

CHATHAM ISLANDS COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Chatham Islands Council, held in the Council Chambers, Tuku Road, Waitangi, on Thursday, 13 March 2008, commencing at 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Mr P F Smith, Deputy Mayor, A W M Preece, and Councillors M Croon, A M Gregory-Hunt, B J Mills, N C Ryan, E C Tuck and N J Whaitiri.

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

APOLOGIES: An apology was received from Councillor P R Christiansen.

RESOLVED THAT the apology from Cr Christiansen be received.

N C Ryan / A M Gregory-Hunt CARRIED

MINUTES: **2.1 Ordinary Meeting, 24 January 2008**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Chatham Islands Council, held on Thursday, 24 January 2008, be confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record.

M Croon / N J Whaitiri CARRIED

FINANCE: **3.1 Rate Arrears, January 2008**

The Rate Arrears Report for the period ending 31 January 2008 was presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the Rate Arrears Report for the period ending 31 January 2008 be received.

B J Mills / N C Ryan CARRIED

3.2 Rate Remissions Report

A rate remission of \$263.80 had been granted to the Wharekauri Maori Committee.

RESOLVED THAT the Rate Remissions Report be received.

A W M Preece / B J Mills CARRIED

3.3 Council Dues January 2008 Report

The Council Dues received Report for the period ending 31 January 2008 was presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the Council Dues Report for the period ending 31 January 2008 be received.

N J Whaitiri / M Croon CARRIED

3.4 Debtor Report, February 2008

The Debtor Report for the period ending 29 February 2008, showing a balance outstanding of \$50,162, was presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the Debtor Report for the period ending 29 February 2008 be received.

A W M Preece / M Croon CARRIED

Council noted that the outstanding balance had been continuing to decrease compared to previous years. The General Manager thought that the figure would probably stabilise at where it was now.

3.5 Term Investment Schedule

The Term Investment Schedule as at 31 January 2008 was presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the Term Investment Schedule as at 31 January 2008 be received.

A M Gregory-Hunt / N C Ryan CARRIED

3.6 Financial Statements

The financial statements up to 31 January 2008 were presented to Council.

RESOLVED THAT the financial statements up to 31 January 2008 be received.

A W M Preece / N J Whaitiri CARRIED

3.7 Annual Plan 2008/09

A draft copy of the Annual Plan for the 2008/09 financial year was presented to Council.

It was noted that the rates increase proposed in the Plan was 6.82%, or an extra \$23,741 to be collected.

RESOLVED THAT

- (a) in accordance with Section 100 (2) of the Local Government Act 2002, the operating budget for 2008/09 was balanced having regard to the following factors:
- the estimated expenses of achieving and maintaining the predicted levels of service provision set out in the Long Term Council Community Plan, including the estimated expenses associated with maintaining the service capacity and integrity of assets throughout their useful life; and
 - the projected revenue available to fund the estimated expenses associated with maintaining the service capability and integrity of assets throughout their useful life; and
 - the equitable allocation of responsibility for funding the provision and maintenance of assets and facilities throughout their useful life.
- (b) Council adopt the Statement of Proposal to Adopt the 2008/09 Annual Plan, which includes:
- the draft 2008/09 Annual Plan; and
 - a description of the proposed levels of service and levels of funding for 2008/09; and
 - reasons for variations to the Long Term Council Community Plan 2006-2016; and
 - fees and charges under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (c) Council releases the Statement of Proposal to Adopt the Annual Plan for public consultation on 25 April 2008 with close of submissions on 24 May 2008.
- (d) The Summary of the Statement of Proposal be distributed to all households.

M Croon / B J Mills CARRIED

Cr Tuck entered the meeting at 1.40 p.m.

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

RESOLVED THAT the Downer EDi Works Report for January 2008 be received.

A W M Preece / N J Whaitiri CARRIED

Cr Preece asked how many in the room understood the monthly report in its current form. He would like to see a report written in a similar format to the Engineer's so

that Council could get a clearer picture of where projects were at as far as the Contractor was concerned.

