

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HOUSE, TRAFALGAR STREET, NELSON ON TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2008 COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

PRESENT: Councillor R Reese (Chairperson), Councillors I Barker, A Boswijk, G Collingwood, A Miccio and D Shaw (Deputy Chairperson)

IN ATTENDANCE: V Altmants (Chief Executive), R Johnson (Divisional Manager Planning and Consents), M Workman (Manager Environmental Policy) and R Palmer (Administration Adviser)

APOLOGIES: Apologies from His Worship the Mayor (K Marshall) and Councillors D Henigan and A McAlpine were received and accepted.

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

26 February 2008

Resolved

***THAT** the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee, held on Tuesday 26 February 2008, be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

Shaw/Miccio

Carried

2.0 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT – APRIL 2008

Agenda pages 6-7 refer.

The Chairperson expressed concern that unless the matter was kept under review the use of consultants to process resource consents when requested by an applicant might become common place and have a direct effect on Council's internal resources. It was acknowledged that such action was the exception rather than the rule but staff would maintain a watching brief.

The Divisional Manager Planning and Consents acknowledged that staff would report to the next meeting of the Environment Committee on the difference between a "policy" and a "strategy".

It was noted that a copy of the submission forwarded by the working party in relation to the Dog Control Act had not been included on the Agenda and it was agreed that this would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

3.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson tabled an outline of the steps which she considered should be followed in relation to potential presentations to the Environment Committee which included ensuring that the agenda provided appropriate background material to enable the Committee to be prepared and to understand what the presenter was seeking from the Council.

The Chief Executive advised that he would endeavour to ensure that these protocols were followed by staff in relation to persons wishing to appear at the public forum so that information would be available for Councillors on the Agenda as to the matter which was to be raised.

It was agreed that while there was a preference to have written material on the Agenda, a lack of this from the person concerned was not to be a reason to prevent their attendance at the public forum.

4.0 NEW ZEALAND COASTAL POLICY STATEMENT SUBMISSION

Document No 647531, dated 13 March 2008, agenda pages 8-10 refer.

Attendance: Rod Witte and Steven Wynne-Jones (Department of Conservation – Nelson) provided an outline of the proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008, and explained some of the background to the draft.

Attendance: Councillor Collingwood entered the meeting.

It was noted that virtually all the Nelson coastline was in public ownership however there were still issues of access for the public to a number of areas.

It was acknowledged that the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement would not affect the status of private land on the coast. However, the Department of Conservation had a policy of attempting to purchase coastal land and wherever development of such land was contemplated, public access opportunities could be investigated.

Resolved

THAT the Council establish a working party to prepare and submit a submission on the proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement by the due date of Wednesday 7 May 2008;

AND THAT this Working Party consist of Councillors R Reese and M Holmes with Councillor M Cotton, should he be available, as an alternate for Councillor Holmes, together with appropriate staff;

AND THAT this Working Party also provide comment on behalf of the Council on the draft Submission formulated by Local Government New Zealand;

AND THAT the Working Party present its submission to the meeting of the Environment Committee scheduled for Tuesday 13 May 2008.

Shaw/Boswijk

Carried

It was also agreed that all members of the Committee should be provided with information regarding the dates on which the Working Party proposed to meet.

5.0 THIRD INTERNATIONAL SOLAR CITIES CONGRESS 2008

Councillor Shaw made a presentation to the Committee outlining some of the issues which were aired and debated at the Third International Solar Cities Congress 2008 which he attended over 17-21 February 2008 in Adelaide, South Australia.

Councillor Shaw tabled a copy of the program and a copy of the public lecture given by Professor Ross Garnaut as the final address of the Congress.

Following the presentation the Committee discussed ways in which the Council might be able to take advantage of the information which Councillor Shaw had brought back from the Conference and a number of possibilities were discussed, including:

- i) The holding of a community forum for interested persons.
- ii) Establishment of a Working Party or Subcommittee to pursue other options.
- iii) Dissemination of information via Ecofest.
- iv) Strengthening of the proposed Eco-Adviser role.

