
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2020 AT 4.07PM

PRESENT

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairman), the Deputy Mayor A L Jamieson, Councillors G W Boyde, P S Dalziel, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, V Jones, M McKay, W J Sandford and G M Webby.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Executive Administration Officer – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Special Projects Manager – Mr N Cooper (*part meeting*), the Customer & Leisure Services Manager – Mrs A Mathews (*part meeting*), the Aquatic Services Team Leader – Mrs H Baker (*part meeting*), Mr S Hastie (Apollo, via audio visual link *part meeting*), one member of the public and one member of the media (Stratford Press).

1. **WELCOME**

The District Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, members of the public, and the media.

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

2. **APOLOGIES**

A leave of absence had been approved for Councillor R W Coplestone.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the apology be received.

WEBBY/BOYDE
Carried
CL/20/147

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The District Mayor requested that standing orders be suspended during item 8 – Preliminary Design Approval for New Aquatic Centre, this was in order to allow free discussion to occur given the tight timeframe for the design decision to be made. This was supported by Council.

The District Mayor requested approval for the Decision Report – Whangamomona Republic Day to be tabled as item 10 due to this being the last Council meeting prior to the event on 23 January 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Decision Report – Whangamomona Republic Day be tabled as item 10.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/20/148

4. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST**

The District Mayor requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

The declaration of member's interest was circulated for updating.

Councillor Harris declared her interest in item 10 – Whangamomona Republic Day.
Councillor McKay declared her interest in item 9 – Americarna 2021 – proposed road closure.

5. **ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE**

The Attendance Schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached. The District Mayor noted the excellent attendance by Councillors for the past 12 months.

6. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

6.1 **Ordinary Meeting of Council – 10 November 2020**
D20/32152 (Pages 8-14)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 10 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/20/149

6.2 **Extraordinary Meeting – 24 November 2020**
D20/22815 (OPEN) D20/33682 (PE) (Pages 15-25)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 24 November 2020, including the public excluded section, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

WEBBY/JAMIESON
Carried
CL/20/150

6.3 **Policy and Services Committee Meeting (Hearing) – 24 November 2020**
D20/33504 (Pages 26-30)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw, held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 be received.

JONES/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/20/151

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw, held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 be adopted.

HARRIS/BOYDE
Carried
CL/20/152

6.4 **Policy and Services Committee Meeting – 24 November 2020**
D20/33578 (Pages 31-39)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 be received.

JAMIESON/JONES
Carried
CL/20/153

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 be adopted.

JAMIESON/VOLZKE
Carried
CL/20/154

6.5 **Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 1 December 2020**
D20/35439 (Pages 40-46)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/20/155

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 be adopted.

McKAY/VOLZKE
Carried
CL/20/156

6.6 **Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund Committee Meeting – 1 December 2020**
D20/34889 (Pages 47-49)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 be received.

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 be adopted.

SANDFORD/JONES
Carried
CL/20/157

Councillor Sandford, as Chair of the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund Committee, noted the following points:

- Round 1 had occurred later in the year due to COVID-19. He noted this was generally the smaller round for funding requests with summer sports.
- He noted that improvements with the whole process had been made and that the accountability forms were much more precise now and have turned into a wonderful tool.
- There were two applicants who were unable to use their previous grant and had returned the funds which were now able to reallocated.
- He thanked the Communications & Administration Support Officer, Ms R Vanstone, for the wonderful work she does with administering this fund.
- It was clarified that the total of \$10,569 covered both funding rounds.

7. **DISTRICT MAYOR'S REPORT**
D20/35300 (Pages 50-55)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the District Mayor's report be received.

VOLZKE/DALZIEL
Carried
CL/20/158

2. THAT Council supports the Governments stated intention to remove the provision for public poll in regard of the establishment of Māori Wards aligning with Local Government New Zealand's position.

VOLZKE/McKAY
Carried
CL/20/159

The District Mayor noted the following points:

- He noted the success so far with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme which had only been going a couple of months and was already very successful. He had initially thought 50 people into jobs was ambitious but now feels this is certainly achievable by June 2021.
- He noted that LGNZ had taken a policy position as an organisation to support the proposal to abolish the poll option when establishing a Māori ward. At present if Council chose to establish a Māori ward then 5% of the electors could ask for a poll which could effectively overturn the decision made by Council. This is not the case for establishing any other ward. New Plymouth District Council, South Taranaki District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council have pledged their support towards this and will present a letter to the Minister. If Stratford supports this stance then this letter will collectively be sent from the Taranaki Mayoral Forum.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that 5% of the electors could trigger a poll but that the poll outcome would be determined by the majority.
- Councillor McKay noted her support of this motion as it is inconsistent with all other wards. She noted it was strange that a community could call for a referendum on a Māori ward establishment but not for a rural ward as an example.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Boyde noted the Children's bike part was progressing well.

8. **DECISION REPORT – PRELIMINARY DESIGN APPROVAL FOR
NEW AQUATIC CENTRE**

D20/34151

(Pages 56-62)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/20/160

- ~~2. THAT the preliminary design for the new aquatic centre as outlined on Apollo Projects plan A1.05 P0 (**Appendix 1**) attached to this report be approved and officers authorised to proceed with detail design.~~

Recommended Reason

This design and build project is moving at pace due to funding conditions and a final decision in this matter is required as a matter of urgency to enable this project to move to the next stage.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- Due to the time frame that came with the Central Government Funding a decision is required this week to ensure the physical work can commence in February 2021.
- This is one of the biggest financial decisions this Council has ever made so there was a requirement to ensure this was right. Therefore a new set of options were circulated to Council with the feedback having been incorporated into the new drawings.

The Special Projects Manager noted the following points:

- These drawings are a result of some disquiet between elected members and other stakeholders.
- These were largely around the depth of the main pool being 1.8m throughout. There was now feeling that it should be a variable depth from 1.4m to 1.8m with the shallow end adjacent to the programmes pool.
- Council will need to determine the ratio of depth and transition zone.

The Customer & Leisure Services Manager noted the following points:

- She noted she supported having a fixed depth of 1.8m for the whole pool but understood the hesitations.
- She noted a variable depth could still achieve some of the aspirations if the ration was one third (1.4m) to two thirds (1.8m) but a 50/50 split would rule out a number of accessories.
- She felt all the concerns noted with the fixed depth would be addressed by the programmes pool which would also have a higher temperature. The main pool will be 27 degrees which will work well for competitive swimmers who currently sweat in the current temperatures and cause chemical imbalances. The programmes pool will be 32 degrees which will be more appropriate for water walkers, senior aqua aerobics and learn to swim. Even 1.5 degrees change in temperature can make a huge difference to seniors and children.
- From a teaching element children would not go in the main pool unless they were able to swim and handle the depth of 1.8m.
- The biggest part of the main pool depth would be the range of inflatables able to be run in the pool. Videos and images were shown to Council of the various ranges available for different depths including configurations of these accessories. These require space around them as well as appropriate depth. There are only two options for shallow pools which are currently owned by the facility. Being able to purchase new designs, and ones that have multiple configurations, keep the facility interesting and attract users back. The multiple set up options

would not be utilised in a variable depth. She felt with a variable depth it was restricting what the facility could do holiday to holiday or year to year.

- By having a bigger and better set up of inflatables it would attract a different market, for example young teenagers, who want excitement such as a hydroslide or this kind of activity.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Erwood noted his support for a variable depth which would create more options for the community while supporting and encompassing competitive swimmers.
- It was clarified that most of the inflatable options would not be available if the split was one third, two thirds. The shallow end would be used as the beginning stage. If the split was half then none of the options would be available due to the length and the depth requirements along the full set up.
- The Deputy Mayor noted his support for a set depth of 1.8m. He noted the programme pool would provide for learn to swim and hydrotherapy. He asked if there was a cost difference to have the centre pool split in two and it was clarified this would then require more piping, filters and treatment care and would be in the vicinity of \$300,000 to \$400,000 additional cost.
- Mr Hastie clarified that it could have two separate grates to allow one to flow to another but that the main cost is incurred when it is split into two different bodies of water, if it can be kept as one but with a split then it will reduce the cost.
- It was noted a one quarter (1.4m), three quarter (1.8m) split was achievable. This would reduce the amount of functionality that could be lost.
- Councillor Sandford noted his support for a variable depth with a split of one third, two thirds. He did not support the starting blocks being between the two pools. He noted he wanted the facility to be used as much as it can and felt the fixed depth of 1.8m would restrict a lot of people from using it.
- Councillor Dalziel noted he supported a fixed depth of 1.8m to enable the fun as well as competitive swimming. The variation of inflatable toys will make the facility hum and attract the older kids who can swim. The programme pool will service those who are not as confident. He supported option 1 and a fixed depth.
- Councillor Boyde also supported a fixed depth of 1.8m and felt the size of the new pools would cater for all needs. Mr Hastie noted pool builds throughout the country were a mixture of fixed and variable depths. He noted depth made a difference to times for competitive swimmers.
- It was noted the minimum depth for competitive swimming was 1.35m which has changed over time due to safety concerns. The diving blocks at the 1.8m of a variable depth pool would be the recommendation to reduce safety concerns.
- Councillor Jones supported Option 2 with a fixed depth of 1.8m. He noted that this complex was double the size of what is currently there with the programmes pool being the same size as the current main pool. He did note his concern for school swimming sports and their ability to swim the full length of the increased main pool. Mrs Mathews noted that the programme pool could be utilised for school swimming meaning two levels of racing could be undertaken at the same time. The programme pool would be 0.8m to 1.4m in depth.
- It was noted it is anticipated that the hydrotherapy pool will also be a space for learn to swim. The hydrotherapy pool will require a ramp or a hoist.
- It was noted that there would be some substantial savings operating out of a modern facility. Staff costs could be reduced due to the ability to lifeguard the pools more efficiently but will potentially be offset by higher usage and the ratio for swimmer to lifeguard increasing.
- Councillor Harris noted her support for a fixed depth of 1.8m throughout the pool as the programme pool had the 1.4m depth available. She noted she preferred option 2.
- It was clarified that it was difficult to lifeguard the current facility due to the smaller pool being above ground.
- Councillor Sandford felt the fixed depth created an elitist pool and not for use by the full community.

- The Director – Community Services noted feedback from staff had resulted in the top priorities being a variable depth with it being 1.4m depth at one end and no compromise on the hydrotherapy pool which would create a unique point of difference.
- It was clarified that there would be a foot hold along the edge of the pool at 1.2m deep.
- The District Mayor noted his support for Option 2, a variable depth, the hydrotherapy/learn to swim set up and felt a split of one third, two third for depth would allow big inflatables to be used.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approves the design layout as presented in Option 2.

JAMIESON/BOYDE

Carried

CL/20/161

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the depth of the main pool be three quarters 1.8m and the remainder quarter 1.4m with the transition occurring in the larger section.

ERWOOD/SANDFORD

Division

For 5

Against 5

Casting Vote Against

Lost

CL/20/162

REVOKED

A division was called:

Those voting for the motion were Councillors: *Dalziel, Erwood, McKay, Sandford and Webby.*

Those voting against the motion were: *Councillors: Boyde, Harris, Jones, the Deputy Mayor and the District Mayor. The District Mayor used his casting vote to vote against the motion.*

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the depth of the main pool be two thirds at 1.8m and the remainder third being 1.4m with the transition occurring in the larger section.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD

Lost

CL/20/163

RECOMMENDATION

THAT in accordance with standing order 24.5 the resolution CL20/162 be revoked.

VOLZKE/WEBBY
Carried
CL/20/164

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the depth of the main pool be three quarters 1.8m and the remainder quarter 1.4m with the transition occurring in the larger section.

DALZIEL/ERWOOD
For 6
Against 4
Carried
CL/20/165

It was clarified that the transition would be approximately 1.4meters for 5meters, 3 meters of transition and then 17 meters at 1.8m deep.

The Special Projects Manager, the Customer & Leisure Service Manager and the Aquatic Services Team Leader left the meeting at 5.33pm.

Councillor McKay left the table at 5.33pm.

9. **DECISION REPORT – AMERICARNA 2021 – PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES**

D20/34101 (Pages 63-78)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **THAT** the report be received.

BOYDE/VOLZKE
Carried
1 abstained
CL/20/166

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 the following roads on Friday 26 February 2021, between the hours of 7.00am and 1.30pm for the purpose of the 2021 Americarna event.

- SH3 Broadway between Seyton Street and Fenton Street;
- Miranda Street between the Seyton Street and Fenton Street;
- Fenton Street between Juliet Street and SH3 Broadway and
- Regan Street between Miranda Street and Juliet Street which will be closed between the hours of 9am to 1:30pm.

3. **THAT** the Council approves the alternative routes detailed below:

- Southbound traffic – Left into Seyton Street, right into Juliet St, left onto Celia Street and right onto Orlando St to return to SH3 via Hills Road to the south of Stratford.
- Northbound traffic - Left onto Fenton Street, right onto Portia St, right onto Seyton Street and left to re-join SH3 at Seyton St/SH3 intersection.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
1 abstained
CL/20/167

Recommended Reason

In order for the Stratford Business Association to host Americarna, it is necessary to close the roads listed above for safety reasons and for the participants to exhibit their vehicles via a static display. The proposed road closures require formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

The Rooding Asset Manager noted the following points:

- This is an annual event every year and nothing has changed from this years closure.
- It is proposed that Broadway is closed from Seyton to Fenton Street and Miranda Street from Seyton to Fenton to allow for overflow parking.
- Access to the Z Service Station will be permitted along Regan Street.
- Regan Street will close from 9.30am – 1.30pm to allow for school traffic.
- Toko Lions marshalled the event this year and did really well with parking.

Councillor McKay joined the table at 5.36pm and Councillor Harris departed the meeting at 5.36pm.

10. **TABLED ITEM - DECISION REPORT – WHANGAMOMONA
REPUBLIC DAY**

D20/33066

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD

Carried

1 abstained

CL/20/167

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 implement a temporary partial road closure for of the roads listed below on Saturday 23 January 2020 between the hours of 7:00am to 5:00pm for the purposes of the Whangamomna Republic Day:

- Ohura Road (State Highway 43) – From the Whangamomona Hall to the Bridge to Anywhere (Whangamomona River);
- Whangamomona Road – From Ohura Rd (SH43) south for a distance of 100m

WEBBY/McKAY

Carried

1 abstained

CL/20/168

Recommended Reason

In order for the Republic of Whangamomona Committee to hold its bi-annual Whangamomona Republic Day, it is necessary to implement a partial road closure as indicated above. Following early discussions with Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, they have requested that traffic is escorted through the road closure. In order to comply with this condition from Waka Kotahi, the proposal is to operate the partial road closure using stop/go traffic control. The proposed closure requires formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

The Roading Asset Manager noted the following points:

- This report is due to Waka Kotahi (NZTA) trying to reduce the delay that the travelling public has on a state highway.
- Council Officers have been involved in helping the Whangamomona Republic Day committee with their planning as well as helping with the traffic management plan.
- This is not a full road closure but will allow vehicles to pass through the event which will be escorted through the township at walking pace.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor McKay noted it was a fair compromise to not completely closing the road. There is the real potential for out of town visitors due to the restrictions on overseas travel so being able to control this better will be an improvement.

Councillor Harris joined the table at 5.41pm.

11. **PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSE**

Name: Chris French & Rebecca Somerfield
Subject: Experience Pūrangi
Response: Acknowledge their presentation and congratulate the trust on the work that is being done.

12. **QUESTIONS**

- The Chief Executive noted that Council had just received notification from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency that the Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) had been recalculated. This has resulted in an increase to this for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 to 58%. A corrective payment will be made to Council.

The meeting closed at 5.43pm

N C Volzke
CHAIRMAN

Confirmed this 9th day of February 2021.

N C Volzke
DISTRICT MAYOR