The General Manager advised that the report was historical information only. The Contractor's accountabilities were being measured by the Engineer and the General Manager.

Cr Preece was concerned that he had still not seen the trial results on the new seal. A schedule which reported on work undertaken during the month would have covered the trials.

It was agreed that the Comment/Complaint Forms should remain in the Agenda.

4.2 Downer EDi Works Report, February 2008

RESOLVED THAT the Downer EDi Works Report for February 2008 be received.

B J Mills / N C Ryan CARRIED

4.3 Engineer's January 2008 Report

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

RESOLVED THAT the January 2008 Progress Report from Council's Roding Engineer be received.

A W M Preece / E C Tuck CARRIED

It was noted that the Engineer's planned visit for this week did not eventuate due to the unavailability of suitable flights.

4.4 Owenga Wharf

The General Manager presented a report on the Owenga Wharf renewal project. Applications for funding to cover the design and consents for the building of the wharf and for the renewal project have been lodged with Land Transport New Zealand for presentation to the Board.

Council has \$360k available from Land Transport New Zealand under the 'R' fund scheme which could be used to fund the local share of the Owenga Wharf renewal project.

RESOLVED THAT the information be received and that the 'R' Fund money be used to fund the local share of the Owenga Wharf renewal project.

N J Whaitiri / A M Gregory-Hunt CARRIED

4.5 Owenga Village Road Sealing

The General Manager had been advised that the proposed road sealing through Owenga village would be difficult to achieve before the end of this financial year, 30 June, due to a shortage of seal chip. It was proposed that the project be delayed until October 2008 when both sections of seal could be undertaken at once, instead of in two parts.

With the delay to the Owenga project, the proposed safety works to be completed at Te One School could be undertaken in this financial year.

RESOLVED THAT

1. The Owenga Road sealing project be delayed until October 2008; and
2. The Te One School safety project be attended to in this financial year.

N C Ryan / E C Tuck CARRIED

4.6 Closure of Paper Road, Owenga

The survey plans for the proposed road closure at Owenga were presented to Council. It was intended that the parts of the closed road should be sold to adjoining landowners for a "peppercorn" determined by Council. Public notice had to be given of Council's intentions.

Crs Preece and Tuck declared an interest in the item.

Cr Mills questioned the necessity of opening the proposal up to the public. The General Manager advised that as the road was a public one, the public had to be given the right to make submissions on its closure. The only consultation undertaken to date had been with the affected landowners.

The General Manager stated that Council needed to set what the amount of the "peppercorn" would be. Cr Gregory-Hunt suggested that it should be enough to cover the costs of the survey. The General Manager

advised that a “peppercorn” would not cover all the costs involved, but would go some way towards them.

After some discussion, Council agreed that the “peppercorn” should be \$100 per section.

RESOLVED THAT

1. The survey plans be approved.
2. Each portion of the closed road be offered for sale to the adjoining landowners.
3. The sale price be \$100 per section.
4. The proposal be open to public consultation.

N J Whaitiri / P F Smith CARRIED

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

5.1 Community Trust of Canterbury Funding

The Community Trust of Canterbury had responded to Council’s offer to meet and discuss the proposal for funding of a major community project. Wayne Ward, the Trust Manager, planned to visit the Island in April for discussions and to view activities.

The General Manager advised that he had written to all those organisations that had benefitted from Community Trust of Canterbury funding to ensure that they had used their funds for the specified projects or had properly reserved the money in their accounts.

Council agreed that it was encouraging that the Trust Manager was prepared to come to the Island for discussions.

RESOLVED THAT the information from the Community Trust of Canterbury be received.

A M Gregory-Hunt / N C Ryan CARRIED

REGULATORY:

6.1 Disposal of Fish Waste

The General Manager reported on the visit to the Island of Paul Whyte, Council’s RMA Consultant, for a Workshop with Council on controls for the disposal of fish waste. Mr Whyte advised Council on the processes required for a Plan Change and on his visits with Island industry people. It was proposed at the Workshop that a meeting of fishing industry people be called with a view to finding a solution to the disposal of fish waste.

RESOLVED THAT Council call a meeting of fishing industry people with a view to finding a solution to the problems associated with the disposal of fish waste.

A M Gregory-Hunt / M Croon CARRIED

6.2 Canterbury Regional Council Service Contract

The General Manager reported on the contract awarded to the Canterbury Regional Council (known as Environment Canterbury) in February 2005 to provide the Chatham Islands Council access to expertise such as biosecurity, RMA monitoring, corporate and financial support and emergency management. The contract was for four years with a right-of-renewal for a further two years.

The General Manager met with the Environment Canterbury Contract Steering Committee in February to review contract performance and look at refinements and additions for going forward. He conveyed to the Committee that the Chatham Islands Council had generally been well served by the arrangement.

The General Manager stated that the Chatham Islands Council would be struggling in some areas if it were not for the contract with the Canterbury Regional Council. He considered them to be an extension to the Chatham Islands staff.

RESOLVED THAT

1. The contract with the Canterbury Regional Council for delivery of Chatham Islands Regional Council functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Biosecurity Act 1993, and other services under the Local Government Act 2002 and other Acts as specified, be extended for two years and four months, with the expiry date being 30 June 2011; and
2. Any contract extension be subject to a continuance of Government funding support.

A W M Preece / N J Whaitiri CARRIED

6.3 Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG)

A letter was received from MAF Biosecurity New Zealand in response to Council's concerns at the possible threat imposed by abalone viral ganglioneuritis. The letter advised that a range of measures were in place to manage the risks of the virus as effectively as possible. MAF Biosecurity New

Zealand provided a brochure on the virus. This brochure had been widely distributed.

RESOLVED THAT the information from MAF Biosecurity New Zealand be received.
N C Ryan / N J Whaitiri CARRIED

6.4 Update from Environment Canterbury

The report for January/February 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 January/February 2008 report on the various activities undertaken by Environment Canterbury be received.
A M Gregory-Hunt / E C Tuck CARRIED

6.5 Adoption of the Operational Plan to Implement The Pest Management Strategy

A Draft Operational Plan 2008-2013 to implement the Chatham Islands Pest Management Strategy 2008-2018 was presented to Council for adoption. As required by Section 85 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, an Operational Plan must be prepared within three months after the Strategy was “made”. The Operational Plan has to be reviewed annually, and if the Council thinks fit, amended.

The budget for implementing the Operational Plan will be approved through the LTCCP and Annual Plan processes.

Cr Mills thought that the recent household circular on pests on the Islands was very good.

His Worship asked who would oversee the budget for the pest management programmes. The General Manager advised that it would be done by Environment Canterbury staff.

RESOLVED THAT the Operational Plan 2008-2013 to implement the Chatham Islands Pest Management Strategy 2008-2018 be adopted subject to funding being approved through the LTCCP and Annual Plan processes.
B J Mills / A W M Preece CARRIED

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:**

7.1 Emergency Response Co-ordinator's Report

The Emergency Response Co-ordinator, Rana Solomon, presented a report to Council. Various issues were covered, including training courses, a public awareness campaign, the fire at Green Swamp, an emergency services facility and the Emergency Manager's Conference.

His Worship drew Councillors' attention to the public awareness campaign.

RESOLVED THAT the report from the Emergency Response Co-ordinator be received.

A W M Preece / A M Gregory-Hunt CARRIED

GOVERNMENT:

8.1 Electoral Arrangements for 2010 Elections

The General Manager presented a report on the issues which must be determined by the Council two years prior to the next local body elections in 2010. The three matters which require full public consultation are:

- choice of electoral system (STV or FPP);
- the option of Maori Wards; and
- representation review.

The General Manager advised that Council had voted to use STV for the last two elections to avoid confusion for the voters. The District Health Boards were bound by legislation to use the STV system and Council decided to keep to that system. He was of the view that STV had failed.

Cr Mills asked if the manual counting of votes under the FPP system would be a problem on the Island. The General Manager stated that it would depend on the number of candidates for each issue, but with only 360 voters on the Island, counting manually should not take too long.

