

# Marlborough District Council

<p><b>Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the COMMUNITY &amp; FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, District Administration Building, Seymour Street, Blenheim on MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2009 commencing at 1.30 pm</b></p>
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## **Present**

Clrs G A Hope (Chairman), G S Barsanti, J L Andrews, C F Bowers, F D Maher, N W Weetman and Mayor A T Sowman.

## **In Attendance**

Messrs D G Heiford (Manager, Support Services), M F Fletcher (Manager, Corporate Finance) and Ms J R North (Committee Secretary).

## **Also Present**

Clrs T R Harrison and P J S Jerram.

## **Apologies**

**Clrs Weetman/Barsanti:**

**That an apology for non attendance from Clr G Taylor be received and sustained.**

## **Carried**

NOTE: Clr Barsanti assumed the chair in place of chairman, Clr Hope, who declared an interest and withdrew from the table for the following item on the Marlborough Research Centre.

## **A.09/10.240      Marlborough Research Centre**

*E045-01*

Representing the Marlborough Research Centre Trust (MRCT) were MRCT trustees, John Marris, Chairman, and Edwin Pitts in respect of the Trust's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Report for 2008/09 including financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009. Ivan Sutherland, Marlborough Research Centre Board Chair was unable to attend and tendered his apology.

The Trust reported a deficit of \$222,239 for the 2008/09 financial year. The global recession affected the sale of sauvignon blanc grapes and this contributed to the deficit being posted.

The report is a compilation of the past 25 years of research activities, anecdotes and chronological historical references. They believe that the past quarter of a century has provided an extremely successful regional model of scientific endeavour and technical support that has underpinned Marlborough's primary sector development.

Recognition and appreciation of the role key partners have played is also recorded. They acknowledge that without the Marlborough District Council, Crown Research organisations and many scientific and technical personalities who have worked along side the Trust, the organisation would have struggled to survive.

Special mention was made of the late Bob de Castro, horticulturist, who is recognised in the anniversary report for his foresight and fortitude, which has helped lead to the first class facilities operating today.

Mayor Sowman congratulated the Marlborough Research Centre on what they have done for Marlborough and also acknowledged the late Bob de Castro's achievements for the District.

**Mayor Sowman/Clr Andrews:**

**That the Marlborough Research Centre Trust's 2008/09 Annual Report and its audited financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2009 be received.**

**Carried**

**A.09/10.241 Destination Marlborough *E045-02***

Destination Marlborough Trust provided a Business Plan for the ensuing year, a report on its activities for the past financial year including a report on whether it achieved the outcomes and objectives set out in the Business Plan for the relevant period, and a copy of their audited annual accounts.

Tracy Johnston, General Manager, along with Joe Ferraby, Chairman of the Trust, expanded on their achievements for 2008/09 and commented on major focus points for 2009/10.

Chair, Joe Ferraby answered questions on their financial statements. The Trust reported a loss of \$62,216 in the 2008/09 year; the Blenheim and Picton i-SITES being the major cause of the deficit. Their budget for 2009/10 is forecasting a loss of \$27,991, but the work that is being put into improve i-SITE revenue and that the financial results to date are ahead of budget, it's hoped that a small profit will be achieved.

**Clrs Barsanti/Maher:**

**That Destination Marlborough Trust's audited financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2009 and its 2009/2010 Business Plan be received.**

**Carried**

NOTE: Clr Bowers declared an interest and withdrew from the table.

**A.09/10.242 Millennium Public Art Gallery *C180-01***

Cressida Bishop, Chief Executive Officer and Rick Wilson, Chair of the Millennium Public Art Gallery Trust gave an overview of recent and future developments at the Art Gallery.

Since opening in 2000 they have averaged 200 shows. Schools continue to be strong advocates of the Gallery.

The Gallery has 3 part-time employees and is grateful for at the continuing support of their 40 volunteers.

**Clrs Hope/Barsanti:**

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

**A.09/10.243 Marlborough Regional Economic Development Strategy *E045-03***

The Committee was updated on the first four-month progress made on the Marlborough Regional Economic Development Strategy by the Strategic Policy Manager, Francis Pauwels.

Progress was underway to date on 11 of the 16 action plans put up to the Community & Financial Planning Committee on 20 July 2009.

**Clrs Barsanti/Andrews:**

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

## **A.09/10.244 Street Stall (Cart) Operations (Commercial) - Blenheim CBD C270-10**

The Committee reviewed the existing policy on street stall (cart) operations for the Blenheim Commercial Business District (CBD) following complaints about street stall operations being allowed to operate in the vicinity of businesses that provide similar goods; in particular coffee. Comment had also been made on the physical appearance of one of the operations currently in the licensed sites.

Over ten years ago a policy was approved by Council to accommodate street stall (cart) operations in licensing, on an annual basis, a site on legal road in the CBD to sell their perishable goods (e.g. food, flowers etc). The policy was initiated when a coffee vendor applied to Council to ply his trade from a coffee cart in Market Place.

As per the policy the site was valued by a registered valuer with the rental being set at \$1,000 (GST excl). It had not been reviewed since.

The coffee vendor, in requesting a site in Market Place, became the forerunner for subsequent street stall operations to ask for a site in that area, rather than elsewhere in the Blenheim CBD. The policy provided for six sites in the Blenheim CBD.

Currently three sites are licensed in the Blenheim CBD. The longest running licensees, Jones's Berries are into their fourth season. A vegetable vendor had in recent times started operating from a site he licensed in December 2008, and the third licensee, also a recent occupant, is a coffee vendor.

The vision, with the advent of the street stall operations in the CBD, was and continues to be through Urbanismplus Ltd's Blenheim Urban Design Strategy, to cultivate a vibrant, attractive, bustling environment. The Strategy states the whole thrust of taking the Blenheim town centre positively forward is about giving Blenheim a heart with vitality. Street stalls are a positive addition, as they add diversity of activity, increased energy, colour and vitality.

Councillors discussed the issue and were supportive of the Blenheim Urban Design Strategy's vision of creating a vibrant town centre and to that end saw the street stall operation playing a role in achieving that.

The Committee recommended that Council continue with street stall operations in the Blenheim CBD and that the following policy be adopted:

### ***STREET STALL OPERATIONS (COMMERCIAL) - BLENHEIM CBD***

1. Five street stall locations are available in the Blenheim Commercial Business District (CBD); four in Market Place and one in Adams Place.
2. The appearance and size of the operation (dimensions and staffing) and the total area occupied to be approved by the Councillor responsible for the CBD and relevant Council staff.
3. The street stall operation is restricted to retailing of food/coffee and other perishables, e.g. flowers.
4. The licensing of each site will be available by way of expressions of interest, with a firm process to be determined for future years.
5. The site licence fee is to be fixed by Council following a valuation from a Registered Valuer (reviewed every three years).
6. The licence period of occupancy of each site to be for the full 12 months with a right of renewal for 3 years at Council's discretion.
7. The site licence fee is to be paid to Council prior to the street stall operation commencing.





**A.09/10.248 Financial Report for Support Services Department -  
Period Ended 30 September 2009** *F045-07*

The financial report for Support Services Department for the period ended 31 August 2009 was reported on.

**Clrs Barsanti/Weetman:**

**That the financial report for the period ended 30 September 2009 be received.**

**Carried**

**A.09/10.249 Treasury Management Report for Period Ended  
30 September 2009** *F045-07*

Council's Treasury Management Report for the quarter ended 30 September 2009 was presented to the Committee by the Corporate Finance Manager.

**Clrs Hope/Barsanti:**

**That the Treasury Management Report for the period ended 30 September 2009 be received.**

**Carried**

**A.09/10.250 Debtors Overdue Report** *A135-04*

The Debtors' Reconciliation as at 30 September 2009 was presented to the Committee for information.

It was reported that total outstanding debtors had reduced from \$1,470,416.61 at 31 August 2009 to \$997,314.69 at 30 September 2009 with decreases in all debtor aged categories.

**Clrs Hope/Barsanti:**

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

**A.09/10.251 Rates Reports** *R135-03*

The Rate Levies Status report and Rate Arrears Aged Balance report as at 31 October 2009 were reported on. Council collected 24.70% of the overall rates levy for 2009-2010 (includes arrears); this compared with 24.53% at the same time last year.

**Clrs Barsanti/Hope:**

**That the reports be received.**

**Carried**

**A.09/10.252 Picton Foreshore Area - Land Rationalisation** *L135-PO6C*

The District Secretary, Tony Quirk presented his report which addressed rationalisation of Council land associated with the Picton Foreshore, in part currently under development, since the current holdings involve a patchwork of different land sites and with different status.

Mr Quirk advised there were parcels of freehold land, recreation reserve, and local purpose reserve with different sub-classifications. It was intended to undertake a rationalisation acknowledging any proposals for revocation of the reserve status would be unsuccessful.

Development of the Picton Foreshore area has been the subject of considerable consultation not only in the plan development stage but also by publicly notified resource consent process.

For that reason it was assessed there had already been adequate consultation, which would extend to any Maori involvement.

Clrs Weetman/Bowers:

1. That pursuant to Section 15 of the Reserves Act 1977, Section 1174 Town of Picton (Local Purpose Reserve - Municipal Buildings) be exchanged for freehold land being part of Lot 1 DP 3906 of an equivalent area/value and that this area of Lot 1 DP 3906 be amalgamated with the land in title MB31/295 to be held as Local Purpose Reserve (Municipal Buildings and car park access).
2. That pursuant to Section 24 of the Reserves Act 1977 the land held in titles MB5A/885, MB5A/886, MB5A/888 and MB31/295 being Local Purpose Reserves for Municipal Buildings; Municipal Buildings and car park access and Plunket rooms be all classified as Local Purpose Reserves (civic purposes).
3. That following completion of the actions under recommendations one and two action be taken for the allotments applied to sites 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (as adjusted) and sites 3, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 (as adjusted) be amalgamated into one allotment for each of the different status areas or in the alternative for a survey plan to be completed to define each of the specific areas is one Lot and have amalgamated titles issued.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Murray South, Financial Services Manager.

## **A.09/10.253 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded -**

Clrs Hope/Barsanti:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- Debtors' Overdue Report
- Rating Issues
- Investigations 2009
- Insurance 2009

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Debtors' Overdue Report Rating Issues Investigations 2009 Insurance 2009	In order to protect the privacy of natural persons, as provided for under Section 7(2)(a).	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Carried

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm.

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