

CHATHAM ISLANDS COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Chatham Islands Council, held in the Council Chambers, Tuku Road, Waitangi, on Thursday, 29 May 2008, commencing at 2.02 p.m.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Mr P F Smith, and Councillors P R Christiansen, M Croon, B J Mills, N C Ryan and E C Tuck.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager, Owen Pickles
Council Secretary, Lynette Pickles

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Deputy Mayor, A W M Preece and Councillors A M Gregory-Hunt and N J Whitiri.

RESOLVED THAT the apologies from Deputy Mayor Preece and Councillors Gregory-Hunt and Whitiri be received.

N C Ryan / E C Tuck CARRIED

MINUTES: **2.1 Ordinary Meeting, 17 April 2008**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Chatham Islands Council, held on Thursday, 17 April 2008, be confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record.

M Croon / E C Tuck CARRIED

2.2 Special Meeting, 21 April 2008

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Chatham Islands Council, held on Monday, 21 April 2008, be confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record.

B J Mills / E C Tuck CARRIED

2.3 Special Meeting, 5 May 2008

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Chatham Islands Council, held on Monday, 5 May 2008, be confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record.

B J Mills / N C Ryan CARRIED

FINANCE:

3.1 Council Dues Report April 2008

The Council Dues Received Report for the period ending 30 April 2008 was presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the Council Dues Report for the period ending 30 April 2008 be received.

B J Mills / E C Tuck CARRIED

Cr Mills noted that the slight dip in Dues collected could be attributed to farmers not shipping out old sheep as it was uneconomic.

3.2 Rate Arrears, April 2008

The Rate Arrears Report for the period ending 30 April 2008 was presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the Rate Arrears Report for the period ending 30 April 2008 be received.

E C Tuck / N C Ryan CARRIED

The General Manager advised that the ratepayer who was nearing a property sale Court case owed \$4,500 in past year's rates, plus all the current 2007/08 rates.

3.3 Debtor Report, April 2008

The Debtor Report for the period ending 30 April 2008, showing a balance outstanding of \$37,437, was presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the Debtor Report for the period ending 30 April 2008 be received.

N C Ryan / P R Christiansen CARRIED

3.4 Term Investment Schedule

The Term Investment Schedule as at 30 April 2008 was presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the Term Investment Schedule as at 30 April 2008 be received.

B J Mills / M Croon CARRIED

3.5 Financial Statements

The financial statements up to 30 April 2008 were presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the financial statements up to 30 April 2008 be received.
N C Ryan / P R Christiansen CARRIED

3.6 Rates Remission, Chatham Islands Gun Club

A letter was received from the Chatham Islands Gun Club requesting rates relief from the Council. The Gun Club complied with relevant clauses of Council's Rates Postponement and Remissions Policy.

Cr Ryan, being a member of the Gun Club, declared an interest.

Cr Tuck queried why the owners of the land, the Department of Conservation, did not pay the rates. The General Manager advised that the Department of Conservation was not liable for rates, but in this case as the land was leased out to the Gun Club, they as lessee, were liable.

Cr Tuck requested that her concerns about the Department of Conservation paying no rates be noted.

RESOLVED THAT with effect from the 2008/09 year and beyond, the Council remit the general rate portion of the Chatham Islands Gun Club's account
P R Christiansen / B J Mills CARRIED

WORKS & SERVICES: 4.1 Downer EDi Works Report, April 2008

RESOLVED THAT the Downer EDi Works Report for April 2008 be received.
B J Mills / N C Ryan CARRIED

4.2 Engineer's April 2008 Report

The monthly report for April 2008 from Council's Roothing Engineer was enclosed with the Agenda.

RESOLVED THAT the April 2008 Progress Report from Council's Roothing Engineer be received.
E C Tuck / M Croon CARRIED

4.3 Contract Renewals

The General Manager reported on the two contracts, currently in the hands of Downer EDi Works, that are

due for renewal over the next twelve months, these being

1. Roothing and Other Works Contract – 30 June 2009
2. Waitangi Water and Wastewater Services Operation and Maintenance Contract – 18 August 2008.

Renewal options for the future could be by way of an open competitive tender or as a negotiated alliance contract. Land Transport New Zealand would need to approve of any process other than competitive tendering in regards to the Roothing Contract.

RESOLVED THAT

1. the Water and Wastewater Services Operation and Maintenance Contract be renewed by negotiation; and
2. the Roothing and Other Works Contract be renewed by negotiation, subject to approvals being obtained from Land Transport New Zealand.

