

MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FAIRLIE COMMUNITY BOARD HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FAIRLIE, ON WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 7.07 PM

PRESENT:

Owen Hunter (Chairman)
Tristan Leov (from 7.25 pm)
Ron Joll
Graeme Page

IN ATTENDANCE

Glen Innes (Chief Executive Officer)
Garth Nixon (Community Facilities Manager)
Bernie Haar (Asset Manager)
Paul Morris (Manager – Finance and Administration)
Rosemary Moran (Committee Clerk)

II APOLOGY:

Resolved that an apology be received from Robin Warburton.

Graeme Page/Ron Joll

The meeting noted an apology from the Mayor.

III MINUTES:

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Fairlie Community Board held on 25 November 2009, be confirmed and adopted as the correct record of the meeting.

Ron Joll/Graeme Page

PROGRESS REPORT:

- Camping Ground Lease:**
The Manager – Finance and Administration reported that the lessees had been advised that the Council had approved the arrangement with them to complete the purchase of fixtures at the Holiday Park. The lessees were currently working through a process to achieve that.
- Mt Cook Road Speed Limit**
In response to a question from Cr Page, the Asset Manager advised that although the NZTA had agreed to the speed limit being raised to 60 kph along Mt Cook Road, and had been advised that the Council had endorsed the new speed limit, NZTA had yet to advertise or implement the change. NZTA had sought guidance from the Council as there was concern about a backlash from the community.

The Asset Manager said his advice had been to promote the factual background that led to the change and avoid engaging in any emotive debate.

Resolved that NZTA be advised of the Fairlie Community Board's support of the new 60 kph speed limit on Mt Cook Road limit and its belief that there would in no adverse reaction to it from the community.

Ron Joll/Owen Hunter

3. **Mackenzie Medical Trust**

Ron Joll reported that modified plans for extensions to the Fairlie Medical Centre had been put out to tender. A successful tenderer had been selected. The Mackenzie Medical Trust had to date raised \$80,000 for the project. He said there were no impediments to the project proceeding.

Mr Joll also reported on the meeting held earlier in the day at Twizel between the Mackenzie Medical Trust and its company High Country Health Ltd. He referred to the company's wish to upgrade the Twizel Medical Centre which was in urgent need of improvements.

He suggested Council develop a long term plan to securing funding to maintain and improve Council owned medical facilities.

4. **Car Parking and Access to the New River Walkway**

This report from the Community Facilities Manager referred to the need for car parking and access to the new river walkway. He said he intended to explore with the lessee of the land in question, Whitestone Contracting Ltd, opportunities to incorporate carparking and access as part of the landscape conditions of the company's resource consent.

Resolved that the report be received.

Graeme Page/Ron Joll

Tristan Leov joined the meeting at 7.25 pm.

IV REPORTS:

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER 2009:**

This report from the Manager – Finance and Administration updated the Board on the financial performance of the cost centres under its jurisdiction for the period to December 2009.

Resolved that the report be received.

Graeme Page/Ron Joll

5. VILLAGE GREEN PROJECT REQUESTS:

This report from the Community Facilities Manager was accompanied by two requests for grants from the Fairlie Village Upgrade Group, and a copy of the Village Green Finances - January 2010.

The Chairman welcomed Village Green Upgrade Group members Claire Graham and Julia Bremner and invited them to address the Community Board.

Ms Graham and Ms Bremner displayed images of the playground the Group wanted to install on the Village Green. They explained that a total of about \$52,000 was required to complete the play area and that there was some urgency to do so because the price was steadily increasing with each new quote obtained from the suppliers. The price quoted in June 2009 had increased by \$6,000 in the latest advice. They said the longer the project was delayed the more money they needed to raise. \$12,000 was in hand from local fundraising efforts which were ongoing. They requested that the Board make available a grant of \$25,000 towards the project from the Land Subdivision Reserve.

The Chief Executive Officer explained that the Fairlie Community Board had previously budgeted \$25,000 for a playground which was unspent. Because the grant requested would be drawn from the Land Subdivision Reserve it would not affect local rates.

The visitors left the meeting at 8.00 pm.

2. CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME AND RURAL TRAVEL FUND:

This report from the Community Facilities Manager referred to the Creative Communities Scheme and Rural Travel Funds for which applications were currently being sought.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. Those Fairlie Community Board members promote the Creative Communities Scheme and Rural Travel Fund and encourage groups and individuals to apply for grants.

Ron Joll /Graeme Page

3. MEETING SCHEDULE 2010:

This report from the Chief Executive Officer was accompanied by the Meetings Schedule for 2010 which had been adopted by the Council.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Fairlie Community Board notes the schedule of meetings for 2010.

