club – Location Decision

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

SANDFORD/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/24/205

2. THAT the Committee decline Stratford Croquet Club's request to relocate to the green space next to Wai o Rua (corner of Portia and Regan Streets).

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/206

Recommended Reason

Establishment of a permanent facility within this reserve space would negatively impact the current, mainly casual users of this space as well as permanently compromise any future potential to add to the aquatic centre.

The Acting Director – Assets noted:

- This decision report is seeking councils endorsement to decline the request for the Stratford Croquet Club to re-locate their activity to the green space next to Wai O Rua. He noted that the reason for the recommendation to decline is due to the possible future development of Wai O Rua.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Harris asked if council are responsible for recommending another space if we decline the request. The Chief Executive noted that it is not our responsibility to provide them with an alternative space, it is only our responsibility to provide them with feedback on their proposals.
- Councillor Harris questioned who would be responsible for the recovery of the old croquet club if council were to accept their proposal. The Chief Executive noted that this could be made a condition of a move but that most likely there would be a cost to Council.
- Councillor Boyde noted he supports the recommendation to decline the request, he expressed that whilst they are passionate about their activity, protecting the area for future development is more important.

- Councillor Hall noted that she likes the idea of being able to facilitate all community group needs but in this case the proposed area will not work. She emphasised that she wants to acknowledge the work achieved by the croquet club on this proposal and encourages them to look for other options as there may be more opportunities elsewhere within Stratford.

The Sustainability Advisor left the meeting at 3.56 pm.

10. Decision Report – Review of Victoria Park Reserve Management Plan

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received

VOLZKE/JONES
Carried
P&S/24/207

2. THAT in accordance with Section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977, as administering body of the reserve, Council carries out a comprehensive review of the Victoria Park Reserve Management Plan.

3. THAT council approves council officers to seek submissions and feedback from key stakeholders in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/24/208

Recommended Reasons

The Reserves Act 1977 requires Council to “keep its management plan under continuous review”. Victoria Park is one of Stratford’s premier reserves both in terms of passive and active recreation and warrants it’s own management plan to better guide it’s present and future use, maintenance, and development. This plan is due for review, given the changes to parts of the reserve within the last few years.

The Parks and Reserves Officer noted the following:

- There is a small spelling error within the report. It should say contacting Iwi not contacted Iwi.
- The process of consultation for this management plan is different to typical public consultation processes. This management plan undergoes two consultation processes and is a very engaged process.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Jones questioned if public domains managed by boards are required to go through the same consultation processes. The Parks and Reserves Officer noted that this is not required of domains as domains are not classified as reserves and boards are under the umbrella of incorporated societies.
- Councillor Boyde noted that it is great that people are able to look through this report and see the progress of Victoria Park throughout the years. He emphasised that there has been a massive amount that has been achieved which is a kudos to the team. He is looking forward to coming back with tweaks at a later date.
- Councillor Beck questioned if the communications team are planning to do a story to showcase this. The Chief Executive emphasised that it is important for the communications team to do a release on this matter as we need to explain the consultation process to them and showcase

what has been achieved since the last plan. Councillor Beck noted that he likes the consultation process.

11. Decision Report – Stopping and Disposal of Part Walter Road to Regularize Encroachment

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/BECK
Carried
P&S/24/209

2. THAT in order to allow a substantial woolshed that has been erected over part of unformed Walter Road to remain, the Council accepts the offer of the adjoining owners, RC & RA McGregor and J Harold to vest as road on the deposit of their proposed plan of subdivision of Part Lot 1 DP 312/B & Lot 1 DP 11027, an area of approximately 822m² adjoining the area of encroachment and shown as Lot 7 on the scheme plan attached to this report.
3. THAT in exchange for the road to vest as outlined in (2) above and following the deposit of the relative plan of subdivision, the Council agrees to stop that part of Walter Road, which is currently occupied by the woolshed, comprising approximately 709m² and to amalgamate the road, when stopped, with the owners adjoining land, being Lot 1 DP 11027.
4. THAT the road stopping referred to in (3) above be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Public Works Act 1981 and that all associated costs be met by the owners.

BECK/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/210

Recommended Reason

While Walter Road has only been formed up to the boundary of the owners' land, the woolshed occupies the unformed continuation of legal road and as such, constitutes an unlawful encroachment. The above recommendations will provide for the substantial woolshed to remain while maintaining the continuity and integrity of Walter Road at no cost or inconvenience to the Council.

The Acting Director – Assets noted:

- The purpose of the report is to put forward a proposal to alter the status of Walter Road due to a woolshed encroaching on the unformed continuation of the legal road.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- The District Mayor questioned if this will cost council anything. The Acting Director – Assets clarified that all costs will be fronted by Mr McGregor.

12. Monthly Reports

11.1 Assets Report
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Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

/
Carried
P&S/24/211

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall asked if funding from NZTA will be available to update our speed signage as per NZTAs request. The Acting Director – Assets noted that it is highly unlikely that NZTA will fund this.
- The District Mayor noted that all funding that has been requested has been approved by NZTA bar the funding for footpath renewals. Due to this, we now have a funding shortfall and have to make the decision whether to carry on as planned and locate the extra money ourselves or scale the programme of works back and only spend the money we have received via funding. The Acting Director – Assets noted that the preferable option would be to only spend what is being funded which in turn is a 64% reduction.

Recommendation

THAT the Council resolve to only spend the NZTA funded portion of the footpath renewals budget in the 2024 – 34 Long Term Plan.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/24/212

- Councillor Boyde expressed that the illegal dumping taking place is frustrating, he emphasised that it has become worse in rural areas.
- The Chief Executive noted that the Stanley Road property has gone through the tender process but we have not accepted any as they have all been under the GV etc of the property.
- Councillor Beck asked if the \$400,000 allocated to walking and cycling in the tentative capital works programme is still going to be our strategy knowing what the Prime Minister has recently said. The Acting Director – Assets noted that it will still be a strategy for us regardless of what central government has to say.
- Councillor Sandford questioned if the Prospero Place development plan, has taken into account the request from the Austin family for a garden memorial. The Chief Executive clarified that the design has yet to be completed and they are only in early stages of planning. He emphasised that the current plan is based on the whole area.
- The Deputy Mayor asked what the consequence would be from NZTA if we did not use the new signage proposed. She expressed that she finds it ironic that the central government is creating unfunded mandates and that we should look into different options before we commit to electronic signs. Councillor Harris noted that we should follow other councils lead. Councillor Erwood noted that we should be mindful of councils reputation if injury or fatality was to occur and we don't put out the mandated signs, he expressed that it may be a big issue.

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
P&S/24/213

The Chief Executive noted:

- The business plan for Wai O Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre is underway.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall commented on section 2.2, Youth Council updates. She emphasised that it is fantastic to see the significant positive impact SDYC has on the young people of the Stratford community and that their collaboration and partnership with Zeal is awesome.
- Councillor Sandford gave an update on the Ostler Trust. He noted that a major concern for the trust are Enviroschool initiatives falling off at a high school level, he expressed that we have many primary schools around the district with highly accomplished Enviroschool programmes but very little high school involvement. The Ostler Trust are helping to fund this throughout high schools and primary schools and have seen a large volume of interest for programmes and projects associated with this. He emphasised that there are some awesome initiatives in the works throughout most of the schools within the district with the help of the Ostler Trust.

The Communications Manager, the Communications Advisor, the Parks and Reserves Officer and the Property Officer left the meeting at 4.30 pm.

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/JONES
Carried
P&S/24/214

The Chief Executive noted the following:

- Resource consent numbers have seen an increase in the month of July, the team are unsure whether this is an anomaly or the beginning of a widespread activity increase.
- STDC have taken an interest in joining the local alcohol policy shared between SDC and NPDC.
- Current building activity is at a low but steady number, it is not as tragic as once perceived.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde questioned if we have the resources to deliver resource consents in a timely manner due to the increase in resource consent applications. The Chief Executive noted that we do have the resources available to achieve this as we also have back up external processes to help alleviate the pressure if needed.

13. Questions

- Councillor Erwood questioned if it has been considered to invest in some covert cameras to attempt to catch the vandals responsible for the rise of illegal dumping and vandalism within the community. The Chief Executive noted that it has been discussed previously but ultimately was decided that it was not worth investment due to the cost and high likelihood of the cameras being vandalised or stolen. He also noted that it is a difficult task to pin point what exact location will be targeted for vandalism next aside from those areas with repeat offenders.
- Councillor Boyde noted that there is no corporate services report presented and asked if there is a reason for this. The Chief Executive noted that because it is the first month of a new LTP, there are no confirmed figures as of yet. He highlighted that this is common practice across councils.
- Councillor Hall was asked as to how the LGNZ conference was. Councillor Hall gave an overview of the conference.

14. Closing Karakia

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The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm.

M McKay
Chairperson

Confirmed this 24th day of September 2024.

N C Volzke
District Mayor