

# MINUTES

## Farm and Aerodrome Committee

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 12noon  
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

### Present

Councillor G W Boyde (the Chairman), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors S J Beck and V R Jones, and Committee Members, the Property Officer – Mrs S Flight and the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich.

### In attendance

The Deputy Mayor M McKay, Councillors A M C Dudley, E E Hall and W J Sandford

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the HR & Governance Administrator – Mrs C Reynolds, the Projects Engineer – Mr S Taylor, one member of the media (Stratford Press), and one member of the public (*part-meeting*).

#### 1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive, Councillors, staff and the media.

##### 1.1 Opening Karakia D21/40748 Page 6

The opening karakia was read.

##### 1.2 Health and Safety Message D21/26210 Page 7

The Chairman reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

#### 2. Apologies

An apology was noted from Councillor Clive Tongaawhikau.

#### 3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

#### 4. Declarations of Members Interest

The Chairman requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no declarations of interest.

#### 5. Attendance Schedule

The attendance schedule for Farm & Aerodrome Committee meetings was attached.



## 6. Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 Farm and Aerodrome Committee Meeting – 19 September 2023 D23/40080 Page 9

#### Recommendation

THAT the confirmed minutes of the Farm and Aerodrome Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 September 2023 confirmed as a true and accurate record.

JONES/BECK  
Carried  
F&A/23/28

## 7. Matters Outstanding D20/11504 Page 13

#### Recommendation

THAT the matters outstanding be received.

BOYDE/BECK  
Carried  
F&A/23/29

## 8. Programme of Works D20/28552 Page 14

#### Recommendation

THAT the Programme of Works be received.

BOYDE/VOLZKE  
Carried  
F&A/23/30

- It was noted the final Farm Business Report will be presented to the committee in March.

*MW* *JWB*

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

JONES/BECK  
Carried  
F&A/23/31

2. ~~THAT the Committee considers the proposed projects, capital and operational budget forecasts for the Farm and Aerodrome Activities and recommends, the preferred option to Council for inclusion in the LTP Projections~~

2. THAT the Committee considers the proposed projects, capital and operational budget forecasts for the Farm and Aerodrome Activities and recommends, the preferred option to Council for inclusion in the LTP Projections including any amendments.

BECK/JONES  
Carried  
F&A/23/32

### Recommended Reason

The proposed capital projects will provide many benefits, financial and non- financial.

### Points noted in discussion

#### Lighting upgrade in the Farm house

- It was clarified that this type of expenditure should be day to day maintenance, however there is no budget set for this, therefore the expense has been brought here.
- It was clarified the cost of replacing the light bulbs themselves is high as there are 51 lights in the farm house and because of the types of bulbs they were.
- It was agreed to leave the project as is.

#### Construction of additional Calving Sheds on Council Farm

- It was clarified the issue of not enough space would be present even if stock numbers were reduced in the future, especially given the new rules around bobby calves and the holding size requirements for calves.
- It was confirmed it would be normal flooring for woodchip rather than concreted.
- The Chairman noted he would like the project to be added to 2024/25 as he believes this is one of the more important projects listed. Councillor Hall also questioned the timing of the project, especially given the likely increase of cost due to inflation.
- Councillor Beck noted he would like to see it pushed back in timing due to current pressures. It was advised some other projects might be removed as the committee goes through the list, which should ease some pressure.
- It was agreed to move to the 2024/25 budget period.

#### Installation of a Drafting Gate System

- Councillor Jones advised a automatic drafting gate is a nice to have, and something which could be looked at in a \$10 payout scenario. The Chairman agreed and believed changing the pipework should be sufficient for the next few years.
- It was agreed to remove the project.

#### Cleaning and replacement of subsoil drains

- Councillor Jones questioned how many drains, this will need to be confirmed. Councillor Jones noted he would be shocked if any farm would want to spend \$50,000 on one paddock drain. He advised he would like to see the price re-evaluated.
- The Chairman noted he believed there are 14 novaflow drains which go through 3 paddocks which have been inspected and the point which needs to be dug out has ben identified. He agreed that the

price seems excessive. It was confirmed the paddocks are currently planted in turnips and will then be planted in oats, which leads to the 2025-2026 year period to complete the work required.

- Councillor Beck also agreed the budget seems excessive, however believes the projects is important.
- The District Mayor questioned if this budget was priced under the open space contract, and as this is a farm draining issue, the committee would like to look at a specialised farm drainage company to complete the work. It was noted the open space contractors subcontract the work out to specialised companies.
- It was agreed to keep as is, with the expectation that the whole budget would not be spent.

#### Race and Culvert upgrades

- It was noted the Roding Manager has been out to the farm and identified the culverts which need to be replaced.
- It was advised there are a few issues which need to be considered when evaluating this project such as the cost of lameness in production, vet costs and Fonterra's Animal Wellness standards.
- It was confirmed there is a budget for maintenance of the race, however this is over and above that.
- It was noted that after approximately five years the project would be completed.
- It was agreed to keep the project as is, with the budget of \$25,000 each year.

#### Installation of Security Cameras at the Farm and Aerodrome

- The District Mayor noted he does not support this project as cameras only deter people who know they are there, those who do not will still commit the crime. Councillors Beck and Jones agreed with the District Mayor.
- It was confirmed there are security cameras inside the aeroclub clubrooms.
- It was confirmed there have been no identified thefts from the farm or aeroclub.
- Councillor Jones noted he potentially thinks the project should potentially be kept in as it may deter some people.
- The Chairman, the District Mayor and Councillor Beck agreed to remove the project.

#### Widening Turning Area at Aerodrome fuelling area

- It was confirmed that the area next to the holding tank is grass.
- The Chairman questioned if it is a problem now should it be moved to the 2024/25 year. It was noted the project had been pushed out at another LTP workshop.
- It was advised that if the turning circle is not fit for purpose this may be a case of Council having risk exposure, and Council should consider if an airplane has an incident because of the issue who is responsible.
- It was agreed to bring the project forward to 2024/25 year.

#### Supply and install runway lights

- Councillor Beck questioned if it is listed as grant funded, does that mean there is no implications for Council. It was advised that if the aeroclub wanted to replace the lights they can pay for it, which is grant funded. If Council wants to install the lights Council would fund the project.
- Councillor Jones questioned if the maintenance of the lights falls on whoever pays for the project. It was noted it would be treated as any other lights such as the netball lights and hockey lights, if they are not maintained they will be removed.
- The Chairman noted he believes the project should be removed, and if the aeroclub wish to proceed with the project at their own cost they can do that.
- It was agreed to remove the project.

#### Summary of Amendments:

- Lighting upgrade in the Farm house – No Change
- Construction of additional Calving Sheds on Council Farm – Move to 2024/2025
- Installation of a Drafting Gate System - Removed
- Cleaning and replacement of subsoil drains – No Change
- Race and Culvert upgrades – Change 2024/25 to \$25,000 per annum.
- Installation of Security Cameras at the Farm and Aerodrome - Removed
- Widening Turning Area at Aerodrome fuelling area – Move to 2024/2025
- Supply and install runway lights - Removed

*One member of the public joined the meeting at 12.47pm.*



10. Quarterly Report – Risk Review

D23/46644 Page 33

**Recommendation**

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/VOLZKE  
Carried  
F&A/23/33

11. Quarterly Report – Farm and Aerodrome Business and Financial Report

D23/46898 Page 41

**Recommendation**

THAT the report be received.

BECK/BOYDE  
Carried  
F&A/23/34

The Property Officer noted the following points:

- Requested an indication of the appetite from the committee to sell the property on the corner of Stanley and Beaconsfield Road. The final decision will be made by Council, however will be discussed here as the property was used by the farm.

Points noted in discussion:

- The chairman noted the work to maintain the land is more work than the supplement it provides.
- Councillor Beck noted he would not like to sell the land as the land is there for the community. It was noted the decision would go to full Council where that discussion would be had, the decision today is based on if the land was any use to the Council farm.
- It was decided the committee is comfortable with the sale of the land from a farm perspective
- It was noted the budget seems to be incorrect. The Property Officer will update the budget and circulate to committee members.

12. Quarterly Report – Health and Safety Update

D23/46897 Page 53

**Recommendation**

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/BECK  
Carried  
F&A/23/35

13. Questions

- Councillor Jones queried why the committee had not received the minutes from the last quarterly sharemilkers meeting. It was noted the minutes are not yet complete. Going forward all attempts will be made to circulate to the committee prior to any meeting.

14. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 56

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 1.04pm

G W Boyde  
**Chairman**



Confirmed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.



N C Volzke  
**District Mayor**