

MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TEKAPO COMMUNITY BOARD HELD IN THE LAKE TEKAPO COMMUNITY HALL, TEKAPO, ON MONDAY 4 APRIL 2016, AT 7.05PM

PRESENT:

Peter Munro (Chair)
Murray Cox
Stella Sweney
Lyn Martin

IN ATTENDANCE:

Wayne Barnett, Chief Executive Officer
Garth Nixon, Community Facilities Manager
Bernie Haar, Asset Manager
Keri-Ann Little, Committee Secretary
3 members of the public

OPENING:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the postponed March 8th meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Nil.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES:

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Tekapo Community Board held on 25 January 2016, be confirmed and adopted as the correct record of the meeting, including those parts taken in public excluded.

Stella Sweney/ Lyn Martin

Stella Sweney acknowledged Bruce Martin's contribution to the Community.

TEKAPO COMMUNITY BOARD MATTERS UNDER ACTION:

1. Tekapo Plantation: Murray Place/Section A:

Mr Nixon advised he has looked at the area and it is looking okay but does need more plantings and mulch. He advised that the track has been sprayed.

2. Freedom Camping:

Mr Nixon noted the upcoming workshop on Wednesday which is part of the Freedom Camping review, and advised there will be information available to all those who attend. He updated the Board that there aren't any more paid wardens being appointed. Very few complaints have been received and feedback has been good. Activity at the Hamilton Drive site is much quieter and is no longer the issue that it was. The Chair asked whether a limit of two hours at Hamilton Drive was a possibility. Mr Nixon advised that this would have to be

put in the bylaw and would require enforcing. Mr Nixon agreed to provide information from the workshop to the chairman.

3. Future of Motuariki Island:

Nothing to report.

4. Tekapo Squash Club:

Cr Cox advised he is to have another meeting with the Club over plans, which he will follow up.

5. Town Projects:

a. Alps2Ocean Link between Tekapo and Canal Road - agenda item.

b. Upgrade of Hamilton Drive lookout –Mr Nixon noted that the grass has been sown and looks good.

c. Walkway lights – Mr Nixon advised he had not checked them as yet but noted they are to be replaced. The Chairman said none of the lights were working recently.

6. Tekapo Domain Playground:

Following the initial site meeting, the next step was to mark out boundary and prepare the site. Council's GIS officer Jana Kaepler will mark out a plan which works in with development plan.

7. 60Km Speed Limit Extension: Mr Haar advised that the request is still with NZTA. He noted that it is a wider state highway issue and NZTA won't do anything until national issues are worked through. The next step was that the Community Board would request a review of the pedestrian crossing, including possible improvements to the island and signage.

8. Civil Defence:

The CEO was to come back to the community board at a later date with more information. No progress.

9. Tekapo Footbridge:

The approach work has now been completed. The Chairman has asked to keep this item on the matters under action.

10. Tekapo canal boat ramp:

Cr Cox reported this matter is on the agenda for discussion at a meeting with Genesis in April.

11. Solar System Project:

Mrs Martin said she has heard nothing back.

12. Public Toilets: 4 April 2016

Mr Nixon will distribute plans to the community board when they are available.

REPORTS:

FINANCIAL REPORT:

This report is the financial report for the Community Board for the period to January 2016, to update board members on financial performance for that period.

Resolved that the report be received.

Cr Cox/Stella Sweney

Mr Nixon spoke to the financial report outlining the following points:

- Member's expenses were over the budgeted set amount.
- There are no significant issues with the Tekapo Investment Income.
- Tekapo Community Hall is not looking as good as it might. Mr Nixon advised that usage has not dropped off, but that usage and expenses have been overestimated. Income is behind due to slower invoicing through Tekapo Weddings – this is taking two months from people hiring to people paying. The Chairman felt this was too long. Mr Nixon said he will review this at the annual review.

Ms Sweney said she had thought the Hall would be used more, and asked if the charges could be reviewed. Mr Nixon advised that the fees and charges are reviewed and set every year so this could be done at that time. He feels the hire for weddings is reasonable, noting that the problem may be community use and daily usage charges.

The Chairman asked for more information regarding payments and fees, prior to the annual review.

- Tekapo domain costs should be going against township account.

Mr Nixon led discussion about the “elephant area” near the camping ground. He advised that there was an agreement with the Camping ground to use this area for the Christmas period for overflow of campers. There was no money exchanged and this appears to have become a permanent arrangement and needs to be reviewed. It was not clear who is to maintain this area.

Cr Cox noted a concern that due to the current Tekapo plan change the Camping Ground may get smaller, and felt that this agreement needed to be highlighted.

The CEO suggested he meet with the Camping ground and review the agreement with them, so that all parties have a clear understanding.

- The Township account on page 15 provides a summary. A variance in the rates was noted, and Mr Nixon undertook to report back on this issue. Expenses that are significant are tree maintenance and pruning, which has been discussed. The litter bin collection with additional bins and collection around township has also been a significant cost to the Township account.

Mrs Martin asked about the glass bins at the tavern carpark. Mr Nixon said Whitestone have installed these glass bins at their own cost due to frustration with having to deal with glass over the holiday period.

Ms Sweney asked why the litter bin collection was using so much of the budget. Mr Nixon said the township reserves that are unspent cover the extra cost and added that the Community board made a decision early on to supply extra bins.

The CEO noted that in previous years it has been underspent, and felt it was good to see projects money being spent.

Mr Nixon advised that any further spending on projects will require using projects reserves, as the projects budget has been spent. Projects reserves has built up due to nothing being spent in previous years.

GRANT REQUEST - TAMARA WAITE:

The Community Board considered a grant request from Tamara Waite.

Mr Nixon supplied background information to the application, stating Ms Waite has requested a grant to support her hire of the Tekapo Hall to reduce the cost to her Yoga classes in Tekapo. Ms Waite is a commercial operator who is based in Twizel and she is charged commercial rates for hall hire.

Mrs Martin felt that as the applicant wasn't local she felt the request could be declined, but that making the hall more affordable could be addressed.

Ms Sweney said it is a benefit to the community. She suggested the Board respond to Ms Waite informing her of the upcoming review of fees and charges, and advise her of the Community Board's appreciation that she provides her services in Tekapo and uses the hall.

The Chairman enquired as to whether they are providing a service for the community or are wanting the hall to generate income. Ms Martin noted she felt there was a difference between commercial and club users.

Resolved: that the report be received.

Cr Cox/ Stella Sweney

Resolved:

The Community Board decline the request and inform Ms Waite that the Community Board has considered her application and will be reviewing the fees and charges of the Tekapo Community Hall in the future

Stella Sweney/Lyn Martin

BOUNDARY FENCE AORANGI CRESCENT:

The purpose of this report from the Community Facilities Manager is for the Tekapo Community Board to consider costs related to fencing a road boundary on Aorangi Crescent. Attached to this report is the quotation for the work.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nixon for his comprehensive report.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.

Stella Sweney/ Lyn Martin

2. That the Community Board decline to build the fence.

Stella Sweney/ Cr Cox

Not included in the agenda was a letter that Mr Nixon distributed via email, which had been read by all members.

Mr Nixon described the background to the issue. During landscaping works on their property, a resident became aware of adjacent works the Council was undertaking and sought a retaining wall and new fence for their boundary, at the Board's cost. Mr Nixon advised that a retaining wall was not necessary, and sought the Board's direction regarding whether it would fund a new fence.

Ms Sweney advised of her clear view that Option 1 was appropriate, to decline to build the fence. Having been to view the area, she felt that building a fence for one ratepayer would set a precedent.

Mr Nixon thanked the board for their guidance.

TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY FOR THE MACKENZIE DISTRICT:

The Chair invited Community Board member Ms Sweney to speak to her agenda item.

Ms Sweney noted her surprise that the Council did not proceed with what had already been done by two international based companies, Aurecon and Boffa Miskell, rather than the smaller Abley Transportation Consultants. She accepts there needs to be a transportation strategy for the district but sought reassurance that the Board could go ahead with parking and landscaping projects.

Cr Cox reported he has convened a small group consisting of Bernie Haar, Garth Nixon, Suzy Ratahi (Roading Manager), Peter Munro, Wayne Barnett and himself to discuss how the town moves forward now subdivision works are almost completed, noting that the focus should now shift to toilets, car parking and the domain.

Mr Barnett advised that Aurecon were given a narrow brief, involving a focus on car parking and whether enough would be supplied in accordance with the District Plan. Subsequent assessment of traffic volumes have raised this issue of whether there is in fact enough car parking. He acknowledged the Board's frustration, advising that the Council will continue to progress other projects in the meantime.

Mr Barnett listed these projects as:

- Entry exit of Godley
- Rapuwai Lane
- Profile of Eastern carpark
- Lay out of Eastern carpark
- Boat ramp access and long vehicle parking
- Temporary carparks
- Play area
- Toilets Eastern and Western
- Finishing of domain
- Landscaping of viewing corridors
- Communications out to the public.

Mr Haar noted that Abley are an award winning company and emphasised the importance of the Transportation Strategy as essential. Mr Haar added that workstream issues around Tekapo will be discussed and prioritised at Council level.

