

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 126-148 OXFORD STREET, LEVIN, ON WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE 2010 COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT

His Worship the Mayor, Mr B J Duffy (Chair)
Cr D A Allan
Cr A M Hunt
Cr L E McMeeken
Cr P K Keenan
Cr N D H Murray (from 4.13 pm)
Cr A D Rush
Cr R N Shaw

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D G Ward (Chief Executive Officer)
Mr D Law (Finance Manager)
Mr T Thomas (Environmental Services Manager)
Mrs K J Corkill (Meeting Secretary)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Ms H Scott (Financial Accountant)
Mr M E Lepper (Regulatory Services Manager)
Mr G O'Connor (Operations Manager)
Ms E Ganley (Wastewater Engineer)
Mr D J Tate (Parks Assets Officer)
Mr D de Burgh (Solid Waste Engineer)
Ms C Carlyle (Group Support Officer)

MEDIA IN ATTENDANCE

Ms K Gazely ("Horowhenua Mail) (until 6.30 pm)
Mr P Franklin ("Chronicle") (from 7.14 pm)

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were 7 members of the public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting, with numbers fluctuating throughout the evening.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Crs Good and Judd.

Resolved

(Allan / Rush)

"THAT the apologies, as recorded, be received."

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no members' conflicts of interest recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional Information Tabled

Submission 4 - Fyfe C Williamson

Speaking Rights Withdrawn

Submission 5 - Heather Smith, Democrats for Social Credit

Submission 11 - Garry Fraser, Waitarere Beach Progressive Association

His Worship the Mayor called the meeting to order, with the Chief Executive Officer outlining the process for the hearings, noting that tonight the process would involve noting each submission and hear from those who wished to verbally support their submissions. He would work through those submissions that were not being spoken to as time permitted. Next week Council would deliberate. An Agenda for next week's deliberations would be circulated on Friday 4 June 2010.

Submission 1 - Raukawa District Māori Wardens Association - Diana Kawana (funding request)

Ms Kawana was joined at the table by Jasmin Moses, Linda Sisk and Community Constable Graeme Wright.

Ms Kawana highlighted the positives that would come from having a regional base for Māori Wardens, linking these positives back to the aspirations in Council's LTCCP. Funding was also being sought from two other local authorities. Apart from funding from Te Puni Kokiri, the Māori Warden service currently ran on koha and it wanted to be able to recruit and provide a better service, which did include the Horowhenua.

It was queried if funding had also been sought from Kapiti Coast District Council as the Raukawa district extended down to Peka Peka.

The positive work done by the Māori Wardens in our area was noted by Councillors.

In response to a query as to specific performance measures that may be put in place should funding be provided, Ms Kawana said this area had been considered and would be included in Raukawa's strategic plan.

Submissions 2 & 3 - Mr Craig Elliott and Ms Claire Phillips (Toilets in Shannon)

Mr Elliott reiterated his view that any new toilet block in Shannon should be located in Ballance Sheet. Shannon was a small town with simple requirements. There was a bottle neck in the main street which was dangerous and the addition of toilet facilities would make it worse.

Ms Phillips supported Mr Elliott's comments that keeping the toilets in their current location was the safest option.

Mayor Duffy clarified that Council's current position was that the toilet block would stay in its current location. Council had explored options, with consideration given to an alternative site, but his understanding was that there was not specific intention included in the draft Annual Plan to relocate the toilets from their current site.

Submission 4 - Fyfe C Williamson (Flows into Lake Horowhenua)

The additional information provided by Mr Williamson was noted (copy **attached** to the official minutes).

Mr Williamson restated the information contained in his submission, recommending to Council for consideration:

- fixing septic pipes vs relocating treatment plant;
- understanding the formation of coastal lands and relating to the livelihoods of farmers and coastal settlements;
- shifting town water intake back to Poads Road and putting reservoir above the intake;
- putting a siphon pipe in the weir at Lake Horowhenua, barging this to and fro across the lake and settling the silt out downstream for recovery as topsoil;
- swapping the Pot lake at Sands Road with Burwood so that council owns its water distribution infrastructure;

- employing Outdoor Education instructors to take people safely, enjoyably and productively tramping in the ranges and other outdoor activities rather than the few people that enjoy those activities now.

