

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HOUSE, TRAFALGAR STREET,  
NELSON ON THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2009 COMMENCING AT 9.00AM**

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**PRESENT:** Councillor P Rainey (Chairperson), His Worship the Mayor K Marshall Councillors I Barker, G Collingwood, M Cotton, D Henigan, M Holmes, A Miccio, R Reese and G Thomas

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive (K Marshall), Divisional Manager Corporate Services (H Kettlewell), Divisional Manager Community Services (S Coleman) and R Palmer (Administration Adviser)

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies on behalf of Councillors A Boswijk, A McAlpine and D Shaw were received and accepted.

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**1.0 PUBLIC FORUM**

**1.1 Nelson Hockey and Nelson Softball Associations**

Gary Wilson spoke to the Committee on behalf of the Associations, regarding the proposal for a joint hockey / softball pavilion development on Saxton Field.

Mr Wilson explained that the group was seeking Council's inclusion of the money for the pavilion within the LTCCP.

Attendance: His Worship the Mayor K Marshall and Councillor R Reese entered the meeting.

Mr Wilson stressed that with 1,000 hockey players and over 600 softball players in the Nelson/Tasman region, the two groups represented a significant number of sportspeople, who needed a decent place to call home.

He explained that although the sports fields had been in Saxton Field for some years, there have never been adequate facilities for the players, and the group saw regional benefits for the provision of a purpose built pavilion.

Mr Wilson also pointed out the likely benefits to the community of having appropriate facilities for the two codes in relation to the more significant tournaments, which they would be able to host.

He acknowledged that although times were tight, this was a good opportunity for Council to obtain a good deal in relation to the cost of the facility, and the estimated cost of \$2 million including a contingency, was in his opinion, a very accurate estimate.

Mr Wilson stressed that in his opinion the two Associations were of low risk to the Council, having regard to their track record, and they were ready to proceed now, provided the Council committed to the project.

Mr Wilson also explained that the pavilion would be available for outside use, and stressed that both hockey and softball would be able to meet their share of the cost of the development if it went ahead.

He also advised that they supported the recommendation within the report, and in particular that ownership of the building would be vested in the Council.

## 1.2 The Motor Caravan Association Inc

Dick Waters, the President and Public Relations Officer for the Association, made a presentation to the Committee in support of the Association's continued use of the Trafalgar Centre Carpark for overnight parking for their members' motorhomes.

He also explained that the Association supported the Council prosecuting the owners of non self contained vehicles who parked overnight, no matter where.

The Committee was advised that the Association made endeavours to obtain agreements in respect of private car parks for overnight parks, and have had success in relation to Mega and WOW at Stoke. However some businesses such as supermarkets had fairly long opening hours which severely restricted the use of their carparks for overnight camping, and some areas were a little too exposed to public view.

Mr Waters also advised that the Association would provide a precast dump station and \$1,000 subsidy to the Council to assist in it providing a dump site for motor caravans.

Mr Neville Baldwin, a local member of the Association, expressed concern that the Council had not contacted the Association to discuss issues covered within the report.

Mr Baldwin also explained that as far as the Association was concerned, they could legally park overnight on the road anywhere, but they endeavoured to work within the wishes of the Local Authority, and for this reason would like to have the Council's blessing for them to continue with the Trafalgar Centre carpark.

Mr Waters advised that the Association had agreements with Maui and Kea rental companies regarding self contained campervans, however it was the non-self contained vehicles that were being hired which were causing the problems, and he understood the Government would soon be looking at legislation in respect of these.

Peter Gordon, Nelson representative of the organisation, explained that from information gathered from motor home users attending a recent rally in the Nelson/Tasman area, they had calculated that their members spent up to \$400,000 per week during the holiday season, and this related to at least \$6 million per year which was put into the local economy.

Mr Gordon also explained that the Association purchased land itself for freedom camping in spots around New Zealand, one being in Hokitika, where the District Council had estimated that approximately \$300,000 per year would come into Hokitika shops as a result of the creation of this park.

He also explained that a recent park which had opened in Murchison was likely to bring around \$150,000 into local shops over the Easter period.

In conclusion, Mr Waters stressed that the Association wished to be part of the solution, but in order for them to be involved, the Council needed to talk to them.

John Gilbertson from the Tahuna Business Association spoke to the Committee, explaining the Association's concern with the ongoing use of the Tahunanui Reserve,

by non-self contained campervans and the effect which this unrestrained use had on the community.

He also expressed the opinion that the use of Trafalgar Centre Carpark should cease, as it was not policed and it encouraged non self-contained vehicles to use this area contrary to the Council policy.

A Tahunanui ratepayer reinforced the concerns of the Tahunu Business Association, explaining that in the last week there were between 12 and 18 vans camping in the Tahunanui Reserve, and as far as he could see, there was no control whatsoever over their use of this area.

## 2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

20 November 2008

Resolved

***THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Thursday 20 November 2008, be confirmed as a true and correct record.***

Miccio/Rainey

Carried

## 3.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT – JANUARY 2008

Document No 6464543, dated January 2008, agenda pages 8-11 refer.

Members of the Committee requested that in future, the comments “update unavailable due to staff absence” not be used, and any action which might have been taken or acknowledged in respect of an item be reported.

Resolved

***THAT the Community Services Committee Status Report for January 2008 be received.***

His Worship the Mayor/Reese

Carried

## 4.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES FINANCE REPORT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2008

Document No 712989, dated 6 January 2009, agenda pages 12-34 refer.

Resolved

***THAT the Community Services Finance Report for the three months ended 30 November 2008 be received, and the variations therein be noted.***

Reese/Rainey

Carried

## 5.0 SMOKEFREE PARKS – PRESENTATION FROM THE NELSON MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

The Committee's attention was drawn to the print out of the presentation on pages 35-40 of the agenda.

Miraka Norgate and Brenda Chilre, from the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board, spoke to the Committee regarding the Board's wish to see the Council adopt a policy regarding smokefree parks.

The representatives explained that while the DHB might be able to provide some very limited funding in respect of signs and publicity, the expectation was that the Council would fund the bulk of any costs.

The Committee was advised that the large signs erected by the South Taranaki District Council cost approximately \$2,000.

The representatives stressed that it was not proposed that the policy should be one of enforcement, but rather be an education policy which would serve to encourage persons not to smoke around parks and playgrounds.

The Committee discussed the steps which could be taken in relation to the issue, and whether or not it would be appropriate for staff to provide a report outlining an appropriate policy.

Resolved

***THAT the Council support in principle the proposal to make sportsgrounds and playgrounds smokefree;***

***AND THAT staff develop policy taking into account the matters discussed during the meeting, including through Reserve Management Plans and by introducing the concept on new or upgraded signs.***

Cotton/Collingwood

Carried

## 6.0 SAXTON FIELD PAVILION FUNDING APPLICATION – NELSON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AND NELSON SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Document No 719357, dated 17 December 2008, agenda pages 41-58 refer.

Resolved

***THAT item 6.0 – Saxton Field Pavilion Funding Application – Nelson Hockey Association and Nelson Softball Association – be not considered at the meeting;***

***AND THAT the matter be deferred for discussion at the Ten Year Plan workshops.***

Rainey/Reese

Carried

## 7.0 TRAFALGAR CENTRE – OUTSTANDING WORKS

Document No 721384, dated 24 December 2008, agenda pages 59-66 refer.

Attendance: Andrew Petheram, Manager Community Projects, presented the report.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate that any consideration as to the upgrade of the north end of the Trafalgar Centre should be dealt with at a Ten Year Plan workshop.

Mr Petheram stressed that in his opinion there was a need to continue with the upgrade of the west side seating, changing and toilet facilities as this work would complete the development of a much improved facility.

Recommendation to the Council

***THAT the Council consider the priority of the Trafalgar Centre north end upgrade against other capital works projects, taking into account both Community and Capital Benefits, and if necessary the project be deferred;***

***AND THAT the stadium west side seating, changing and toilet facilities, be tendered with the work to be carried out to suit the current bookings schedule, with any additional funding being required being considered as part of the Nelson Community Plan 2009-19 process;***

***AND THAT if the north end upgrade does not occur in the 2009/10 financial year, significant redevelopment work not be carried out on the existing kitchens;***

***AND THAT further work be undertaken to determine the feasibility of an alternative kitchen location;***

***AND THAT urgent renewal items be considered in the Nelson Community Plan 2009-19 process.***

Henigan/Collingwood

Carried

## 8.0 FREEDOM CAMPING POLICY

Document No 721438, dated 29 December 2008, agenda pages 67-76 refer.

Attendance: Paul McArthur, Manager Parks and Facilities, presented the report.

Mr McArthur explained that the report had arisen due to concerns regarding the continued use of the Trafalgar Centre carpark for overnight parking of self contained motor caravans, and concerns raised by Tahunanui Residents regarding the uncontrolled use of the Tahunanui Reserve by freedom campers, including both non self contained vans and tents.

The Committee discussed the options which the Council had in relation to enforcement of its Parking and Vehicle Control Bylaws, which prohibited the use of vehicles parked on roads for living purposes, and whether or not this situation was something the Council could resolve, having regard to the issues being faced by Local Authorities throughout New Zealand.

It was raised that perhaps rather than attempting to enforce restrictions against these campers, the Council should be attempting to manage the situation by providing alternatives with appropriate facilities to where these persons could be directed.

While the Committee discussed a number of alternatives to the Trafalgar Centre Carpark, it was acknowledged that it would not be appropriate for it to make any firm decision prior to consulting the Motor Caravan Association.

It was raised that the Council should be taking a firm stance and thereby encouraging or forcing motor home users to use campgrounds, as Nelson was a small city and did not really have any appropriate areas where this type of activity could be carried out without affecting other users.

Mr McArthur pointed out that the Motor Caravan Association published its guidebook in November each year, and therefore on this basis it might be appropriate for the existing use of the Trafalgar Centre carpark to be extended so that any change could be included within the 2009/2010 handbook.

Resolved

***THAT the level of enforcement of the policy restricting camping and overnight stays within the Tahunanui Reserve be increased.***

***AND THAT the existing bylaw restricting camping on roads, be actively enforced in relation to roads adjacent to the Tahunanui Reserve and in locations where unacceptable adverse effects are occurring;***

***AND THAT the existing policy regarding the use of the Trafalgar Centre carpark be revoked when Council has been able to identify alternate sites;***

***AND THAT the Motor Caravan Association be advised of this decision and consulted on possible alternatives.***

Holmes/Cotton

Carried

Councillors I Barker and D Henigan recorded their votes against the motion.

## **9.0 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON HERITAGE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

Document No 720353, dated 8 December 2008, agenda pages 77-84 refer.

Attendance: Kath Inwood, Manager Cultural, Social and Recreation Services presented the report.

His Worship the Mayor volunteered to be the Council representative on the Heritage Strategy Implementation Group, noting that as it was not a standing committee, he was in fact not an ex-officio member.

Resolved

***THAT His Worship the Mayor be appointed as a member of the Heritage Strategy Implementation Group;***

***AND THAT an annual report from the Heritage Strategy Implementation Group's activities be presented to the Community Services Committee.***

Rainey/Miccio

Carried

It was noted that the question of Chairperson of the Group would be something for the group to decide.

#### **10.0 FOUNDERS HERITAGE PARK SUBCOMMITTEE – LOAN REQUESTS**

Document No 717918, dated 11 December 2008, agenda pages 85-93 refer.

Attendance: Kath Inwood, Manager Cultural Social and Recreation Services, and Chris Fitchett, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report.

It was noted that the recommendation should in fact refer to the fact that the \$400,000 would be a loan.

It was acknowledged that the Council would be the body seeking the loan, and it would make this money available via the Founders Heritage Park budgets, and that if for some unforeseen reason the income from the Founders Book Fair did not eventuate or was insufficient to meet the repayments, the obligation would stay with the Council to repay the loan.

Resolved

***THAT the sum of \$400,000, to be raised by way of a loan, be included for consideration in the draft 2009/19 Nelson Community Plan for the 2009/10 year to make the following capital improvements at Founders Heritage Park:***

- i) Construction of a toilet block adjacent to the Energy Centre;***
- ii) Improvements to the Market Green area;***
- iii) Construction of a storage building and covered area.***

***AND THAT the Founders Heritage Park Development Fund be used to repay the loan over a period of ten years.***

Collingwood/Holmes

Carried

**11.0 REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES AND OTHER GROUPS****11.1 Community Assistance Policy Working Party**

18 December 2008

Resolved

***THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Community Assistance Policy Working Party, held on Thursday 18 December 2008 be received.***

His Worship the Mayor/Miccio

Carried

**11.2 Founders Heritage Park Subcommittee**

17 August, 19 November and 10 December 2008, agenda pages 97-110 refer

Resolved

***THAT the minutes of the meetings of the Founders Heritage Park Subcommittee, held on Wednesday 27 August, Wednesday 19 November, and Wednesday 10 December 2008 be received.***

Holmes/Miccio

Carried

**11.3 Regional Funding Forum**

26 November 2008, agenda pages 111-113 refer

Resolved

***THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Regional Funding Forum, held on Wednesday 26 November 2008, be received.***

Miccio/Reese

Carried

**11.4 Nelson Youth Council**

23 September and 22 October 2008, agenda pages 114-120 refer

Resolved

***THAT the minutes of the meetings of the Nelson Youth Council, held on Wednesday 23 September and Wednesday 22 October 2008 be received.***

His Worship the Mayor/Holmes

Carried

**12.0 GENERAL BUSINESS****12.1 Public Forum Discussion**

The meeting discussed whether or not on those occasions where there was a report on the agenda relating to any matter, that any person appearing to speak to that report



be given the opportunity when the Committee discussed it, rather than in public forum.

It was accepted that this was something that could be considered, provided that the members of the public concerned were not involved in the discussion as such.

### **13.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES**

#### **13.1 Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved

***THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting in accordance with section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 on the grounds that the public conduct of this part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.***

***i. Nelson Bays Community Foundation***

*Reason:*

*To protect the privacy of natural persons.*

***ii. Confirmation of Minutes – 20 November 2008***

*Reasons:*

*To protect the privacy of natural persons;*

*To enable the Council to carry out negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage.*

***iii. Community Services Committee Status Report (Public Excluded) – January 2008***

*Reasons:*

*To protect the privacy of natural persons;*

*To enable the Council to carry out negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage.*

***iv. Options for Community Housing***

*Reasons:*

*To protect the privacy of natural persons;*

*To enable the Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.*

***AND THAT Glenda Buschel and Chris Jackson be permitted to remain after the public has been excluded, while the Committee receives the item on the Nelson Bays Community Foundation, as those persons have knowledge that will assist the Committee.***

Miccio/Cotton

Carried

**13.2 Re-admittance of the Public**

Resolved

***THAT the public be re-admitted to the meeting.***

Cotton/Collingwood

Carried

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

\_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_ DATE