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**MINUTES**  
of the  
**CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
held  
**9.30am, Thursday, 24 March 2016**  
at  
**Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond**

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**Present:** Councillor T B King (Chair), Mayor R G Kempthorne, Councillors M J Higgins, S G Bryant, P L Canton, B F Dowler, J L Edgar, M J Greening, J L Inglis, T E Norriss

**In Attendance:** Corporate Services Manager (M J Drummond), Executive Assistant (P White)

**Part Attendance:** Finance Manager (R McGuigan), Revenue Accountant (Kelly Kivimaa-Schouten), Commercial Manager (G Cooper), Information Services Manager (P Darlington), Chief Executive (L McKenzie)

**1 OPENING, WELCOME**

Councillor Dowler and Mayor Kempthorne were not present at the beginning of the meeting.

**2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Moved Cr Norriss/Cr Edgar

**FN16-03-1**

**That apologies for Councillors Mirfin, Bouillir, Sangster and Ensor for absence, and for Councillor Dowler for lateness, be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

**2 PUBLIC FORUM**

**Maxwell Clark**

Mr Clark spoke about the water usage charge for a Murchison commercial property which had been subject to a leak. He believed that the remission policy was out of date. He believed that the water charges were excessive. He also spoke about freedom camping. He said that freedom campers added value to the regional economy and should be welcomed.

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#### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

#### **5 LATE ITEMS**

Nil

#### **6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Cr Inglis/Cr Higgins**

**FN16-03-2**

**That the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, 11 February 2016, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

#### **7 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

Nil

#### **8 PRESENTATIONS**

Jane Turner, ASB Bank Economist gave a presentation on the global and New Zealand economic outlook, housing and New Zealand dollar forecasts.

Cr Dowler joined the meeting at 9.56am.

Mayor Kempthorne joined the meeting at 10.20am.

The meeting broke for morning tea at 10.25am and reconvened at 10.52am. Mayor Kempthorne was not present.

Pamela White responded to a question about meeting minutes availability. She said that unconfirmed minutes were always available on request but were not published on the website until they were confirmed.

#### **9 REPORTS**

##### **9.1 Action Sheet (RFN16-03-03)**

**Moved Cr Norriss/Cr Edgar**

**FN16-03-3**

**That the Corporate Services Committee receives the Action Sheet report (RFN16-03-03).**

**CARRIED**

## **9.2 Remission Application- Policy on Remission of Excess Metered Water Rates (RFN16-03-02)**

Russell McGuigan, Project Delivery Manager and Kelly Kivimaa-Schouten, Revenue Accountant were present to speak to the report.

A Councillor noted that the key problem was that meters were only read every six months and a lot of water could be leaked during that time. Staff were asked about smart meters. They responded that there were benefits to smart meters, but at a cost. Nelson City Council was currently running a trial of smart water meters. Councillors noted that an 'over time' graph on usage on the bill would be helpful to customers to spot any irregularities.

Mayor Kempthorne returned to the meeting at 11.00 am.

Councillors discussed the previous leak at the property and previous recommendations of staff to the business owners. One of the business owner's insurers had denied an insurance claim.

Staff confirmed that a facility was in place to allow a time payment plan to be entered into.

Councillors discussed reviewing the policy in the future, and noted that remissions came at a cost to budgets, and therefore other ratepayers subsidised the remissions. Councillors also noted that the policy had recently been reviewed. They also discussed the personal, or business responsibility to check the meters on a regular basis and this was currently recommended, and a note to that effect appears on water rates bills.

### **Moved Cr Higgins/Cr Edgar FN16-03-4**

**That the Corporate Services Committee:**

- 1. receives the Remission Application- Policy on Remission of Excess Metered Water Rates report (RFN16-03-02); and**
- 2. declines to issue the applicant a Rates Remission under the Council's Policy on Remission of Excess Metered Water Rates.**

**CARRIED**

Cr Bryant asked for his vote against the motion to be noted.

## **9.3 Corporate Services Manager's Report (RFN16-03-01)**

Gene Cooper, Commercial Manager spoke to the section of the report on Council's commercial portfolio.