Cr Murray noted that as far as was aware, there had been no overflow from the treatment plant into Lake Horowhenua. He also noted that with regard to Lake Horowhenua, this was privately owned and Council was required to work in partnership with the owners.

Mayor Duffy advised that officers would produce a report which would cover the matter raised.

Submission 5 - Democrats for Social Credit - Heather Smith (Funding of infrastructure)

The request to speak to this submission had been withdrawn.

The key point in this submission was for Council to consider the ethics of borrowing at interest from private financial institutions to fund infrastructure.

Submission 6 - Mr E B Crombie (Against rural rate and cemetery plot price increases)

Mr Crombie requested that Council reconsider its rating policy. As the owner of a small holding (4.5 ha, not registered for GST) he was rated as rural residential, when he was a small farmer and farming was his primary source of income. The reason his property was still sustainable was because he did all the work on his property himself.

It was noted that officers had wrestled with this issue last year, with the definition of 'lifestyle block' being based on criteria from Quotable Value. An appeal process was perhaps an option so that people in Mr Crombie's position could be reviewed. It was requested that this matter be addressed in the officer's report.

Mr Crombie also expressed his concern at the increase in cemetery charges. He did not believe raising prices to be in line with those charged in other areas was sound. He did not believe there was to be an influx of people wanting to be buried here if charges were less than our neighbouring councils. This was a low socio-economic area and the increase in fees would be hitting people when they were most vulnerable. He suggested that Council should be putting money from the sale of plots and the pre-booking of plots into a reserve to fund future cemetery expansion.

In response to a query as to what he believed would be an acceptable cost for an adult burial, Mr Crombie suggested \$600.00.

It was suggested that the driver for the increase in charges was to recover costs, not to be in line with Council's neighbours.

It was requested that the officer's report include some information on pre-paid plots.

Prior to hearing the next speaker, Mr Ward worked through the following non speaking submissions.

Submission 42 - Mr L & Mrs P Cooper (Toilets in Shannon)

Submission 43 - Mrs G Hoskin (Toilets in Shannon)

Submission 44 - Mrs P Cottle (Toilets in Shannon)

Submission 45 - Mr A V Cottle (Toilets in Shannon)

Submission 46 - Ms Rosa Gray (Upgrading Shannon Water supply; Levin Race Track)

Submission 47 - Mrs Joanne Roache (Shannon Toilets; town beautification; Te Maire Park; wastewater; standard of service; solid waste)

Submission 48 - Mr Frank Drake - Shannon Community Action Committee Inc (Shannon Toilet Block; Signage; Te Maire Park Toilet Block and children's park)

Submission 49 - Mrs Kim Wylie (Shannon Toilets)

Submission 50 - Mr John Wylie (Shannon Toilets)

Submission 51 - Mrs Marney Downs (Shannon Toilets)

Submission 52 - Ms Greta Johnstone (Shannon Toilets)

Submission 53 - Mr R & Mrs G Rawlingson (Shannon Toilets)

Submission 54 - Mr B Paltridge (Shannon Toilets)

Submission 55 - M Fletcher, Shannon Engineering (Shannon Toilets)

Submission 56 - Mr D Prouting (Shannon Toilets)

Submission 57 - Mr B Nikora (Shannon Toilets)

Submission 58 - Mrs Hui Sprott (Shannon Toilets)

- Submission 59 - Mr Ted Osborne (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 60 - Mrs Osborne (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 61 - Mr Stewart Walker (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 62 - Mr Maurice Falconer (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 63 - Mrs Faye Parlato (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 64 - Te Omaki Rauhihi (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 65 - Mrs Sybil Munro (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 66 - Mr R Barnes (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 67 - Mr John Stern (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 68 - Mr Peter & Mrs Jenny Rogers (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 69 - Mr Bruce Kilmister (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 70 - Mrs Jean Newman (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 71 - Mr Frederick Kilmister (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 72 - Mrs E Harper (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 73 - Mrs Bernice Singleton (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 74 - Mrs Joy Shields (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 75 - Ms Marilyn Cranson (That the playground is not built opposite the Club Hotel; that new toilets are built on existing land where the old ones are; that a "no entry" sign be erected at Margaret/Ballance Street; that the library stays where it is; that barriers be erected on the cnr of Plimmer and Ballance St; that the people of Shannon decide on how Shannon's water fund be spent and that full disclosure be given; that the bridge in Margaret Street be looked at to remedy the problem of the footpath)*
- Submission 76 - Mr Alan Windle, the Horsemans Café (in favour of new updated toilets in Shannon)*
- Submission 77 - Ms Lorna Layton (Keeping costs down and work to be done in Shannon)*
- Submission 78 - Mrs V O'connor (Toilets; expenditure; lighting; water and wastewater; Shannon Water Wheel)*
- Submission 79 - Mrs Jenny Dick, Legacy Antiques (Toilets in Shannon)*
- Submission 80 - Mrs R E Couling (Public toilets; public library; children's playground; Shannon's old gaol; waterwheel; and refuse centre charges)*
 Cr Hunt noted that she and Cr Shaw had attended a recent Shannon Progressive Association meeting. As she understood it, a report on the waterwheel would be coming to the July 2010 Council meeting.
- Submission 81 - Mr Kevin Couling (Public toilets; public library; children's playground; Shannon's old gaol; waterwheel; and refuse centre charges.)*
- Submission 82 - Mr James Heal (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 83 - Mr P Gardner (Shannon Toilets)*
- Submission 84 - Mr Brian Bishop (Toilets in Shannon; Playground; Te Maire Park)*
 It was requested that the issue of signage raised by a number of submitters be included in the officer's report.
 Cr Shaw raised issues with regard to Margaret Street and what he believed was a dangerous corner. He suggested that Transit (NZTA) should be involved in any discussions as it was a Transit road.
 His Worship the Mayor reiterated that there was nothing in the current draft Annual Plan about relocating the toilet in Shannon.
- Submission 7 - Mr A (Bert) S Judd (Drinking water; wastewater; selling off assets; consultation with ratepayers)*
 In his verbal submission, Mr Judd raised a number of issues including deferred projects, quality water, sustainable sewerage systems, property, grants, and interment fees.
 In response to a comment that the consent for the Shannon waterwheel had ten years, Cr Allan requested that this matter be addressed in the officer's report.
 Mr Judd's comments about the Draft Annual Plan's layout, text size and ease of use was endorsed by Cr McMeeken.
 A copy of Mr Judd's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.
- Submission 8 - Mrs O Burbery (Delaying on core infrastructure; Shannon and Waitarere Water; Wastewater; Parking Meters; footpaths; cemeteries)*

Mrs Burbery appended additional notes to her submission on Parking that had been supplied to her by a retailer who requested that these be included (copy **attached**).

Mrs Burbery reiterated the matters raised in her submission and further commented:

- she was appalled that an additional cost of \$10.00 was being applied to rentals for pensioner accommodation;
- the cost of rubbish disposal in Foxton and Shannon was higher than it should be;
- she had had difficulty reading the Draft Annual Plan because the font was too small.

Submission 9A - Mr Bryan TenHave (Council-owned properties, i.e. cinema, toilets, WINZ building, pools, etc)

Mr TenHave expressed his dissatisfaction with Council's performance, citing statistics from an Infometrics report to support his comments. In his comments, Mr TenHave covered drinking water, wastewater, the Manawatu River pollution, communication, and property matters.

Rather than address his submission on the Foxton Community Board targeted rate concurrently with this submission, Mr TeHave requested further time to prepare as it was his understanding that he had been allocated another speaking time later in the meeting.

Submission 10 - Mr Bryan Wells (Request for financial assistance for installation of ceiling in Pentaque Club clubrooms)

Mr Wells was joined at the table by Carleen Fitzgerald and Shirley Peard.

Mr Wells made a PowerPoint presentation of the Petanque Club grounds and facilities, particularly noting the state of the unlined ceiling in the clubrooms for which funding was being sought. Mr Wells noted that the Club had achieved the vision that has been put before Council in 2004, with an international venue now available in the district which was now being used to hold national and international tournaments. It was a venue that contributed to active positive ageing.

The Club were seeking funding (approximately \$18,000.00) to line the clubroom ceilings, provide hot water in the toilets and increase the number of toilets. This work could be staged.

Because the Club did not own the building it was no possible to obtain funding from Pub Charities, or the like.

Mayor Duffy said that officers would explore the request and possible funding options.

Submission 11 - Waitare Beach Progressive Ratepayers' Association - Mr Garry Fraser (Rate increases; infrastructure improvements; levies; timeframe for consultation)

The request for speaking rights had been withdrawn and Mr Ward highlighted the matters raised in the submission.

Submission 85 - Kiwi Johnson (Signage; landscaping/ picnic areas seats and tables; toilets; children's park; promotion of Shannon; waterwheel; hanging baskets)

Submission 86 - Suzie Johnson (Toilets; playground; landscaping; signage; seated areas; Shannon promotion; waterwheel; Mangaore River Kayaking)

Submission 87 - Mr Alan Harcus (Foxton Targeted Rate)

Cr Hunt advised she had telephoned Mr Harcus to gain clarification of his comments. His comment it was the 'thin end of the wedge' re the future survival of the Foxton Community Board.

Submission 88 - Mr Colin Dunn (Allow a sum to repair and redecorate the interior of the Memorial Hall in Foxton)

Submission 89 - Mrs Frances Roache ((Upgrade to Memorial Hall; cemetery charges; targeted rate)

Submission 90 - Mr Brian Hofmann (Upgrade to Memorial hall; cemetery charges; targeted rate)

Submission 91 - Mrs Dorothy Kauri (Cemetery Charges; targeted rate)

Submission 92 - Mrs A Jackson (Upgrade to Memorial hall; cemetery charges; targeted rate)

Submission 93 - Ms Jacqueline Kimura (Upgrade to Memorial Hall; cemetery charges; targeted rate)

Submission 94 - Mr Anthony Hatsell (Upgrade to Memorial hall; cemetery charges; targeted rate)

Submission 95 - Pat Kauri (Targeted rate for FCB)

Submission 96 - Mr John Roache (Upgrade to Memorial hall; cemetery charges; targeted rate)

Submission 97 - Mrs Priscilla Roache (Upgrade to Memorial hall; cemetery charges; targeted rate)

Submission 98 - Mrs Pauline Roache (Cemetery upgrade; targeted rate)

Submission 99 - Mrs I C Hofmann (Upgrade to Memorial Hall; cemetery charges; targeted rate)

Because their submissions were of a similar nature, Mr Michael Hill and Mr Kevin Anderson joined the table together.

Submission 12 - Mr Michael & Mrs Liz Hill (Object to percentage of increase in cemetery charges)

Mr Hill expressed his concern at the increase in cemetery charges of 130% in one financial year. With regard to the suggestion that this was to bring charges in line with neighbouring councils, Mr Hill noted that other councils provided a greater service with regard to provision of graveside services, etc. Also the fees in Kapiti were still cheaper for an all inclusive service than they would be the Horowhenua should the proposed increases be adopted.

Funeral directors had been requesting that flower vases or receptacles be provided in the Ashes Garden for many years and this still had not been addressed.

The proposed increased charges would be hitting many people who had had their income severely reduced over the last few years. There was also the issue of pre-paid funeral plans. Funeral directors would have to revisit these to recoup the large increase.

Mr Hill requested that Council look at the time frame for introducing the increased charges. Perhaps a progressive introduction of the increased charges, rather than doing it in one financial year

Submission 13 - Mr Kevin Anderson (Increase of cemetery costs)

Mr Anderson supported Mr Hill's comments. He had been dealing with the Foxton Cemetery for 26 years and could not see how this increase could be justified. Also, neighbouring councils had a more affluent ratepayer base than the Horowhenua.

Mayor Duffy commented that these submissions warranted a very detailed officer response and this was the right forum to raise these issues. There was a comparative factor when it came to levels of service and this needed to be detailed, as well as any cost recovery component in the increases proposed. The vase holder issue also needed to be addressed.

Mr Hill noted that last time a review of cemeteries was done, it was done by Opus and he would prefer to see such a report done in-house.

Submission 9B - Mr Bryan TenHave (Foxton Community Board targeted rate)

Mr Tenhave, in speaking on his own behalf on the subject of targeted rates, covered a number of topics including the role of the Foxton Community Board and what he felt it should be doing to represent its constituents. Whilst the proposed targeted rate was only \$14.00, he did not believe ratepayers would get value for money.

Submission 100 - Byron Kindell & Colleen Kindell (Pinewood Motor Camp Upgrade; Forbes Road subdivision show home; FCB targeted rate; Foxton health Centre; FCB submission)

Submission 101 - Miss Annette Martin (Objection to increases at Transfer Stations at Shannon and Foxton)

Submission 102 - Mr P J McDonnell (Does not agree with the increase in tip fees; no heating at the Foxton Pool; only footpaths on one side of the road in most streets)

Submission 103 - Mr Barry & Mrs Kay Pearce (Opposed to increasing transfer station charges and that the excessive raise in fees is not necessary)

Submission 104 - Ms Robyn Meyer (Asked for installation of netball hoops at local parks, etc)

Submission 105 - Amanda Pearson (Netball in Horowhenua and provision of netball centre)

Submission 106 - Mr Dennis Aldridge (Objection of increase in cricket wicket charges)

Submission 107 - Mr Brett Cole (Charges for grounds)

Officers were requested to provide the cost for each cricket wicket and a comparison with what Kapiti was charging cricketers.

Submission 108 - Parsons Avenue Kindergarten - Mrs Anne Jakeman (Requesting Council to grant use of an additional 10m of land from reserve)

Mr Ward noted that staff were discussing a possible lease or ownership arrangement with the Kindergarten.

Submission 109 - Mrs Bernice Singleton (Pensioner Flats, Shannon)

An officer report was requested, as although the understanding was that there was no waiting list, this needed to be confirmed.

- Submission 110 - Mrs Ann Topp (Road between Waitarere Beach and Hokio Beach)*
Submission 111 - Ms Ruth Wilkie (Development Contributions Policy)
Submission 112 - Mr W M Hawkes (Cinema 3 theatre status; parking meter charges - totally opposed to any increase)
Submission 113 - Mrs Margaret Jeune (Support Open Space Strategy; endorses the need for a Coastal Management Strategy and Ecological assessment; supports intention to address the cycling and walking opportunities)
Submission 114 - Mr Kelvin Sherman (Concern with rate increase with suggestions on how to reduce the increase)
Submission 115 - Mr J M Redmayne & Dr N Botica Redmayne (Object to paying for the Foxton swimming pool)
Submission 116 - Mr Ian Staples, Staples Holdings Ltd (Rate increases)
Submission 117 - Mr Bruce & Mrs Chris Mitchell (General Rates; targeted roading rates)

The meeting adjourned for a meal break at 6.23 pm and resumed at 7.00 pm.

Submission 14 - Mr Brad O'Leary

The Chair advised that Mr O'Leary's speaking time had been rescheduled for tomorrow evening.

Submission 15 - Mr Chris Dungan, Manakau District Community Association (Reduced speed zones outside schools; review of speed limited on all rural roads; supporting request from Manakau United Club for assistance)

Mr Dungan said the Association understood that Council was looking at selling off the Manakau Domain and believed that this would be against the vision for the community. Long term residents particularly were disturbed at the prospect. The Association believed that the Domain land may have been gifted from a local farmer, Ivar Bertram, in the late 1940s or early 50s and they were seeking documentary evidence of this.

His Worship the Mayor clarified that Council had evaluated properties and in terms of this disposal this property would rank possibly 50 on the list. He suggested that the Domain be withdrawn from any list to allow the exploration of the issues and options.

Offers were requested to investigate the background of the Domain.

A copy of Mr Dungan's further comments are **attached** to the official minutes.

Submission 16 - Mr Brian Boothroyd (Council spending)

In his submission, Mr Boothroyd encouraged Council to look at its spending and to maintain rate demands within its ratepayers' ability to pay. He suggested it was the time for a nil rate rise and offered some suggestions as to how this could be achieved, which included a freeze on all new spending, staff wages and bonuses, and a sinking lid policy when it came to staff numbers.

In responding to this submission, Mayor Duffy spoke of the challenges faced by Councillors and staff in providing important infrastructure such as water and wastewater, as well as the other demands on Council, in an area that had a low income base where the only revenue came from rates and charges. Some major projects had been delayed from year to year because ratepayers had signalled they did not want appreciable rates rises; this Council was now the one that could not put projects off any longer. He confirmed that Council was looking at staffing numbers and had reduced the number of outside consultants used to reduce costs.

It was requested that a report be provided that showed staffing levels and also the number of consultants used and what was being spent on consultants' fees.

A copy of Mr Boothroyd's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.

Submission 17 - Errol Brown - Rangeview Home Stay Ltd (Rating issue)

Mr Brown requested that Council re-examine the definition of "Rural Residential" as opposed to "Others", which had a lower rate liability, in Council's rating policy. The property owned by he and his wife would be rated rural residential whereas it was in effect a rural farming operation, although the property was of a smaller size. Their business was GST registered and was focussed on returning a profit.

It was noted that this was an issue that had been raised during last years LTCCP process and had not been adequately addressed.

Mayor Duffy said that the officer's report would have more detail around the issue and there was clearly a need to understand the Government guidelines under which Council was working.

In expanding on his previous comments, Mr Brown said the problem was that "rural residential" had been dreamt up by the Valuation Department and it was a broad, blunt instrument that did not accurately reflect the reality for many properties.

A copy of Mr Brown's further comments are **attached** to the official minutes.

Submission 18 - Levin BMX Club - Lyndon Cooney (Funding for the BMX track at Donnelly Park, Levin)

Members of the BMX Club were in the gallery to support Mr Cooney's representation on behalf of the BMX Club.

The BMX Club were seeking an annual sum from Council (\$10,000.00) for on-going maintenance of the BMX track as it believed that Council had a responsibility to assist with the maintenance of this facility as it did with other publicly used recreational facility/sports grounds. Currently the track was used by the public seven days a week; while the Club used it four hours a week.

Mr Cooney gave a background to the establishment of the BMX track which had been well supported by Councillors and Council when it had initially been established in 2007/08 and he sought Council support to further develop and grow the track and its use.

In response to Councillors queries, Mr Cooney confirmed that they were looking for the track to be maintained on an annual basis so the funding would be on-going.

Mayor Duffy commented that Council would consider this request as it did requests for the maintenance of other sporting facilities and suggested that Club members speak directly with Council staff so staff were aware what the maintenance issues would involve so they could produce a realistic report.

Submission 19 - Mr Kimbal McHugo (Rejuvenation of the Manakau Domain)

Mr McHugo, on behalf of the Manakau United Football Club, reiterated the requests made in his submission with regard to the domain, its use and maintenance. The benefit to the Manakau community if this facility was rejuvenated.

Cr Hunt noted that she had accepted an invitation to attend a soccer match and had been very impressed with the community spirit, which was something to be applauded.

Mayor Duffy clarified that he had suggested that officers have dialogue with those involved to be very clear about what the cost implications may or not be, and why this option should be pursued rather than partnering with the school. Council was trying to use existing facilities and there were some important questions to be asked. The officer's report would detail what was practical and appropriate.

