

Date: Tuesday 26 April 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, P S Dalziel, R W Coplestone, A K Harris, J M S Erwood, V R Jones, M McKay, W J Sandford and G M Webby.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson (*part meeting*), the Roding Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight (*part meeting*), Dr A Probert and Mrs J Moffitt (Venture Taranaki (*part meeting*)), and one member of the media (Stratford Press (*part meeting*)).

Via audio visual link: the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*), the Asset Management Coordinator/Waste Minimisation Officer – Mrs L Campbell, the Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain (*part meeting*), and the Projects Manager/Engineer – Mr S Taylor.

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

Apologies were noted from the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland and the Environmental Health Manager – Ms R Otter.

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

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 – 22 March 2022 D22/10214 (PE) D22/11489 (Open) Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

WEBBY/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/22/50

7. Matters Outstanding D16/47 Page 21

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

ERWOOD/DALZIEL
Carried
P&S/22/51

8. Information Report – Economic Development Quarterly Report – Quarter Three D22/10605 Page 22

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

SANDFORD/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/22/52

The Director – Community Services noted that the first drafts for the Strategies and Town Centre Plans had been received. Staff were currently reviewing and collating their feedback for BERL. It was hoped that these would be presented to elected members in the next month.

It was clarified there was no formal opening date for the Whangamomona Walkways as yet.

Dr Probert and Mrs Moffitt presented the Venture Taranaki quarterly report. Points noted in discussion:

- Justine Gilliland has now finished as Chief Executive with Kelvin Wright beginning in the position next week.
- It was noted there were also four new board members who will be commencing and these will be announced tomorrow.
- Some events have been impacted by Covid-19.
- The Taste and Tales event includes two Stratford Businesses – Forgotten 43 brewery and Fenton Street Gallery.
- The highlight for the Tech Week will be the Agritech event which is being held in Stratford and is a half day expo and includes speakers.
- There is still demand from enterprises requiring support from a wide variety including retail, trades, agriculture and hospitality. A lot of businesses are looking for financial planning support to plan

forward, advice to focus on mental health and well-being and also dealing with the barriers around increasing prices for materials and other expenses.

- It was noted Venture Taranaki was happy to assist officers at Stratford District Council with economic development activities.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the power up podcasts would likely return next year and the team would be grateful for suggestions of businesses to be part of this.
- It was requested for clarification on the use of the Taranaki Pioneer Village photo on page 49. Whilst it may not be specifically relevant to the context of the article, it was considered appropriate given that there was quite a bit happening in the visitors' area.

Dr Probert and Mrs Moffitt left the meeting at 3.11pm.

9. Decision Report – Proposed Change to the Speed Limit for Opunake Road
D22/12876 Page 57

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

McKAY/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/22/53

2. THAT in accordance the Stratford District Council Speed Limits Bylaw 2020, clause 8, the committee approves the recommendation to change the speed limit along Opunake Road from 100km/h to 80km/h.

3. THAT the extent of the speed limit from RP0.0 (Elizabeth Grove) to RP16.75 (District Boundary).

4. THAT the 80km/h speed limit will take effect from 1 June 2022.

ERWOOD/BOYDE
1 against
1 abstained
Carried
P&S/22/54

Recommended Reason

The Government Policy Statement for Land Transport 2021/22-2030/31 has a strategic priority relating to road safety including a desire to reduce the death and serious injury crashes by 40 percent by the year 2030. This "Road to Zero" vision is one of the primary focuses of the current Government and thus encouraging all local authorities and agencies to play their part in achieving this goal. Opunake Road has been identified as one of our highest risk roads within the Stratford District.

The Roading Asset Manager noted the following points:

- This report is seeking council's endorsement to change the speed limit along Opunake Road which has been discussed with councillors at previous meetings and has subsequently been consulted on with the public and residents.
- The report highlights that there were over 50 crashes along this road since January 2016 with the number of crashes dropping off significantly on the South Taranaki end of this road.
- The suggestion to lower to speed limit is in line with the government's national strategic direction to reduce the road toll by 40% by 2030.

The Communications Manager joined the meeting at 3.16pm.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Coplestone noted that most of the negative comments were from submitters from outside of the district.
- It was clarified that South Taranaki would be reviewing the speed limit once the legislation for Setting of Speed Limits 2021 is passed. Stratford was currently reviewing this under the jurisdiction of its bylaws.
- Councillor Erwood noted his support for the reduction of the speed limit due to the fact the road was not geographically suitable for being 100kms in some areas, the time impact for travel should not be considered when we may be able to save lives and the number of crashes that are not reported to police all have the potential to have been fatal or cause serious injury. This is a step in the right direction towards the Road to Zero.
- Councillor Boyde noted there was quite a bit of housing development on Opunake Road and felt it would be irresponsible if Council did not change the speed limit.
- It was clarified that following the legislation being passed, Council could either look at clusters or at its district as a whole. If a cluster is chosen to begin with then the obvious next step would be the roads surrounding Opunake Road, a lot of these side roads will then include conversations with South Taranaki District Council as consistency across boundaries is required.
- Councillor McKay noted the importance of communicating the costs of some of the suggested changes to the submitters so the full extent of these costs could be understood. It was noted that Waka Kotahi had committed to subsidies as detailed in the report to proceed with safety improvements over this Long Term Plan period and the next. Comments from the submissions will be taken into account when planning the improvements.
- Councillor Dalziel noted it was vital the community be aware that safety improvements would be done as well as the reduction in speed.
- The Deputy Mayor noted his opposition to reducing the speed limit. He noted that some of the improvements would go a significant way towards improving the safety of the stretch of road. He noted cars could not travel at 100kms per hour on all of the main roads, and a rural road was no different. He noted the areas that speed was exceeded excessively was on the straightest parts of this road. He felt reducing the speed was a cop out.
- It was clarified that Waka Kotahi had conceded that 80kms per hour for Opunake Road was more realistic than 60kms.
- The District Mayor noted his support for lowering the speed limit due to the crashes that had occurred there over the past five years as these numbers were appalling. He noted that even those submitters opposing the reduction in speed had acknowledged speed was a common issue on this road. He acknowledged sunstrike, black ice, fog, heavy rain, slippery roads, topography and embankments were all factors that contributed to accidents but he noted the slower a vehicle was travelling the lower the level of injury which meant if accidents did occur there was a better chance of surviving. He noted the importance of acknowledging the gradual changes to the submitters.
- The Deputy Mayor voted against the motion. Councillor Jones abstained.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT Council note the results of the preliminary feasibility review and updated sensitivity analysis, which indicates Bonny Glen Landfill as the most cost-effective option.
3. THAT Council note the endorsement of the recommendation by the Central Landfill Joint Committee.
4. THAT Council approve the continued disposal of waste to Bonny Glen Landfill under the existing 35-year contract with Midwest Disposal Ltd, noting that there will be 5 yearly rights of renewals throughout the contract term.
5. THAT Council authorise the Administering Authority to review the Central Landfill Joint Agreement and update the Regional Waste Management Agreement to reflect decisions by the three Councils on this matter, and outline the process that will be followed should the decision on regional waste disposal options change during the contract term.
6. THAT Council note that should the Central Landfill Joint Agreement need to be terminated; this requires further approval by all three Councils.

HARRIS/McKAY
Carried
P&S/22/55

JAMIESON/VOLZKE
1 against
Carried
P&S/22/56

Recommended Reason

The preliminary review of the central landfill feasibility report indicates the continued disposal to Bonny Glen as the most effective option for all 3 Councils. This decision has been endorsed in August 2021 by the Central Landfill Joint Committee. Other recommendations sought are supplementary and worth noting for future decision-making purposes.