Mr Cooper spoke specifically about the proposed sale of Council's Mapua property, including the remediated Mapua Fruitgrowers Chemical site and at the Tahī Street/Aranui Road corner. The suggestion was to put the land sale on hold. There were a number of issues under consideration by Councillors, including future demand for land, growth, Council's priorities, community needs, zoning, costings (including holding costs), timing for sales and development, and financial implications of delaying any sale or other development options.

Mr Cooper confirmed that there was no provision in next year's budget for the use of the land sale profits. The additional funds would have been used to pay off debt. Mr Drummond said there were some holding costs for keeping the land, for example, rates and mowing.

Councillors agreed to put a hold on the sale, pending a report back from staff.

Mr Cooper spoke about the development at the Mapua Wharf area and he advised that most of the work was complete, with some landscaping still to be finished.

**Moved Mayor Kempthorne/Cr King**

**FN16-03-5**

**That the Corporate Services Committee**

1. **receives the Corporate Services Manager's Report (RFN16-03-01); and**
2. **instructs staff to place on hold the current disposal process for surplus land at Mapua pending a review and report back to a Full Council meeting on potential alternate uses of this land.**

**CARRIED**

In regard to the Council's campgrounds, Mr Cooper said revenue was up. The business cases for the repurchase of assets at the Pohara and Collingwood campgrounds were scheduled to come to the Corporate Services Committee over the next few months.

Councillors discussed "Wicked Campers" vans and current bans on these campers by other councils, the Department of Conservation, and the Kaiteriteri Camp Ground because of the offensive statements and images on the side of the vans. Mr Cooper said Motueka, Pohara and Murchison campgrounds were all leased to campground managers, so there would be legality issues in putting a ban in place at these campgrounds. At Collingwood, Mr Cooper had concerns that a ban would push the vans out of the campground and onto the side of the road. Councillors noted that there were also Council owned campgrounds that did not come under the commercial portfolio that would need consideration.

Councillors asked for a report back on this issue and what actions Council could reasonably take to ban the "Wicked Campers" vans from campgrounds in the district. Councillors asked for the report to consider if the vans could be banned under the Council's advertising/signage rules.

**Moved Cr Edgar/Cr Norriss**

**FN16-03-6**

**That the Corporate Services Committee requests that staff report back to the next Corporate Services Committee on banning "Wicked Campers" vans from the Council's campgrounds.**

Moved Cr Greening/Cr Canton

an amendment to the resolution to read:

That the Corporate Services Committee requests that staff report back to the next Corporate Services Committee on banning vehicles displaying offensive wording and/or graphics from Council owned or controlled land".

On a show of hands the amendment was LOST 2 - 8

The original motion was put and

**CARRIED**

Mr Cooper briefly covered forestry and aerodromes. He noted the outcome of the recent forestry management tender, and that this would result in a cost saving to Council.

He said the Commercial team was working with the Community Development team on the Rabbit

Island Management Plan, and in particular the interplay of commercial forestry activities and recreational activities,

Mr Drummond explained that there were three streams of work currently in regard to the forestry activity and its interaction with the recreational activities:

- a policy being written on recreation within forest areas;
- Rabbit Island Reserve Management Plan; and
- An immediate response to recent health and safety incidents on the Island.

Mr Cooper gave the Councillors an operational and management update on Port Taroakohe.

There was a brief discussion on the financial reports contained in the Manager's report.

Mr McKenzie answered questions from Councillors about the development of the Golden Bay Community Facility, specifically the proposed retention of the grandstand wanted by some members of the community, and the 'soft spot' that had been discovered at the site.

Peter Darlington was present to speak to the Information Services section of the Manager's report. He noted that a Council workshop would be planned for late April to talk about the Council's Digital Strategy.

Mr Drummond spoke about the upcoming Civic Assurance AGM and call for directors. Mr Drummond was not planning on putting forward a nomination on behalf of Council.

#### **9.4 Treasury Report (RFN16-03-04)**

Mr Drummond offered that the report be taken as read. There was a brief conversation about the interest rate swaps, which some members of the community had raised concerns about recently. Mr Drummond undertook to try to communicate this better to the public in the future.

**Moved Cr Bryant/Cr Norriss  
FN16-03-7**

**That the Corporate Services Committee receives the Treasury Report RFN16-03-04.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting concluded at 12.48 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: