

CHATHAM ISLANDS COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Chatham Islands Council, held in the Council Chambers, Tuku Road, Waitangi, on Thursday, 17 December 2009, commencing at 1.35 p.m.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Mr P F Smith, Deputy Mayor, A W M Preece, and Councillors P R Christiansen, J I Clarke, M Croon, A M Gregory-Hunt and E C Tuck.

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting General Manager, Deborah Goomes
Emergency Management Coordinator, Rana Solomon
Secretarial Assistant, Tania Whaitiri

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Councillors N C Ryan and N J Whaitiri.

RESOLVED THAT the apologies from Councillors Ryan and Whaitiri be received.

A W M Preece / E C Tuck CARRIED

MINUTES: **2.1 Ordinary Meeting, 12 November 2009**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Chatham Islands Council, held on Thursday, 12 November 2009, be confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record.

E C Tuck / P R Christiansen CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING: Page 4, Council Dues

His Worship noted that this calamity where Council Dues were in long-term arrears had occurred twice before in his time. Acting General Manager, Deborah Goomes, advised the Council that \$108,000 of Dues was outstanding from Black Robin Freighters and \$35,200 for 44 South Shipping. His Worship stated that there needed to be a plan in place to “get on top of it”. If payments were to be drip-fed then there needed to be a commitment. He noted that the Council had arranged with the bank to get a \$100,000 overdraft because of the timing issues around monies coming in from the New Zealand Transport Authority, Central Government and the Council Dues revenue.

Cr Gregory-Hunt stated that if the Dues monies were in the bank then an overdraft would not have been necessary. The Mayor replied that that was correct.

His Worship advised that the General Manager was working through the procedure with the other ship noting that both services had been “put on the spot”. He stated that Council needed to keep an eye on the situation, along with management.

Page 7, Owenga Wharf Salvageables

His Worship stated that it was good to see the decision made about salvageable materials from the old Owenga Wharf so that some organisations can gain a wee bit of income from that dunnage.

Cr Clarke mentioned that there might not be much left as a lot of it was disappearing.

Cr Croon advised that the Pitt Island and Waitangi Wharf materials had been bundled up but the materials offered to charitable organisations for fundraising had possibly been taken.

No registers of interest were received from those organisations.

Page 9, Housing Funding Scenarios

His Worship noted that it was necessary to find a major funding provider when Council looked at housing.

The Acting General Manager advised that a Housing Trust meeting was planned for January 2010 to re-evaluate things and assess “where to from here”. A suggestion had been made to Housing New Zealand about the merits of coming to the Islands to do a workshop about funding with the Housing Trust, the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust and with Imi/Iwi.

The Acting General Manager said that she had a meeting with Ian McFarlane, Chief Executive Officer, CIET, following the potential restructuring hui. He raised the issue of housing. She advised him that the Housing Trust had done some work and was not very far away from securing a project but due to things like the availability of land and not being able to lift the reserve status of a piece of Council’s land, the process had stalled. He gave an indication that there might be an opportunity to work with the Trust in addressing some of the land issues for housing.

The Acting General Manager followed up with Mr McFarlane on whether the Enterprise Trust was going to be able to fund the Warm Homes Project by way of a loan. The

Trust had resolved to do so but this had not been communicated to Council.

The Acting General Manager will report to the Housing Trust in the New Year and put forward a recommendation to undertake a workshop with the view to developing a collective approach, and to building relationships with key on-Island organisations by way of a Housing Strategy.

MINUTES:

2.2 Minutes of the Hearing for CIET Wind Farms

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Hearing Committee Meeting, held on Friday, 6 November 2009, be confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record.

J I Clarke / E C Tuck CARRIED

WORKS & SERVICES:

4.1 Downer EDi Works Report, November 2009

RESOLVED THAT the Downer EDi Works Report for November 2009 be received.

M Croon / A W M Preece CARRIED

Cr Croon asked about footpath maintenance, specifically coming down Tuku Road, where weeds had grown over the path. She would like to see it cleaned up. Cr Gregory-Hunt added that it needed dirt put down and grass planted which, she thought Council was told was going to happen.

Cr Croon noted the variegated thistles on Te Matarae Road reserves, which were Council's responsibility, and also on the roadside verges at Port Hutt.

His Worship spoke about gorse control. He stated that this year the correct time needed to be devoted for spraying gorse along the roadways because there was still gorse on the roadways. Council could not go to a farmer until Council had cleared its own roadway. He hoped that the programme this year was going to be abundant.

His Worship asked when the grading of Pitt Island Roads was going to happen. Councillors advised him that the Contractor was on Pitt Island at the moment.

4.2 Engineer's October 2009 Report

RESOLVED THAT the Engineer's Report for October 2009 be received.