B J Mills / M Croon CARRIED

4.4 2008/09 National Land Transport Programme Approved Maintenance Allocations

A letter was received from Land Transport New Zealand advising of the approved maintenance allocation for the 2008/09 year. This was \$554k less than had been applied for.

Murray Keast, Council's Roothing Engineer, contacted Land Transport New Zealand asking for reasons for the reduction. He received the following reply:

“A technical audit was completed in December 2006. The audit report recommended a reassessment of their maintenance programme, particularly a shift of focus to sealed road rehabilitation and periodic bridge maintenance. Council's submission includes requests for significant increases in areas outside those applicable to recommendations from the audit team. Given previous significant programme increases it is recommended that only those issues highlighted by the technical audit be approved for additional funding at this stage (+20%, \$0.5 million). If Council is able to provide additional evidence they may seek a review of the approved programme during the year.”

The General Manager advised that Land Transport New Zealand was not totally closed to approving extra

funding and Council's Engineer would be keeping that in mind.

RESOLVED THAT the letter from Land Transport New Zealand be received.

N C Ryan / E C Tuck CARRIED

4.5 Closure of Paper Roads, Owenga

Council undertook the public notification process of its proposal to close the paper roads at Owenga, with one written submission in support, one verbal submission in support, and one verbal concern being received. As there were no substantive opposing submissions received, the final legal process through to the sale and transfer of the various properties was able to be undertaken.

Cr Tuck declared an interest.

RESOLVED THAT

1. Council confirm its intentions to close the paper roads at Owenga as shown on Draft Plan SO 400733; and
2. Each portion of the paper roads be sold to adjoining landowners for \$100 each.

M Croon / B J Mills CARRIED

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

5.1 Social Housing Upgrade – Letter of Offer

A letter of offer was received from Housing New Zealand Corporation, confirming the availability of a Housing Innovation Fund Local Government Modernisation Loan of \$90,000 for the modernisation of Council's three community houses. The letter detailed the conditions under which the Loan had been made.

RESOLVED THAT

1. the Housing New Zealand Corporation offer be accepted; and
2. the document be signed under seal by His Worship the Mayor and the General Manager

B J Mills / N C Ryan CARRIED

5.2 Community Support Grants 2007/08

The General Manager reported that the \$3,000 Council allocated in its budget for community support for the

2007/08 year had been spent. Chatham Community Focus Trust received \$1,000 towards the Waitangi Day picnic and \$1,000 towards the Skippers Course, the Department of Conservation \$500 for Clean Up Day, and Chatham Islands Touch Rugby \$500 for prizes.

RESOLVED THAT the information regarding the allocation of the community support funds be received.
N C Ryan / P R Christiansen CARRIED

5.3 Minutes of Chatham Islands Housing Trust

The Chatham Islands Housing Trust Minutes for meetings held on 7 November 2007 and 13 May 2008 were presented to Council. A letter from Emma Walker of Energy Smart, to the Minister of Energy, written after her visit to Chatham Island in early May, was also presented.

Cr Christiansen asked if the home energy efficiency scheme applied to all homes on the Islands pre-1974. The General Manager advised that it did.

Cr Tuck thought it was exciting that Energy Smart was so keen to assist the homeowners of the Chatham Islands.

RESOLVED THAT

1. the Minutes of the Housing Trust meetings be received; and
2. the Energy Smart letter be received.

B J Mills / E C Tuck CARRIED

5.4 Norman Kirk Memorial Reserve Committee - Surplus Bridges

The Norman Kirk Memorial Reserve Committee enquired about obtaining one of the surplus bridges, currently stored at the Works Yard, to enable a crossing over a drainage channel on the reserve.

RESOLVED THAT a suitable surplus bridge be donated to the Norman Kirk Memorial Reserve Committee for use on the reserve.

N C Ryan / M Croon CARRIED

5.5 Wellington City Libraries “My Gateway” Access

Wellington City Libraries agreed to offer Chatham Islands’ residents free access to the “My Gateway”

facility on their website. The site offers various reference materials, newspapers, magazines, and other pay to use/view sites. Application Forms for obtaining a library membership card, a necessity to enable access to the site, are to be made available shortly at the Council office.

The General Manager advised that the offer had been overtaken by the Government budget announcement, which included approval to fund an interim library solution. Access to “My Gateway” was to be part of the interim solution. It would mean that every community in New Zealand would have a library service. The General Manager expected that it would be necessary to have a broadband connection to access the site.

The General Manager stated that there were some doubts about the volume of 300 books being offered to the Islands every six weeks. It was thought that it would be a struggle for the local readers to read so many books in such a short timeframe. This would be discussed with Wellington Library staff.

Cr Mills felt that it was a very good opportunity for the local residents.

RESOLVED THAT the offer from Wellington City Libraries be accepted and acknowledged.
E C Tuck / P R Christiansen CARRIED

REGULATORY:

6.1 Review of Bylaws

The General Manager reported that the Chatham Islands Dog Control Bylaw 2002 was due for review. Section 158 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires a review of Council bylaws be undertaken no later than five years after the date on which the bylaw was made, or if made before 1 July 2003, no later than 1 July 2008.

The General Manager advised that a draft bylaw would be presented to the next Council meeting. He had some feedback from members of Council as to the content of the document.

RESOLVED THAT the information on the review of Council’s bylaws be received.
N C Ryan / B J Mills CARRIED

6.2 State of the Environment Monitoring – Water Quality and Ecosystem Health of Lakes, Streams and Te Whanga

A copy of the above report by Environment Canterbury's Adrian Meredith and Robyn Croucher, was circulated to Council with the Agenda.

The contract between Environment Canterbury and the Chatham Islands Council allowed Environment Canterbury staff to carry out an extensive preliminary survey, and then quarterly baseline water quality monitoring on a wide range of streams and lakes, and sites on the shoreline of Te Whanga. The research would eventually establish environmental standards for inclusion in the Chatham Islands Resource Management Document.

The report concluded that the current quarterly water quality monitoring was sufficient to maintain a watching brief on the state of the water quality of the islands' freshwater resources. A number of changes to further strengthen the monitoring programme were recommended.

Cr Tuck stated that it was great to now have something to take a measure from in the future.

His Worship thought that the monitoring results from Te Whanga showed good evidence that it was indeed a lake.

RESOLVED THAT

1. The core number of sites be consolidated to a manageable number of sites representing the major identifiable lake and stream types identified in the report and determinands monitored be extended to include sedimentation, stream habitat composition and abundance field observations.
2. Water bodies be assessed by their beneficial uses to identify existing quality and issues with reference to national guidelines, including
 - recreation water quality monitoring at popular swimming sites in Te Whanga and the Nairn River;
 - potable water quality monitoring of Lake Rangitai; and
 - stock water quality monitoring of streams and lakes.

3. Further investigation into baseline assessment of fish and invertebrate community composition and abundance be completed and selected sites be repeated 5-yearly.
4. Opportunities to obtain samples from unsampled areas of the Island be taken when possible utilising co-operation with other parties (Department of Conservation, locals, etc.). These could include southern lakes and streams in the wilderness areas, flowing reaches of the Nairn and Tioriori Rivers, and other inaccessible areas.
5. Sampling of streams on Pitt Island to compare water quality and stream types with those of the main island.

E C Tuck / M Croon CARRIED

6.3 Hui - Aquaculture Marine Areas

A report was presented on the Hui on Aquaculture Marine Areas (AMA's) to be held at the Norman Kirk Memorial Reserve Lounge on Wednesday, 11 June 2008. David Gregory, Senior Resource Management Planner for Environment Canterbury, was asked to be the facilitator. Trustees of Hokotehi Moriori Trust, Ngati Mutunga O Wharekauri Iwi Trust and the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust had been invited to join Council at the Hui.

Cr Tuck asked that her apology be recorded for the Hui.

RESOLVED THAT the information on the Aquaculture Marine Areas Hui be received.

N C Ryan / E C Tuck CARRIED

6.4 STOMP (National Partnership to Stop the Spread of Marine Pests)

The General Manager reported on talks he had been having with representatives at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ), along with Environment Canterbury and SPS Biosecurity Limited, about the establishment of a Chatham Islands Marine Biosecurity Partnership. MAF and BNZ had agreed to consider providing support for the 2008/09 year and, potentially following years, for a social marketing campaign, personnel, vessel inspections, technical advice and co-ordination.

The General Manager stated that during his telephone conference with the above groups, undaria was spoken

about at length. He advised that the important point about the discussions was that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Biosecurity New Zealand were thinking about the Chatham Islands and how they could help.

RESOLVED THAT the information be received and that Council continue to engage with the “STOMP” initiative to keep the Chatham Islands in focus with the relevant parties.

