

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Queenstown Lakes District Council held in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown on Tuesday 5 April 2016 commencing at 1.00pm

Present:

Mayor Vanessa van Uden; Councillors Aoake, Cocks, Ferguson, Gilmour, Lawton, Macleod, Stammers-Smith and Stevens

In attendance:

Mr Mike Theelen (Chief Executive Officer), Mr Stewart Burns (General Manager Finance and Regulatory), Mr Tony Avery (General Manager, Planning and Development), Mr Peter Hansby (General Manager, Property and Infrastructure), Mr Blair Devlin (Acting District Plan Manager /Planning Practice Manager), Ms Michele Poole (Communications Manager) and Ms Jane Robertson (Governance Advisor); two members of the media

Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Forbes (approved leave of absence) and from Councillor Gazzard.

On the motion of Councillors Stevens and Lawton it was resolved that the apology be accepted.

Leave of Absence Requests

Councillor Stevens requested a leave of absence 6-11 April 2016.

On the motion of Councillors Lawton and Stammers-Smith it was resolved that the request for leave of absence be approved.

Conflict of interest

No conflicts of interest were notified.

Matters Lying on the Table

Proposed New Lease to Canterbury/Westland Kindergarten Inc for the Frankton Kindergarten – remained lying on the table from the ordinary meeting of Council held on 24 February 2016.

Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed without addition or alteration.

Public Forum

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

1 2016-2017 Annual Plan Consultation Document

A covering report from Meaghan Miller (General Manager, Corporate Services) introduced the 2016/17 Annual Plan Consultation Document and supporting document for adoption for the purposes of public consultation.

Stewart Burns and Michele Poole joined the table.

A change was made to the report which incorrectly referred to the 2015-16 10 Year Plan.

Councillor Cocks suggested that the consultation question for increased expenditure on the District Plan Review should be reframed as comment was not being sought on the project itself. Members agreed that some change was necessary and instead of the current text it was agreed the document should signal that this was a significant change rather than a consultation item.

Councillor Gilmour asked the paragraph 'Review of Rates, Fees and Charges' to provide some explanation that the proposal to reduce the rates charged for residential flats is linked to increasing the supply of affordable accommodation.

Councillor Lawton questioned the prominence given to shifting powerlines underground in comparison with reducing rates for residential flats. Ms Poole stated that there was little that could be altered graphically but undertook to make the information about rates for residential flats more prominent on the page.

The Mayor responded to recent media comment on the 2016-17 Annual Plan. She highlighted her concerns about increased wages and salaries signalled in the plan and her difficulty in supporting it because of this, adding however that she was prepared to support it as a document for public consultation.

Councillor Gilmour asked for the parts of the recommendation to be taken separately as she felt she could support the second part of the motion but not the first, as she had not participated in the earlier discussions on the 2016/17 Annual Plan.

On the motion of Councillors MacLeod and Lawton it was resolved that the Council:

- a. Adopts the 2016-2017 Annual Plan supporting document as amended.**

Councillor Gilmour abstained from voting.

On the motion of Councillors MacLeod and Lawton it was resolved that the Council:

- b. Adopts the 2016-17 Annual Plan Consultation Document as amended for consultation.**

The motion was carried unanimously.

2 Delegation of Powers to hear submissions and make recommendations and 'decisions on submissions' on the designations included in the Proposed District Plan

A report from Blair Devlin (Acting District Plan Manager) sought Council approval to delegate to Commissioners Mr Denis Nugent, Ms Jane Taylor, Mr Paul Rogers and Mr David McMahon the power to sit to hear all submissions and further submissions on designations included in the Proposed District Plan and to:

- a. make recommendations to the requiring authority under s171 of the RMA on all designations by requiring authorities *other than* the Council; and
- b. make decisions under s168A(4) of the RMA on all designations where the Council is the requiring authority.

Mr Devlin joined the table. He advised that he had bios available for all the Commissioner recommended although the Council should be familiar with them as all had been used previously.

The Mayor questioned the need to appoint commissioners for Council sought designations because of the perceived conflict of interest. She considered this was an overly conservative view and served only to take the decision-making authority away from Council which it was elected to do. She added that there were plenty of examples where the Council had different roles, especially when acting in its regulatory and corporate capacity.

Mr Devlin advised that there were three reasons for the recommended course of action, namely (a) the efficiency of removing the need for a recommendation to come back to Council; (b) consistency with the established practice for Notice of Requirement applications; and (c) avoidance of the potential and perceived conflict of interest in the Council making a decision on its own designations.

On the motion of Councillors Gilmour and MacLeod it was resolved that Council:

- 1. Note the contents of this report;**
- 2. Delegate to Commissioners Mr Denis Nugent, Ms Jane Taylor, Mr Paul Rogers and Mr David McMahon the power to sit to hear all submissions and further submissions on designations included in the Proposed District Plan and to:**
 - a. make recommendations to the requiring authority under s171 of the RMA on all designations by requiring authorities *other than* the Council; and**
 - b. make decisions under s168A(4) of the RMA on all designations where the Council is the requiring authority.**

- 3. Agree that Denis Nugent as chair of the Proposed District Plan Hearings Panel should allocate the specific designation hearings to the appointed commissioner(s).**

3 Marine Parade Streetscape Upgrade

A report from Andrew Timms (Project Manager) assessed an opportunity for the Council to upgrade the Marine Parade Streetscape through a combined project with Skyline Enterprises which was currently undertaking a new development on the corner of Marine Parade and Church Street. The project would involve widening the footpath adjacent to the lake wall and removing the existing carparks in this area to improve pedestrian and cycle flows. The report recommended that the Council agreed to participate in the upgrade up to a maximum financial contribution of \$250,000 (inclusive of internal Council costs) + GST.

Mr Hansby joined the table. He circulated a new cross-section graphic of option 3.

Members noted that it was planned to install bollards to delineate the barrier between the footpath and roadway and there was discussion about the need for them. It was noted that the presence of pedestrians generally had the effect of slowing traffic. Councillor MacLeod highlighted similar areas in Auckland where traffic and pedestrians mixed without the need for bollards. Councillor Gilmour stated that as a cyclist she found bollards narrowed the carriageway and were generally awkward.

The Mayor stated that funds remaining in the budget for the town centre strategy needed to be used before new funding was allocated to the Marine Parade Streetscape project. Mr Hansby detailed the activity which would use funding remaining for the town centre strategy. Councillor Cocks stated a carry forward should be sought for any unspent funds from this budget so that it could be diverted into this project.

The Mayor asked for the resolution to be altered so that the General Manager Property and Infrastructure was authorised to undertake negotiations rather than a team of personnel. This change was supported.

Councillor Stevens referred to the carparks on Marine Parade that would be lost if the project went ahead and questioned why this had not been identified as a disadvantage in the staff report. The Mayor agreed that this should be recognised as part of town centre strategy and the Council needed to provide additional carparks to supplement those lost in accordance with its commitment for parking to remain at current levels until a viable alternative was available.

On the motion of Councillors Stammers-Smith and Cocks it was resolved that the Council:

- 1. Note the contents of this report;**
- 2. Approve a project budget of \$250,000 (inclusive of internal Council costs) + GST to be included in**

the 2016/2017 Annual Plan to undertake Option 3 to remove car parking and widen the footpath along the Marine Parade lakefront.

- 3. Authorise the General Manager Property and Infrastructure to undertake negotiations with Skyline Enterprises in order to produce an agreement to complete these works up to a maximum Council contribution of \$250,000 (inclusive of internal Council costs) + GST.**

The meeting concluded at 1.34pm.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

M A Y O R

28 April 2016

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