J I Clarke / A W M Preece CARRIED

Cr Croon asked when Council would make a decision to purchase and install cattle stops. Cr Tuck responded that Council was trying to get a decrease in price.

Cr Gregory-Hunt advised that the upgrade to the cattle stop at the Airport did not cost as much as the quote that Council had received.

His Worship had concerns about cattle stops creating a “thorough-fare speed track” through a side road like Te Matarae. He tended to agree that Pitt Island should be the first area to get cattle stops.

Cr Preece advised that he and the General Manager had a meeting with the Conservation Board and during the biosecurity discussion raised the issue of cattle stops. The Board was very happy for there to be cattle stops on Pitt Island.

His Worship added that signage was important to advise road users that they were one-way and who had the right of way.

Cr Gregory-Hunt stated that Council did not need to discuss signage as that was the Engineers’ job.

Cr Preece agreed with Cr Croon that it was time to make a decision.

Cr Gregory-Hunt mentioned that an increase in traffic on Te Matarae Road could attract more funding.

Cr Tuck stated that she had concerns about any cattle stops being installed on Te Matarae Road because stock would still be loose on the road itself and so it seemed that cattle stops would be pointless. In addition, enforcement of fencing of the roadside could, potentially, create financial hardship.

RESOLVED THAT the purchase and installation of cattle stops on Pitt Island roads be initiated.

E C Tuck / A M Gregory-Hunt CARRIED

4.3 Engineer’s November 2009 Report

RESOLVED THAT the Engineer’s Report for November 2009 be received.

A M Gregory-Hunt / J I Clarke CARRIED

Cr Croon asked why the safety improvements had not been completed at Te One School as discussed with Shaun Mitchell, MWH Engineer. His Worship advised that the funding for that was reallocated to the Owenga township sealing project. Cr Croon added that Council should try again in next year's programme.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

5.1 Rural Travel Fund (SPARC) Applications

Sport and Recreation New Zealand renewed the Rural Travel Fund for 2009/10 with an allocation of \$14,200. Eligible organisations on the Islands were advised of this and invited to apply for funding.

At the close of applications, three had been received:

- Chatham Islands Youth Rugby
For transportation to and from rugby training camp held in Christchurch - \$7,159
- Pitt Island School Board of Trustees
For transportation on the Chatham Islands to and from organised games - \$3,000 plus GST (\$3,375)
- Weka Walk, Pitt Island
For transportation within New Zealand to and from sporting and coaching activities - \$2,270.

RESOLVED THAT

1. The application from Chatham Islands Youth Rugby for \$7,159 be approved.
2. The application from the Pitt Island School Board of Trustees for \$3,375 be approved.
3. The application from Weka Walk (Pitt Island) for the amount of \$2,270 be approved.
4. The surplus amount of \$3,171 (incl. GST) be carried forward to the next funding year.

P R Christiansen / A W M Preece CARRIED

REGULATORY:

6.1 Minutes of District Licensing Agency Meeting

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Chatham Islands District Licensing Agency Meeting, held on Thursday, 12 November 2009, be received.

A W M Preece / J I Clarke CARRIED

6.2 Taupo District Council's Resolution – 1080 Use

A letter was received from the Taupo District Council explaining its stand on the use of 1080 poison.

RESOLVED THAT the letter regarding 1080 use be received.

A W M Preece / P R Christiansen CARRIED

6.3 Update from Environment Canterbury

Cr Christiansen stated that he had heard that Environment Canterbury was not very well liked at the moment. He had seen an article in the paper.

His Worship stated that every Canterbury Council had to go through Environment Canterbury and it was his understanding that those Councils were saying that they wanted to have more voice about their own water use without, for example, Central Canterbury setting the requirements for somewhere in South Canterbury.

Cr Christiansen responded that it was the same for us here, where they are making the rules for here.

Councillors advised Cr Christiansen that that was incorrect, that they are our contractors and we make our own rules. They make recommendations and we needed to ensure that they were in our favour before we adopted them. The final decision rests with this Council.

His Worship stated that a part of the funding package from Central Government was for the regional functions contract. Environment Canterbury won the contract. He advised that we utilize their personnel and instruct them to assist with our intentions and requirements. They come back with scenarios that advise us of various legislative requirements and answers that are beneficial to the way that Council perceived them for our Islands - so, they “come up with the school work and Council makes the decisions”.

RESOLVED THAT the November 2009 report on the various activities undertaken by Environment Canterbury be received.

J I Clarke / E C Tuck CARRIED

CLOSURE:

Meeting Closure

After consideration of the In Camera Agenda, and there being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 2.16 p.m.

CONFIRMED THIS 28th DAY OF JANUARY 2010

MAYOR