



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Marlborough District Council
held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2020 commencing at 9.32 am**

Present

The Mayor J C Leggett (in the Chair), Cllrs J L Andrews, J A Arbuckle, C J Brooks, J D N Croad, B G Dawson, M J Fitzpatrick, G A Hope, D D Oddie, M A Peters, T P Sowman and N P Taylor

Via Zoom

Clr B A Faulls

In Attendance

Messrs M S Wheeler (Chief Executive), A P Quirk (District Secretary) and Ms N J Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Karakia

The meeting opened with a karakia.

Cncl-0920-xx Declaration of Interests -

Members were reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

A number of declarations were noted in the agenda:

- The various interests as declared under Minute No. Cncl-0820-38;
- The interest as declared at the meeting by Clr Faulls under Minute No. Cncl-0920-43;
- The interests as declared by Clr Faulls and Clr Fitzpatrick under Minute No. PF&C-0920-73;
- The interest as declared at the meeting by Clr Hope under Minute No. PF&C-0920-75; and
- The interests as declared by Clr Fitzpatrick under Minute No. PF&C-0920-e-12

Apology

The Mayor/Clr Taylor:

That the apology for lateness/absence from Clr F D Maher be received and sustained.

Carried

Cncl-0920-xx Confirmation of Minutes -

The Mayor/Clr Taylor:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 August 2020 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0820-38 to Cncl-0820-46) be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

Committee Reports

Cncl-0920-xx Assets & Services Committee

-

In response to a query from Cllr Brooks on whether an update has been provided to East Coast residents regarding the construction of the Flaxbourne Irrigation Scheme, noted under Minute No. A&S-0820-48. Luke van Velthooven, present in the public gallery, advised that information has been circulated and a resource consent application has been lodged with Council.

Cllrs Taylor/Fitzpatrick:

That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. A&S-0820-47 to A&S-0820-58 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0920-xx Environment Committee

-

The following amendment to Minute No. Env-0820-65 Recommendation 2 was noted – Cllr Arbuckle [Chair].

The Mayor/Cllr Oddie:

That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. Env-0820-59 to Env-0820-72 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0920-xx Planning, Finance & Community Committee

-

Cllrs Peters/Croad:

That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. PF&C-0920-73 to PF&C-0920-88 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mrs Linda Craighead, Council's Reserves & Amenities Officer - Planning, was present for the following item.

Cncl-0920-xx Notification of Draft Management Plan for Victoria Domain Reserves

R510-014-017-04

The purpose of the report was to seek approval to notify a draft reserve management plan for the Victoria Domain Reserves in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and to establish a Hearings Panel.

It was noted that the public had been invited to provide written suggestions/feedback to Council in July 2018 with 34 individuals/groups providing written suggestions to Council.

Te Ātiawa provided an initial draft of the reserve management plan and this has been further developed by Council staff. The draft was considered at a workshop with Councillors in late July 2020 and further input has been provided from Te Ātiawa.

Members were advised that separate to the notification of the draft plan, Te Ātiawa are proposing a survey to consider an alternative Māori name for the area covered by the reserve management plan.

The submission period will commence on 24 September 2020 and close mid-January 2021 with hearings held in early February 2021. It was noted that the submission period is longer than the Reserves Act requirement of two months as it would be challenging to complete the hearings process prior to Christmas.

It was reported that consideration of a Hearings Panel will be presented to a future Assets & Services Committee meeting to approve the appointment of a Hearings Panel.

Cllrs Taylor/Brooks:

That the Council approve the draft management plan for the Victoria Domain Reserves for the purposes of public submission as is required by Section 41(6)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Richard Coningham, Council's Manager Assets and Services and Luke van Velthooven, Chair Marlborough Kaikoura Trail Trust were present for the following item.

Cncl-0920-xx Whale Trail release of Council Funding

C230-001-C02

The purpose of the report was seek approval from Council to release the capital funding of \$2m allocated to the Whale Trail in March 2018.

In July 2020, Central Government announced funding of \$18m for the construction of the Whale Trail. The Trust is currently working through prerequisite funding requirements with MBIE staff for this funding to be released.

Members were advised that one of the funding requirements is that work is required to commence within eight weeks on actual construction of the trail. To enable this to occur the Trust wish to access the funding that Council has set aside to begin construction while they continue to address the prerequisite requirements to access the PGF funding.

Mr van Velthooven advised members that the Trust has had a number of meetings with IRG (Infrastructure Reference Group) and they have accepted that the Trust can fulfil its obligations under the contract. Particularly with the Picton through Seddon trail.

Members were advised that agreements with Picton and Blenheim private landowners are in place and have been signed. There are also a number of agreements in place with KiwiRail. Mr van Velthooven noted that the Trust has a very good working relationship with KiwiRail who have key personnel working with the Trust.

It was noted that once consents are in place construction could be underway prior to Christmas for the Picton to Blenheim section of the trail thereby ticking off a construction milestone and securing further funding.

Members discussed the Trust's request and noted their support for releasing the budgeted capital funding.

Cllrs Fitzpatrick/Peters:

That Council approve the progressive release of \$2 million of capital funding allocated to the Whale Trail construction from the Forestry and Land Development Reserve subject to:

- 1. The Chair Assets and Services and the Manager Assets and Services approving a plan of the capital works and costings principally for the Picton to Blenheim portion of the trail but all within the Marlborough District Council boundaries which the funding will be applied to.**
- 2. The Chair Assets and Services and the Manager Assets and Services being satisfied that required landowner permissions, consents and practical requirements for that part of the route can be met.**
- 3. That the Trust sign an agreement with Council setting out the future obligations and intentions of each party (as previously approved by Council).**
- 4. That each payment made by Council will be based on a tax invoice for completed works certified by the construction project manager.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Jamie Lyall, Council's Manager Property and Community Facilities, was present for the following item.

Cncl-0920-xx Blenheim and Picton CBD Parking R800-002-03

Jamie Lyall, Council's Manager Property and Community Facilities, advised that the report presented provides an update to Council on the financial impacts of Council's decision to introduce two hour free parking to Blenheim and Picton central business districts (CBD) through to 30 September 2020 and seeks direction on a number of parking options through to 30 June 2021. The options proposed were detailed in the agenda item.

By way of background it was noted that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic Council provided two hours free parking across Picton and Blenheim CBD's on-street and off-street car parks from May through to September 2020.

It was reported that the BBA surveyed its members which reinforced the value that Council's two hours free parking policy has provided to local businesses over the last five months.

It was reported that free parking has been well received by shoppers and business owners but has resulted in a substantial loss of income in the parking account and if continued would mean a 1% rate increase.

The options detailed in the agenda were explained. It was noted that Option E, which promotes one hour free parking to on-street areas only, would align with Picton's P60 parking restriction and could promote the turnover for CBD parking. This option could also signal the beginning of the transition out of the current subsidisation model and back to business as usual.

Members discussed the options further and Cllr Croad noted his support for Option D and advised that whatever option is selected the length of application should continue to the end of the 2020-21 financial year as this will assist with preparing information for the parking activity to be reviewed as part of Council's Long Term Plan 2021-31. Cllr Croad then moved the following motion which was seconded by Cllr Brooks "That Council approve providing 1 hour free parking to *all areas* until 30 June 2021 and that the parking activity be reviewed through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan."

Members further discussed the proposal and the suggestion that any shortfall in revenue for this financial year could be funded by running the parking account in to deficit. Members were not comfortable with this option as the parking account already has a deficit.

Cllr Peters noted the points made and moved the following motion, seconded by Cllr Oddie "That approval be given for the 50% projected deficit of \$233,500 be shifted into the carparking account from Emergency Events reserve."

Cllr Sowman then moved an amendment to the resolution that the free parking cease on 31 December 2020. The motion lapsed for want of a seconder and the substantive motions were put to the Committee.

Cllrs Croad/Brooks:
That Council approve:

1. **The adoption of Option D - initiate one hour free parking to *all areas* until 30 June 2021.**
2. **That the parking activity be reviewed through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.**

Carried

Cllrs Peters/Oddie:
That approval be given for the 50% projected deficit of \$233,500 be shifted into the carparking account from Emergency Events Reserve.

Carried

Cncl-0920-xx Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

-

The Mayor/Clr Arbuckle:

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

Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes

- Committee Reports (Public Excluded Sections)

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
Minutes and Committee Reports	As set out in the Minutes and Reports	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 10.31 am.

Confirmed this xxx day of xxx 2020

J C LEGGETT

MAYOR

Record No. 20195411