Cr Tuck favoured FPP as it was a much simpler system for people to use.

Cr Croon asked what the process was for a Maori Ward representative. The General Manager advised that for an elector to vote for a Maori Ward representative, they must be on the Maori Electoral Role. He noted that

Council already had over 60% Maori/Moriiori representation on the Council.

The General Manager was aware that Council needed to do better regarding building relationships with Iwi. Funding had been made available in the budget to build on the issue.

Cr Tuck stated that she would like to see a Maori Ward established. Currently she made decisions on Council as a community representative, rather than singularly as a Maori Ward member.

Cr Mills stated that the public new who the Council members were. If the public had an issue that they wished to be put before Council, they had the opportunity to contact any Council member to have the issue put forward. Cr Preece agreed stating that he was not in favour of establishing a Maori Ward. It was suggested that a reminder to the public about approaching Council members with an issue, should be put in the Council's Chatham Islander article.

His Worship considered it necessary to remain with eight Councillors as there were occasions when more than one member was unable to attend a Council Meeting. This sometimes led to difficulties raising a quorum.

RESOLVED THAT

1. First Past the Post (FPP) should be the electoral system to be used for the 2010 and 2013 local body elections.
2. There was not a need to establish a Maori Ward.
3. The number of Councillors should remain at eight.
4. A public consultation process be undertaken on the above three decisions to enable completion of the process by September 2008.

A M Gregory-Hunt / E C Tuck CARRIED

8.2 Minutes of Conservation Board Meeting

The Minutes of the Chatham Islands Conservation Board Meeting held on 7 November 2007 were included in the Agenda.

The General Manager drew members' attention to the discussion at the Board meeting on Council's use of Biodiversity Condition funds and that Council could

have used local people more in the processes used to expend those funds.

He advised that he had met with the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds Manager, Alan White, when he visited the Island last month.

The General Manager was concerned that Mr White was still of the belief that Environment Canterbury had applied for the funds. He once again explained to Mr White that the Chatham Islands Council was the applicant and that Environment Canterbury was contracted by the Council to undertake the application process on its behalf. He drew the 'family tree' on the whiteboard to enhance his explanation.

The General Manager stated that despite the Council missing out on funding, it was pleasing to see that almost \$220,000 over three years was allocated to the Chatham Islands for the Taiko Trust and the Tuanui Family Trust. These funds will be used to help improve and maintain petrels, taiko, oystercatcher and parea and their habitats

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Conservation Board Meeting be received.

M Croon / A M Gregory-Hunt CARRIED

CHATHAM ISLANDS: 9.1 Economic Development Regional Strategy Fund

A letter was received from the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust requesting that Council provide \$5,350 towards the cost of the Chatham Islands Regional Strategy to be undertaken by Taylor Baines. The local community share to fund the review was 20% with the Council and Enterprise Trust funding that amount.

RESOLVED THAT Council provide \$5,350 towards the cost of the review of the Chatham Islands Regional Strategy.

M Croon / N J Whaitiri CARRIED

GENERAL MANAGER: 10.1 Outwards Correspondence Schedule

RESOLVED THAT the outwards correspondence schedule for January/February 2008 be received.

A W M Preece / N J Whaitiri CARRIED

10.2 Outwards Email Schedule

RESOLVED THAT the outwards emails schedule for January/February 2008 be received.

M Croon / N C Ryan CARRIED

MAYORAL:

11.1 Inwards and Outwards Correspondence

RESOLVED THAT the outwards Mayoral correspondence schedule for January/February 2008 be received.

N C Ryan / M Croon CARRIED

The General Manager read out a reply he had received on behalf of His Worship from the Minister of Health, David Cunliffe. Mr Cunliffe thanked His Worship for his letter and stated that he fully expected “the people of Hawke’s Bay and the Chatham Islands to continue to have access to the highest possible standards of public health care”.

CLOSURE:

Meeting Closure

After consideration of the In Camera Agenda and there being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 2.52 p.m.

CONFIRMED THIS 17th DAY OF APRIL 2008

MAYOR