Submission 20 - Mr Mike Barker, Levin Pistol Club (To develop and provide a site for a pistol range at Target Reserve, Foxton)

On behalf of the Levin Pistol Club, Mr Barker was seeking support from Council to site a target range and Target Reserve, Foxton. Mr Barker gave a background to the club and noted the past issues when it came to finding a suitable venue for a target range. He stressed that the Club was not asking Council for financial assistance, but was seeking support for this project.

A member of the NZ Police was in attendance to support the Pistol Club's submission.

The proximity of the Foxton Race Course was raised by Cr Shaw as a possible issue, having had a pistol range on his property which had been discontinued because of noise and safety issues.

Mr Barker said that these were issues that would be worked through with Council; however some of the possible sites were half a kilometre from the Golf Course or Race Course, and suitable noise testing would be undertaken.

A copy of Mr Barker's verbal comments are **attached** to the official minutes, including an Advisory Assessment Report from Pistol New Zealand suggesting that the area of land would be large enough to accommodate a suitable range complex.

In response to a request to look at other possible sites, Mayor Duffy said that the Club had been trying to find a suitable site for a number of years and this had been very frustrating. Every site that had been considered had had impediments and this was just another option for exploration.

Submission 21 - Mr Neville Gimblett (Targeted rate for the FCB and targeted rate to fund Health Centre)

Cr Rush clarified some references to himself made in Mr Gimblett's submission, with Mr Gimblett acknowledging that he had understood Cr Rush to be joking.

Mr Gimblett gave a background to his submission and explained that, upon consideration, he felt a need to modify his request regarding a health centre targeted rate. As the rate proposed was essentially a first for this district, it would set a precedent for the future, so the process should be done correctly now (see Mr Gimblett's verbal submission **attached** to the official minutes).

With regard to the proposed FCB targeted rate, Cr Keenan noted that the Foxton area seemed to be in a unique situation as it was the only one with a Community Board. He queried if other areas should also have community boards to look after their interests.

It was noted that an independent commissioner had assessed the Foxton Community Board when Council had proposed reducing the membership by one. Instead, the commissioner increased the membership by one, with the main driver for that being the significance of the Freeholding Account.

In response to a query as to the length of time for community consultation (perhaps a four year process), Mr Gimblett said he not envisage it being such a long process when considering issues consulted on so far, such as the Freeholding Fund and the Coastal Management Plan. Meetings could be held in fairly quick succession if Council was willing to go down that path and it could come back to Council's next Annual Plan process.

Mayor Duffy said he understood what Mr Gimblett was wanting to get nailed with his very good submission and acknowledged the work he was doing to try and make a difference on the health front in Foxton.

Submission 41 - Mr Mike Murphy, Levin Business Association (Parking fees; toilets; request for funding for part-time coordinator)

Mr Murphy stressed the advantages, economic and otherwise, to the local business community and the region as a whole of putting in a place a part-time coordinator for the LBA. He suggested that some of the increase in parking revenue could be distributed to the LBA for this purpose.

Cr McMeeken noted that there had been a significant reduction in rates for properties in the CBD and perhaps this could be a source of funding.

Mr Murphy said that had been considered, but was not a good option.

Cr Hunt queried if there were any other sources of funding, such as the major marketing grant, two recent applications for which had been declined. Perhaps that could be allocated to the business sector.

Whilst there was support for local businesses supporting local business, it was queried if the customer or the person parking should be the ones to pay for business promotion.

In response to a query about where the LBA sat with Nature Coast, Mr Murphy said they intended to work with Nature Coast, particularly with regard to tourism issues specific to the Horowhenua.

Mayor Duffy noted the challenges posed by this submission, which came up regularly. Supporting this application could open Council up to a raft of other applications from similar entities throughout the district. Council needed to be very clear about what support could be given and where that revenue would be sourced from to ensure that the outcome was sustainable, viable and deliverable. He believed that the LBA was an important body that Council wanted to have communication with and he was sure there would be a mechanism somewhere to sustain this group, which would probably be more than simply signing a cheque. He looked forward to a positive response from officers.

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting stood adjourned at 8.30 pm to be reconvened on Thursday 3 June 2019 at 4.00 pm.

CONFIRMED this day of

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Chairperson