
**MINUTES OF POLICY & SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE WAR MEMORIAL
CENTRE ON TUESDAY 26 MAY 2009 AT 3.00 PM.**

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor Mr N C Volzke (Chairman), Councillors A L Frost, R M Hignett, V Milner, S M Pugh, J C Rowe, W J Sandford, K R Squire, R K Vickers and the District Mayor J D Edwards.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive Mr M R Freeman, the Operations Manager Mr J Jones, the Community Services Manager Mrs P R James, the Corporate Services Manager Mr H M Swart, the Executive Administration Officer Mrs D J Christie and two representatives from the media (Stratford Press, Daily News).

APOLOGIES

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor V Milner. An apology was received from the Planning & Regulatory Manager Mr M Avery.

PS/09/110

SANDFORD/ROWE

THAT the apologies be received.

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

1. **MATTERS OUTSTANDING**

It was noted that items referred to Matters Outstanding through the LTCCP process will be put here once the recommendations have been confirmed.

2. **CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

File 03130

Councillors were referred to page 3, the figure of \$5,000 should actually be \$20,000.

Councillor Pugh arrived at 3.06 pm.

PS/09/111

FROST/EDWARDS

THAT the Chief Executives report be received.

Carried

3. FINANCE REPORT

File 06010

Councillors were referred to pages 8 and 9, there were two names missing, these being the Toko Hall Committee and the Midhirst Hall Committee.

It was noted that there are a number of residents who were able to obtain a rate rebate. Next year the threshold for eligibility will be altered slightly. The level of service from the Council staff with regards to the rate rebates process with their knowledge and helpfulness is outstanding and these comments would be passed on.

PS/09/112

SQUIRE/SANDFORD

6.1 THAT the finance report be received.

Carried

Discussion - Rates Remission

The recommendation has been amended to add in Toko Hall Committee and Midhirst Hall Committee under the 100% Rate Remission list.

PS/09/113

VICKERS/FROST

6.2 THAT the Community, Sporting and Other Organisations listed be granted a rates remission for the 2009/2010 rating year of either 100% or 50% as indicated.

Organisations to be granted 100% Rates Remission:

- Midhirst Buffalo Society Inc
- Midhirst Hall Committee
- Toko Hall Committee
- Scout Association Of NZ
- Tahora Public Hall Assoc Inc
- Whangamomona Public Hall Board
- Douglas Hall Soc (Inc)
- Huinga Hall Soc Inc
- Mahoe Hall Soc
- Cardiff Hall Soc
- Pembroke Hall Soc Inc
- Makahu Hall Society Inc
- Te Wera Outdoor Rec Trust Inc
- Taranaki Pioneer Village Soc Inc
- Ngaere Public Hall Soc Inc
- Pukengahu Social Club Inc
- St Johns Ambulance Association

Organisations to be granted 100% Rates Remission:

- Stratford District Theatre Trust Inc
- Percy Thomson Trust
- Stratford Gymnasium Charitable Trust
- Dynamite Bay Charitable Trust
- Air Cadet League (Inc)
- North Taranaki Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals
- Lodge Hinemoa
- Wharehuia Community Centre Inc

Organisations to be granted 50% Rates Remissions:

- Stratford A & P Association
- Strathmore Golf Club Inc
- Stratford Golf Club Inc
- Stratford Avon Bowling Club
- Stratford Theatre Group Inc
- Stratford Rugby Club Inc

Carried

PS/09/114

EDWARDS/ROWE

6.3 THAT the Stratford District Council enters into a three-year contract with Quotable Value Limited for the provision of valuation services to Council without going through a competitive tendering process.

Carried

4. **OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**

File 18030

Councillors were referred to Item 1.4 on page 18. It was noted that the consultation period for the DOC proposal has been extended and a public meeting was held in New Plymouth last night, therefore the requirements of Councils submission have been met.

It was also noted that the Police have not caught the vandals for the fire in Victoria Park. With regards to the power issues being experienced at the Council Office, we have been reassured that the transformers have been fixed.

PS/09/115

SANDFORD/HIGNETT

THAT the Operations Manager's report be received.

Carried

5. **PLANNING & REGULATORY MANAGER'S REPORT**

File 18030

Under Item 1.10 on page 23, it was noted that there is no contingency fund to cover court costs through the environment court. Council has no ability to claim for costs either as it is an Enforcement Order to protect the environment and not a prosecution, therefore it is a cost to the ratepayers. In past cases the cost has been up to \$50,000.

PS/09/116

VICKERS/FROST

THAT the Planning & Regulatory Manager's report be received.

Carried

6. **COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**

File 18030

PS/09/117

SANDFORD/ROWE

6.1 THAT the report be received.

Carried

Discussion - Percy Thomson Trust

Councillors were referred to page 15 of the Statement of Intent, which showed that the \$50,000 deficit in the budget was because the Trust were waiting on an application to the Taranaki Electricity Trust.

PS/09/118

HIGNETT/EDWARDS

6.2 THAT the Percy Thomson Trust Statement of Intent for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012 be adopted.

Carried

Discussion - Development Levies Fund

Councillor Milner arrived at 3.58 pm.

The following elected members declared an interest:

- *The District Mayor - applications No.9 The Stratford Theatre Group trading as Stratford On Stage and No.10 Stratford District Theatre Trust.*
- *Councillor Hignett - application No. 10 Stratford District Theatre Trust.*
- *Councillor Milner - a pecuniary interest in application No.10.*
- *Councillor Rowe - application No. 10 Stratford District Theatre Trust.*
- *Councillor Squire - application No. 10 Stratford District Theatre Trust and every Stratford District Council application ie. applications No. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.*

It was noted that Council Officers have not given any ranking or order regarding applications and they are purely presented as they were received.

Application No. 1 - Scout Group

It was noted that this application was granted previously but the grant was returned.

Application No. 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 - Stratford District Council

Be declined.

Application No. 7 - Taranaki Pioneer Village Society Inc (TPV)

During discussion the following points were noted:

- TPV deserve all support at all times, as the village is a real draw card for the town and people have been battling away through the years trying to keep it running.
- the chairs required are for a function centre.

Application No. 8 - Egmont Modellers Club

It was noted that the ride-on mower does not fit the criteria. The Egmont Modellers Club could be referred to a pub charity fund.

Application No.9 - The Stratford Theatre Group - trading as Stratford On Stage

Points noted in discussion were:

- the building and the land belong to Council.
- there is a lease agreement which states that the lessee is responsible for maintenance etc.

Councillor Milner vacated the discussion table and sat in the public gallery.

Application 10 - Stratford District Theatre Trust

Points noted in discussion were:

- it is a landmark in town and with a repaint it would brighten up Broadway
- could the group complete the project if it was only given a portion of the money asked for.

PS/09/119

SANDFORD/VICKERS

6.3 THAT the distribution of Development Levy funds be approved as follows:

- Stratford District Theatre Trust \$42,000
- Stratford On Stage \$13,865.63
- Stratford Scout Group \$5,000
- Taranaki Pioneer Village (Balance) \$4,389.35

Carried

The District Mayor and Councillors Hignett, Milner, Rowe & Squire
abstained from voting

Councillor Milner returned to the discussion table.

7. **TSB SWIMMING COMPLEX UPGRADE**

File P1592, 01080

Purpose

To provide an opportunity for elected members to have an early discussion on the potential project of upgrading the TSB Pool Complex.

This discussion is not to make any decisions.

Discussion

The Chief Executive sought to hear a discussion around some of the matters raised in the discussion paper, noting that there are some matters not to be discussed.

Points noted in the discussion were:

- a conversation is required to be held with TSB Community Trust which is a vital start.
- very definitely a community project that Council support and we do have to do all the preliminary work to see what we are up against.
- it was felt that saying "the public want it" is not a correct statement as Council would only be catering for a portion of people that are users.
- it is a community pool which they wish to use at a time when they can, this is not an opportunity at the moment.
- there is potential to move forward, if the community want it so much, then give it to them to lead it and challenge them to get the money.
- real concerns about the money issue and where those funds are going to come from. Would like to keep ratepayers out of the equation.
- how do Council go about finding a Project Chairman and what would be the process. Would need to look back into the history of Stratford projects and the personnel of whom were involved leading those projects.

PS/09/119

MILNER/ROWE

5.1 THAT the report be received.

Recommended Reason

The report provides a framework for starting thinking about progressing this project.

Carried

8. **QUESTION TIME**

File 03096

There were no questions.

The meeting concluded at 4.50 pm.

N C Volzke
CHAIRMAN

Confirmed this 9th day of June 2009.

J D Edwards
DISTRICT MAYOR