The Projects Manager/Engineer noted the following points:

- The Central Landfill Committee has received a draft feasibility report and the recommendations from that are reflected in this decision report.
- Similar reports will be received by South Taranaki District Council tomorrow and New Plymouth District Council on Tuesday.
- The report recommends to continue transporting refuse to Bonny Glen under the current contract with Midwest Disposal.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Dalziel noted his frustration with the overall report and supporting appendices and felt they were surplus for a decision to be made at the governance level.
- It was clarified that the price per tonne was a fixed rate but there and that there was no penalty if the tonnage was reduced.
- It was clarified that the increased tonnage taken to landfill was largely due to the inclusion of recyclables during Covid-19. Stratford was still working towards reducing waste and New Plymouth District Council had done a lot in their goal towards zero waste. This trend can be seen in the assets monthly reports.
- Councillor Boyde noted that it would have been helpful to have seen the tonnage per year from 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 to compare.
- The Director – Assets noted that the supporting information had been included to ensure Council had the best information available to it to make a decision, including all background information.
- Councillor Coplestone noted that with transport costs and labour costs increasing there will be an impact on this agreement, he felt our own landfill would be more logical in terms of transport. The Chief Executive noted that the 35-year agreement was fixed with the exception of industry indicators and inflation, the 5-yearly option to break the contract was only available to the councils, not the landfill operator.
- The District Mayor noted that the amount of rubbish and waste going to the landfill was projected at about 65,000 tonnes for the region, and this was the bare minimum to ensure the viability of the Central Landfill. Numbers will continue to decrease, making the Central Landfill less and less economical.
- Councillor Coplestone voted against the motion.

11. Monthly Reports

11.1 Assets Report D22/11370 Page 333

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/22/57

The Roding Asset Manager noted the following points:

- Monmouth Road was resealed on 4 April and is now open. An update on this will be included in the April monthly report.
- Will be going back to discuss the Stratford Primary School safety project with the School Principal, if there are savings able to be made out of the Long Term Plan budget then these will go towards the safety project.
- The Projects Manager is currently consulting with schools for reduced speed limits.
- The Surrey Street footpath replacement has been delayed to wait for a water main replacement to be completed.
- Harvesting is about to begin on a 1000ha block on Puniwhakau Road. This will be about 4-5 years of work.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the damage to the bridge on Puniwhakau Road would cost approximately \$100,000 to repair, and confirmed that this was the same amount that Council was considering to collect for the forestry roading differential. Mr Bowden had been in contact with management, logging and trucking companies and no one had admitted to causing the damage. Will be installing temporary scaffolding as side rails as there is still nine months of forestry work ahead for this area. Councillor Boyde reiterated that rate payers should not be having to pay for damage caused by forestry activity.
- It was clarified that Council had no jurisdiction over speed limits outside schools where the school frontage is on the main road (state highway).
- It was noted that production on the council farm is up by 2% for the year to date which is outstanding compared to the national average being 6-7% behind.
- It was clarified that the remaining procurement for the second trunk main was regarding the contractor.
- It was clarified that the landscaping at the pump track will largely be grassed area, it may contain some shrubs and safety assessments were being undertaken for the addition of furniture. It was noted that the plants at the bike park had largely remained unscathed during recent vandalism.
- It was noted that the electronic screen was waiting on a part to arrive and the electrician and IT to complete.
- It was clarified that the inside of the new pool complex would be largely neutral and in blue and white and the exterior would be how it looks now but with artwork on the windows and in the forecourt area. The Director – Community Services noted she was working with Iwi on the plans for the windows and outside concrete and hoped to have something to show council in the next month or so. It was confirmed that the Stratford Shakespeare Society and Stratford Early Settlers had not been involved in discussions on design or art work.
- It was clarified that the full claim for the Monmouth Road project had not been completed yet but if all variations were to be approved it would be slightly above budget. Contract variations had arisen primarily due to fish passage design and the extension of work due to wet weather.
- It was confirmed that bird scaring would cease at the oxidation pond during duck shooting season as requested by Fish and Game.

The Property Officer left the meeting at 4.17pm.