4. VILLAGE GREEN PROJECT REQUESTS (continued):

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Community Board approves the request from the Fairlie Village Green Upgrade Group to fund up to \$100 from the Enid Hutt Beautifying Fund to buy daffodils.
3. That the Fairlie Community Board recommends to Council that the previously budgeted \$25,000 for playground upgrades, funded from the Land Subdivision Reserve, be allocated to the Fairlie Village Green Upgrade Group for the construction of a play area.

Graeme Page /Tristan Leov

5. WARD MEMBER'S REPORT:

Cr Page referred to the public meeting which had been convened to discuss new operating arrangements for the **Mackenzie Community Library**. He said it had been a lively meeting at which a variety of issues had been well aired.

Cr Page reported on a meeting of elected members with Frank O'Callaghan of IPex at which Mr O'Callaghan had made a presentation on piping options for the **new Fairlie water main**.

Cr Page also referred to meetings held with elected members, staff and Whitestone Contracting personnel at which proposals and information about a **different approach to township maintenance contracts** had been explored.

The Community Facilities Manager explained that the current village maintenance contract had two years to run and the timing could be appropriate to trial a new partnership alliance with the contractor. He said the regime would require contract specifications to be reset and margins agreed at the outset. It would rely on open communication, mutual trust and the sharing of risks and benefits.

There was some disquiet amongst the Community Board members about the proposal; however they also expressed dissatisfaction with the status quo.

The Chief Executive Officer said the Tekapo and Twizel Community Boards were enthusiastic about trying the proposed partnership alliance with the contractor. He suggested that the worst thing that could happen under a new regime was that nothing would change. It could, however, represent an opportunity to make improvements.

It was suggested that Board members meet with Whitestone Contracting Manager Lawrence Hardy to air their concerns about the

Village Maintenance Contract and seek information as to how the Company might address them.

Resolved that Lawrence Hardy, Carey Edmonston and Gary Brosnahan of Whitestone Contracting Ltd be invited to meet with Fairlie Community Board members at a workshop where concerns about the Village Maintenance Contract could be aired and a better understanding of the proposed new approach to township maintenance contracts be gained.

Owen Hunter/Ron Joll

It was suggested that an evening workshop be held within the next two weeks.

7. EVERSLEY RESERVE CONTRACT:

This report from the Asset Manager advised of the tender process for the design and installation of a “small bore” sewerage scheme for the Eversley Reserve. It was accompanied by the report which had been considered at a meeting of the Operations Committee on 12 February 2010 and a copy of the Committee’s resolution.

The Chief Executive Officer gave a power point presentation which included suggestions as to how the proposed scheme could be made more affordable. A copy of the presentation is attached to this record as Appendix A.

The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the Community Board’s earlier determination that the beneficiaries of the scheme should pay its full cost. He said he did not think that was realistic given that it would cost \$18,088 per ratepayer. There was a risk that the project would fail if the Board maintained its view. He pointed out that the only alternative to the scheme was for the Eversley Reserve residents to install new septic tank systems or their modern day equivalents; however it was problematic whether resource consents could be gained to do that, or if the septic tanks would work in the area which had a particularly high water table. It was noted that only four of the septic tanks currently in use were operating as they should.

Ron Joll said that when the new sewerage system was in place, the property owners would benefit from the consequent capital gain. He felt uncomfortable about Fairlie ratepayers helping to fund those improvements in value if the costs were shifted from the beneficiaries to another group.

Various options for funding were discussed along with historical background issues, including the addition of the Reserve to the Fairlie Community area in 1995. It was suggested that Reserve residents had not enjoyed the same level of service for their Works and Services rates as had ratepayers in other parts of the community.

The Chief Executive Officer explained that the policy question for the Fairlie Community Board was to consider if it was reasonable to provide some form of concession to enable the project to proceed. Adhering to the view that the ratepayers in the Reserve should fully

fund the scheme would not solve the problem as it was generally recognised that many of them could not afford it.

It was noted that financial assistance could be available from government agencies in cases of hardship; staff undertook to find out the criteria for gaining that assistance,

The Chairman suggested there could be room to move on the issue of financial contributions. This was generally supported.

The Board discussed the concept of a ratepayer contribution of between \$10 and \$20 with the view to reducing the cost of the project to about \$13,000 each for the Eversley Reserve ratepayers. It was felt that because \$13,000 roughly equated to the cost of installing a new septic tank system it could be a more acceptable and realistic figure to present to the Eversley Reserve ratepayers.

The Manager – Finance and Administration undertook to develop a further funding scenario based on the concept. It was agreed that a meeting be held as soon as possible to consider the information and decide on a funding plan to recommend to the Council.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED
AT 10.25 PM**

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____