P R Christiansen / E C Tuck CARRIED

6.5 Update from Environment Canterbury

The report for May 2008 from Environment Canterbury was presented, covering the progress of the various activities being undertaken on behalf of the Chatham Islands Council.

RESOLVED THAT the May 2008 report on the various activities undertaken by Environment Canterbury be received.

M Croon / N C Ryan CARRIED

Cr Croon thought that the leaflet entitled “Uniquely Chathams” was an excellent publication and it was good to see the ‘kid’s page’ included.

6.6 Resource Consent, Owenga Wharf

The General Manager reported that the resource consent for Owenga Wharf had been issued after a hearing in Christchurch on Friday, 16 May 2008. The application for resource consent was made by Katrina Norgart, an RMA Planner with MWH New Zealand Limited, on behalf of the Council.

The General Manager confirmed to Council that he had received the decision to grant the resource consent from Mr Mike Garland, the Hearing Commissioner. Council now had the necessary building and resource consents required by Land Transport New Zealand before any funding would be released.

RESOLVED THAT the information on the resource consent for Owenga Wharf be received.

M Croon / P R Christiansen CARRIED

Cr Mills noted the mention of Hokotahi Moriori Trust in the Planning Report and asked if Ngati Mutunga O

Wharekauri Iwi Trust had been given the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The General Manager advised that both Iwi had been invited to comment, but only Hokotehi Moriori Trust had chosen to do so.

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:**

7.1 Minutes of CDEM Group Meeting

The Minutes from the Chatham Islands Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting held on 8 May 2008 were presented to Council.

Cr Croon asked if there would be support from mainland New Zealand in the event of a rural fire on the Chatham Islands in the future. The General Manager advised that support would be available, as the Rural Fire Authority was working to bring its staff up to standard. During past rural fire events, the Island Authority had probably been a little slow in seeking mainland support, but now that it is known that the necessary support is available, the Island would make use of it, as it does in the event of a maritime oil spill.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes from the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting be received.

E C Tuck / M Croon CARRIED

GOVERNMENT:

8.1 Review of Representation & Basis for Elections

The General Manager reported that only one submission had been received on Council's proposal for the review of representation and basis for elections. The submission was in support of Council's proposal. Public notice of Council's proposal was displayed on noticeboards, on Chatham Islands television, in the Chatham Islander and on email list serves.

RESOLVED THAT

1. Council elections be held at large over the whole of the Chatham Islands Territory.
2. A Mayor and eight Councillors be elected.
3. Maori Wards not be established.
4. The system for elections be 'first past the post'.

N C Ryan / P R Christiansen CARRIED

8.2 A World Class Broadband Service

The General Manager reported on progress towards a high speed broadband service on the Chatham Islands and his efforts assisting the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust to obtain that service through Government assistance. He was disappointed to receive a letter from the Chief Executive Officer of Telecom, Mr Paul Reynolds, essentially saying that those living in remote/small communities are on their own when it comes to establishing a broadband service.

The General Manager advised that Local Government New Zealand had found that one of the contestable funds for establishing broadband in communities had been undersubscribed. The National Council of Local Government New Zealand had written to the Minister seeking a meeting to discuss funding broadband on the Chatham Islands. His Worship had submitted a letter to LGNZ supporting their assistance in this matter.

Cr Mills asked if the current broadband service provided by “Farmside” was considered ‘high speed’. The General Manager explained that high quality broadband had a speed of at least 500 Mbps, whereas the “Farmside” service that Council operated with was only 100 Mbps. For purposes such as medical imaging, at least 500 Mbps was required.

RESOLVED THAT the information on broadband for the Chatham Islands be received and that the Council continue to support the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust in its attempts to provide a high speed and quality broadband service.

E C Tuck / M Croon CARRIED

GENERAL MANAGER: 10.1 Outwards Correspondence Schedule

RESOLVED THAT the outwards correspondence schedule for April to mid-May 2008 be received.

E C Tuck / N C Ryan CARRIED

10.2 Outwards Email Schedule

RESOLVED THAT the outwards emails schedule for April to mid-May 2008 be received.

E C Tuck / N C Ryan CARRIED

MAYORAL:

11.1 Inwards and Outwards Correspondence

RESOLVED THAT the outwards Mayoral correspondence schedule for May 2008 be received.
E C Tuck / M Croon CARRIED

CLOSURE:

Meeting Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 2.59 p.m.

CONFIRMED THIS 10th DAY OF JULY 2008

MAYOR