11.2 Community Services Report
D22/10480 Page 370

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

SANDFORD/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/22/58

The Director – Community Services noted the following points:

- ANZAC Day service was held yesterday. This was the first year the parade was held at 6.00am prior to the service. It went well.
- Prospero Markets are happening this Saturday.
- Youth Week is in May.
- The Youth Council is doing its first event for the year being an On The Bus trip. Tickets are available through Eventbrite.
- Working through the operationalising of the new pool.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the location of the bells from the bell tower would be considered during the town centre and Prospero Place discussions. Council had been approached by an organisation interested in displaying them and also Taranaki Pioneer Village may be another option – but the primary consideration for now would be Broadway/Prospero Place.

The Services Asset Manager and the Parks and Reserves Officer left the meeting at 4.19pm.

11.3 Environmental Services Report

D22/10689 Page 379

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/WEBBY
Carried
P&S/22/59

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- Building activity was still on-going with high numbers.
- Stratford District Council currently has zero remaining general non-compliances (GNCs) issued by IANZ as part of the audit process. This is the first time in the past two to three years this has been achieved. As a result, resources are now being freed up to spend time on the earthquake prone buildings and swimming pool inspections.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde congratulated the Environmental Services team on achieving zero GNCs. This is an incredible result especially with the high numbers of consents and limited resource.
- It was clarified that the desktop exercise for the earthquake prone buildings was almost complete and a report would come to Council in due course.
- It was noted that the Pembroke Road re-numbering had been postponed due to resource availability.

11.4 Corporate Services Report

D22/12874 Page 386

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

COPLESTONE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/22/60

2. THAT the Committee acknowledges that the Investment with Counterparty limit breach has been authorised by the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, and the Chief Executive or Mayor, in accordance with the Treasury Management Policy.

COPLESTONE/McKAY
Carried
P&S/22/61

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- Operating Revenue is up on previous years except for the roading subsidy which is a result of the approved subsidies being less than set in the Long Term Plan.
- There are quite a few Expenditure areas that are higher than budget and this is explained further in the report. There has been an increase in costs particularly in infrastructure requirements, staffing costs, higher demands for services, contract response works and the parks and reserves area. It is expected that this will continue.
- Capital Projects – a new graph has been included in the report.
- The Treasury Section highlights the significant borrowing programme that has been undertaken in April showing the additional \$10 million that was borrowed to lock in interest rates over longer timeframes.
- The Investment with Counterparty limit breach was clarified as being due to all the investments being with one bank – Westpac, due to the higher interest rates offered.
- Officers are starting to notice a reduction from previous years for rates collection. Late payment penalties are being applied and reminder notices issued.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Dalziel questioned the increase in depreciation. Mrs Radich clarified that this had been brought to a workshop and that there had been no submissions received regarding the reduction in funding for depreciation. Councillor Dalziel noted he had not been aware at the time that this had been due to the asset revaluations and noted his concern that Council was over-valuing its assets. The Chief Executive noted that the asset revaluations followed a process prescribed by Audit NZ with renewal values being reviewed independently.
- Councillor Dalziel congratulated Mrs Radich on the detailed cashflow report separating the borrowing and investments in a very clear way.
- It was clarified that the fibre connection for the new pool complex and the War Memorial Centre was to ensure the pool could operate with the technology used at the administration building and to retain security. There is no wireless option that would offer the capacity required. It was noted that residents could pay urgently required fees (such as dog impounding fees) at any facility that is open including the pool.

12. Questions

- It was noted that the cones outside the TET Kings Theatre were placed by Council as a result of a leak. This required an overnight shut down to complete repairs and Broadway would subsequently loose water for the night. Planning was underway to complete this.
- Councillor Sandford reiterated the request for a Council led trip to the Chicken Farm.

13. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 405

The meeting was closed with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 4.50pm

A L Jamieson
Chairman

Confirmed this 24th day of May 2022.

N C Volzke
District Mayor