NEPAL EVENT – PROMOTIONS LETTER:

This agenda item was included by Community Board Chairman Peter Munro.

The Chairman said the Ankuro Community Development trust are requesting a reduction in fees for this event. Mr Nixon noted the application should be in the form of a grant.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Community Board approve a grant to cover the cost of the hall hire for the event.

Lyn Martin/ Stella Sweney

WARD MEMBER'S REPORT:

Cr Cox reported that the Property Group has made a commitment after each meeting to update the community and Community Board. He updated the Board on a recent meeting with the Church of the Good Shepherd Committee to initiate liaison on their current issues and future plans for the area.

He updated the Board on recent work on wilding trees, advising that the Mackenzie Wilding Trees Trust, LINZ, DOC, the Council and Ecan will be meeting to decide how to move forward with wilding trees across the Mackenzie. Rob Young has completed a document and highlighted key areas in the Mackenzie, and will look at a way of how those sites should be managed i.e. contain or remove trees etc.

Cr Cox advised that the Upper Waitaki Water Zone committee distributes a newsletter to residents, and the most recent one describes Plan Change 5 which contains rules managing nutrient levels on farms. Farmers are having to move to good management practices on their farms. The Plan Change is currently in the process of public submissions.

At the last Upper Waitaki Zone meeting, there was discussion on restoring the Willowburn stream as this is one of the most degraded streams. Cr Cox also referred to Lake Wardell's problems, stemming from dry years, and noting the issue is complex and fairly controversial. He also noted a feeling from some farmers who are trying to comply with new rules that compliance was not being enforced equally by Ecan.

At the last Council meeting Mr Nixon presented a paper regarding Tekapo toilets - Exeloo type toilets. There was general acceptance that this should go ahead and Mr Nixon was to return to Council with an actual floor plan and cost.

The Community Board agreed that this should go ahead, and also to seek other toilets be provided as well. There was a general discussion regarding the Western toilets being free as they will be the main toilets. The carpark, eastern and lakeside toilets could be paid toilets, possibly with showers down lakeside drive.

Mrs Martin asked whether the Community Board will have a say with the exterior. Mr Nixon said yes noting there were many options. Mr Nixon will distribute plans to the Community Board when he has them.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY BOARD ON OTHER COMMITTEES:

Ms Bradley, a member of the public, was invited by Mrs Martin to update the Community Board on the Promotions Committee. Ms Bradley said she was hoping for a community night earlier this month, but aim for this for the end of April. Work is progressing on the website, and it is close to completion.

The Chairman said there was no new information regarding the footbridge.

The Chairman said the Whitewater Trust held the NZ Slalom championships which were well attended and included Olympic athletes. He congratulated the Chair of the trust, Alan Hoffman, on the tremendous progress.

Mrs Martin advised that the Enhancement group has granted \$1,000 to the Footbridge Society for planting.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON FREEDOM CAMPING ISSUES:

This agenda item has already been discussed in matters under action and will be discussed further at the coming workshop.

LITTER BINS IN TEKAPO:

This was a report from the Community Facilities Manager for discussion on new litter bins for Tekapo.

Direction was sought from the Community Board to investigate the bin option further in terms of a trial period. The bins would reduce frequency of emptying and reduce cost. The bins will come to half the cost of the budgeted rubbish. A report will be presented to the Community Board if interest is high.

Recycling is not available with the lease of these bins, so the Community Board will be asked to consider whether to stay with recycling. Mrs Martin said she would not like to see recycling reduced.

Mr Haar noted the return from recycling is negligible, however it is a social responsibility. The new bins may solve unsightly rubbish issues. The Board will consider this at the following meeting.

Resolved: that the report be received.

Cr Cox/ Stella Sweney

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKING PARTY UPDATE

Penny Wilson provided a letter of update to the Community Board in regards to the Early Childhood Working Party. Mrs Martin informed the Board that there is a trust of 5 people. There is a contract between Lake Tekapo "Bright Stars Community Trust" and the Ministry of Education. A quote from an architect has been accepted, which will now go out for building requests.

TOURISM EXPORT COUNCIL:

This agenda item was in the form of a letter sent to Ms Sweney. She spoke to the agenda item, noting the letter was of interest to the Community Board and advising that the Tourism Export Council would be happy to attend a Council meeting. She noted that there are resources out there and people are willing to help.

Cr Cox said they could be useful for submissions to government, and added there is a fund being set up by the Government to support towns in terms of tourism infrastructure.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Tekapo Community Board will be held on Monday 2 May 2016 at 7pm, Tekapo Community Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.18PM**

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____