The Chief Executive advised that he would discuss with the Chief Information Officer opportunities which might exist for the information on the matter to be electronically stored and made available to staff and other interested persons.

It was generally agreed that it would be appropriate to defer any action until after the submissions to the 2008/09 Annual Plan had been heard, as this plan put forward the Council's Sustainability Policy and the matter of an Eco-Adviser.

6.0 RICHMOND WEST URBAN DEVELOPMENT SUBMISSION

Document No 647644, dated 14 March 2008, agenda pages 11-17 refer.

Attendance: Martin Workman, Manager Environmental Policy, presented the report.

Councillor Reese declared an interest in the matter and relinquished the Chair. Councillor Shaw assumed Chairmanship of the meeting.

Resolved

THAT the submission to the Tasman District Council's variations 61-63 to provide for development in Richmond West, as attached to Document 64764, be endorsed;

AND THAT Councillor D Shaw and relevant Council staff attend the hearings to present the Council's submission in respect of variations 61-63.

Boswijk/Miccio

Carried

Councillor Reese resumed Chairmanship of the meeting.

7.0 REVIEW OF FRESHWATER QUALITY CLASSIFICATIONS

Document No 642434, dated 12 March 2008, agenda pages 18-32 refer.

Attendance: Debra Bradley and Paul Sheldon presented the report.

The meeting was advised that when the Freshwater Plan Change to the Nelson Resource Management Plan was introduced in 2002 the classifications for Nelson waterways, were based on a limited amount of data and the opportunity had been taken to reassess these classifications in light of the monitoring which had been carried out over the intervening five years.

It was stressed that of the areas where deteriorations were indicated only two rivers, Jenkins lower and the Teal upper, indicated actual changes to the quality of the freshwater environment.

The 2002 classification of other rivers had been subject to revision based on the refinement of the Classification System and their results did not reflect actual changes to the quality of the freshwater environment.

Concern was expressed that the policies of the Freshwater provisions seemed to indicate that the Council's concern was to attempt to improve the water quality in streams where the classification was less than B, whereas the proposal now before the Committee to change the classifications within the Plan seemed to indicate that such improvement could not be achieved.

Debra Bradley advised that the classifications within the Resource Management Plan were used to enable the Council to set priorities for improvement, and action was being taken to address the pollution problems in the four streams where deterioration had been demonstrated.

It was pointed out to the Committee that the proposal now before it was a recommendation that a Plan Change be prepared, not that any specific Plan Change should be proceeded with. A draft Plan Change together with further supporting information covering the concerns raised by Councillors at the meeting would be submitted to a subsequent meeting of the Committee for adoption prior to the change process being commenced.

Resolved

THAT a Plan Change be prepared to update the Water Quality Classifications in appendix 28.4 of the Nelson Resource Management Plan and to deal with any related issues;

AND THAT the draft Plan Change be reported back to the Committee.

Shaw/Barker

Carried

8.0 CONSENT FEE PROPOSALS FOR SWING MOORINGS

Document No 645648, dated 5 March 2008, agenda pages 33-37 refer.

Attendance: Ruben Peterson, Policy Planner, presented the report.

It was noted that all owners of swing moorings would be required to obtain a Coastal Permit and therefore those who did not join the class application would be required to make individual applications for consent and pay the standard fee, which was substantially more than the \$200 per applicant suggested in the report.

Resolved

THAT the swing mooring owners be advised that they should work with a private consultant to organise a class application for the required coastal permits for their moorings;

AND THAT Council staff assist in facilitating this process;

AND THAT the fee required in respect of the application be reduced to \$200 per applicant involved in the class application, provide a minimum of \$5,000 is collected and an agreement is signed by each applicant to the effect that they would cover any additional costs which may arise in the processing of the consent.

Reese/Miccio

Carried

The meeting closed 12 noon.

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

_____ CHAIRPERSON _____ DATE