

MINUTES

TITLE: Environment & Planning Committee
DATE: Thursday, 15 November 2007
TIME: 9.30 am
VENUE: Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

PRESENT: Cr M J Higgins (Chair), Mayor R G Kempthorne, Crs S J Borlase, S G Bryant, R G Currie, B F Dowler, J L Edgar, B W Ensor, G A Glover, T B King, T E Norriss, N Riley and E J Wilkins

IN ATTENDANCE: Environment & Planning Manager (D C Bush-King), Policy Manager (G S Markham), Resource Consents Manager (R Lieffering), Environmental Information Manager (R Smith), Regulatory Manager (J Hodson), Policy Planner (D Hewitt), Administration Officer (B D Moore)

APOLOGIES

**Moved Crs Riley / Currie
EP07/11/01**

**THAT apologies from Cr Inglis for absence and Cr King for lateness be sustained.
CARRIED**

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr L Donaldson suggested that Council use the funds available to Council from Port Nelson Limited to reduce some of Council's debt. He said that water supplies will be a major problem in the future and suggested that solar furnaces could be used for sea water desalination facilities. He referred to the increased erosion on the shoreline of Rabbit Island.

Michelle Kejellberg of 2 Doran Street, Richmond spoke about the adverse cross-boundary effects experienced by residents of Doran Street from adjacent commercial and light industrial activity. She suggested an extension of the Richmond Central Business District to include that area together with the provision of an adequate buffer zone. She tabled a letter signed by residents of three properties at Doran Street and one in Chisnall Street.

Representatives of Patons Rock Beach Association, Mr S Hedley and Mr P Fullerton, wished to speak in the public forum and Cr Higgins said that an opportunity would be provided during presentation of the resource policy briefing report.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 Environment & Planning Subcommittee – 24 September 2007

Moved Crs Bryant / King
EP07/11/02

THAT the minutes of a meeting of the Environment & Planning Subcommittee held on 24 September 2007, containing resolution EP07/09/38, be approved as a correct record.

2.2 Environment & Planning Subcommittee – 1 October 2007

Moved Crs Borlase / Wilkins
EP07/11/03

THAT the minutes of a meeting of the Environment & Planning Subcommittee held on 1 October 2007, containing resolutions EP07/10/01 to EP07/10/03, be approved as a correct record.

CARRIED

3. ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING DEPARTMENT BRIEFING FOR INCOMING COUNCILLORS - REPORT EP07/11/03

Mr Bush-King provided all Councillors with a copy of his briefing notes for incoming Councillors, as an introduction to the Council's Environment & Planning Department. This included an overview of the responsibilities, functions and structure of this department in its role as a unitary authority having both regional council and territorial local responsibility.

Mayor Kempthorne left the meeting at 10.20 am.

Moved Crs Currie /Edgar
EP07/11/04

THAT the Councillor Briefing Report EP07/11/03, be received.
CARRIED

4. PUBLIC FORUM – PATONS ROCK BEACH ASSOCIATION

Mr S Hedley and Mr P Fullerton represented the Patons Rock Beach Association and spoke about how landowners in the vicinity of Patons Rock wish to promote a private plan change to protect the area from inappropriate land subdivision. Mr Hedley said that this group sought that a working party be established to consider a plan change and report back to the Environment & Planning Committee.

5. RESOURCE POLICY PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT - REPORT EP07/11/07

Policy Manager, G S Markham, described how the report of 7 November 2007 contained within the agenda provided an introduction to the work programme for resource policy development and advised this is a three monthly update on the progress with current resource policy projects.

Mayor Kempthorne returned to the meeting at 12.00 noon.

Cr Higgins noted that this was the current work programme adopted by Council in recent months with the exception of minor amendments and the addition of further information regarding live appeals resolution.

Cr Higgins provided an opportunity for Councillors to comment on the proposed work programme together with the proposed priorities. Mayor Kempthorne said that new Councillors should meet with Mr Markham, as a group, to gain a better knowledge of the issues within the project list.

Cr Higgins said he would like to see a cost estimate added to each of the listed issues.

**Moved Mayor Kempthorne / Cr Higgins
EP07/11/05**

**THAT the Resource Policy Projects Update Report EP07/11/07 be received and staff be asked to note the concerns of Councillors and report back to the Environment & Planning December 2007 meeting and that staff liaise with the Paton Rock Beach Society on the process and costs for any private plan change request.
CARRIED**

6. RESOURCE CONSENTS MANAGER'S REPORT – REPORT EP07/11/06

Resource Consents Manager, R Lieffering, spoke to this report of 6 November 2007 contained within the agenda and provided a brief background on the functions of the resource consent section, including a summary of current workloads, non-notified decisions issued under delegated authority and the status of appeals.

**Moved Crs Currie / Glover
EP07/11/06**

**THAT the Resource Consents Manager's Report EP07/11/06 be received.
CARRIED**

7. DOG POUND ISSUES REPORT - REPORT EP07/11/05

Regulatory Manager, J Hodson, spoke to this report of 5 November 2007 contained within the agenda. The report described the poor condition of the current dog pound at Beach Road, Richmond and included photographs to show the poor condition of this facility. The report said that the Beach Road Dog Pound is considered to have reached the end of its useful life and the report suggested that there could be potential in a shared facility.

Cr Higgins noted the agreement of Crs Bryant and Norriss to act in a liaison capacity with staff on this issue.

**Moved Cr Wilkins / Mayor Kempthorne
EP07/11/07**

THAT Report EP07/11/05 Dog Pound Issues be received and that staff and representatives of Control Services (Nelson) Limited investigate and report back on the options and estimated costs for the provision of satisfactory dog pound facilities.

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee does not see any merit in considering a combined Tasman District Council Nelson ARK (Animal Rescue Community) Dog Pound Facility at this point.

CARRIED

8. MANAGEMENT REPORTS AND STATISTICAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2007 – REPORT EP07/11/04

Attached to this report within the agenda, were graphs to show the number of applications received and decisions made by the department during the three month period July to September 2007. Mr Bush-King referred to the requirement to recruit additional staff to provide improvements in consent timeframes. He said that with increased staff numbers and improvements introduced to processing systems, the average of applications being processed within the statutory timeframe of 20 days has increased but still some way to go to achieve 100% compliance.

Mr Bush-King said that the requirement for building accreditation will take into consideration the ability to meet processing of consents within statutory timeframes. He noted that the Environment & Planning Committee did not wish that this department consider increasing the general rate component to offset the cost of consents. He will report back on any further fee increases required to improve the resource base.

**Moved Crs Borlase / King
EP07/11/08**

THAT Report EP07/11/04 Statistical Data for the period July to September 2007 be received.

CARRIED

**9. ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT –
REPORT EP07/11/09**

Cr Higgins referred to the possibility of a Government review for the availability of fireworks by the general public.

Cr Wilkins left the meeting at 2.15 pm.

Cr Higgins sought Councillors opinions on the matter and noted the various opinions expressed.

**Moved Crs Norriss / Borlase
EP07/11/09**

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee Chairperson's Report EP07/11/09 be received.

CARRIED

10. ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING MANAGER'S REPORT - REPORT EP07/11/10

10.1 Legal Proceedings and Reporting

The Manager's Report referred to the status of proceedings before the Courts, not covered in specific reports. He said that managers within this department would report quarterly to the Committee. Councillors agreed and suggested these be staggered across meetings.

10.2 National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission

The agenda contained a copy of the executive summary of the discussion paper on National Environmental Standards regulating the electricity transmission system where government is seeking comment.

**Moved Crs Riley / Glover
EP07/11/10**

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee Chair and Deputy Chair be authorised to sign off a submission to the National Environmental Standards for electricity transmission discussion document, by 30 November 2007.

CARRIED

10.3 Draft Economic Development Strategy for Nelson Tasman

The Economic Development Agency sought comment on an update to the strategy by 21 November 2007. Environment & Planning Policy staff would work on a response and report on this to the Committee.

10.4 National Policy Statement on Renewable Energy

The agenda contained a copy of the staff response provided by 7 November to Local Government NZ.

10.5 National Initiatives Affecting Environment & Planning Department

The agenda listed central government legislative and policy changes which are currently or soon to be released. Cr King suggested that staff produce a brief summary for notification to Councillors.

**Moved Crs King / Borlase
EP07/11/11**

THAT the Environment & Planning Manager's Report EP07/11/10 be received.

Cr Higgins thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2.45 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: