

MINUTES

TITLE: Special Council
DATE: Wednesday 12 April 2006
TIME: 1.00 pm
VENUE: Loney Hall, Wensley Road, Richmond
PRESENT: Mayor J C Hurley (Chair), Crs N Riley, E M O'Regan, P K O'Shea, S G Bryant, R G Currie, M J Higgins, E J Wilkins, J Inglis, T E Norriss

IN ATTENDANCE: Accounting Manager (M W Staite), Environment and Planning Manager (D C Bush-King), Minute Secretary (V M Gribble)

APOLOGIES

**Moved Crs Wilkins/O'Shea
CN06/04/01**

**THAT apologies for absence from Crs Borlase and King be sustained.
CARRIED**

1 ADOPTION OF LTCCP

Council is required to formally adopt its LTCCP for public release.

Cr Norriss wondered how many ratepayers would read the document which is very big and was also concerned about the cost of the process. He said Council can only do what is affordable on an annual basis.

Cr Currie said the public will be unable to comprehend the document.

Cr Higgins said the document is well understood and it is being well received. The process has been good business practice and it provides staff and Council with clarity going forward.

Mr Staite said Council doesn't cash fund depreciation and we have had to make that statement quite clear in the LTCCP. As long as Council has good robust activity management plans then it is quite appropriate for Council to do what it is doing. He advised that the Hot Review Team and Audit had asked for changes to be made. He said Council has received an unqualified audit report for the document. A summary document will be issued which will be more user-friendly.

Cr O'Regan appreciated the time and effort put into the document. He said one item on page 195 appears to be outside the direction of the Community Services Committee concerning the sale of the community housing in Takaka. He didn't agree with the statements included in the LTCCP.

Mr Staite commented that the statement included the consultative process that would be undertaken. He said it could be amended through the submission process.

Cr O'Shea said the Community services meeting did not reach a decision or express the opinion.

Mr Staite was reluctant to move it because each page was viewed and initialled by audit. If we have to step back and remove an item we have to go back to Audit. They would more than likely go back to the Auditor General and it would be delayed at least a week. He said the summary could have a statement referring to the matter.

Mayor Hurley said there was a report done in anticipation of what Community Services was going to do. The report today is a consultative document and not the end of the process. The opportunity is there to add to, or delete from the LTCCP.

Cr O'Regan said he does not have a problem with having the item noted, but he has a major problem with Council making a policy statement when it has not taken this position at this time.

Cr Higgins said the statement itself is not wrong. We could all agree it is a good opportunity, but we've got to the point where we say we don't want to do it. Council is not committed to anything. There is an opportunity, but the risk may be more than what we are prepared to take.

Cr O'Regan said what you are saying is that you wish to proceed with the Trust and you don't have to go through the consultative process.

Cr Henry said the paragraph states that it is not significant because it involves only four out of 97 community houses and there will be no loss in level of service.

Cr O'Shea said a large part of the public will be aware of what Council has decided. There are other things in the plan that will need adjustment.

Cr Riley was concerned about the cost in total that has been imposed on the Council and ratepayers in preparation of the LTCCP.

Cr Bryant said the staff put a large amount of time into the LTCCP and he asked if the process can be streamlined for the future.

Mr Staite said the next two years will be easier. The benefit is we improve our processes and in three years time he expected the process would be much simpler, both for Council and for Audit.

Mr Staite said the LTCCP will be available from Thursday 13 April 2006. We tend to think the summary document will be what the ratepayers will want. They will be available at Service Centres and Libraries.

Cr Henry said a special edition of Newline – The Mag will be devoted totally to the LTCCP and that will be available at the end of April 2006.

**Moved Crs Norriss/Currie
FN06/04/02**

**THAT the Council adopts its audited Long Term Council Community Plan for
the 2006 – 2016 period.
CARRIED**

Cr O'Regan recorded his vote against the motion.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: