

C3 Foxton War Memorial Hall Proposed Transfer to Interim Committee

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of current developments in relation to the proposed transfer of Foxton War Memorial Hall to the Foxton War Memorial Hall Society Incorporated (FWMHSI) and seek a decision from Council on the future of the Foxton War Memorial Hall.

Resolution Number CO/2023/1

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Brannigan:

That Report 23/423 Foxton War Memorial Hall Proposed Transfer to Interim Committee be received.

That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.

CARRIED

During debate on this item, Councillors acknowledged the work that had been put in by the Society in developing the business case. However, concern was expressed about the viability of the project given the current low NBS rating, the significant cost of obtaining a seismic assessment and remediation plan, and the ability of the society to meet those costs.

Concern was also noted that the business case insufficiently identified an ongoing income stream to maintain the business.

Officers advised that a previous assessment had suggested that the building could be strengthened to 44% of NBS – this was considered an inadequate level for public building. At that time a remediation plan to bring the building up to minimum 67% of NBS was not put forward as that assessment indicated that to do so would involve the complete re-build of the hall.

MMOVED by Cr Allen, seconded by Cr Jennings

That Council grants a further 12 months extension until 30 June 2024, to allow the FWMHSI to provide further detail in relation to its plans for earthquake strengthening, renewals, insurance and the management of health and safety, and its organisational hierarchy; that this matter be brought before Council again at the end of that extension for further consideration.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Against:

Councillors: David Allan
Mike Barker
Rogan Boyle
Ross Brannigan
Sam Jennings
Paul Olsen
Justin Tamihana
Piri-Hira Tukapua
Bernie Wanden
Alan Young

Cr Clint Grimstone was absent.

Cr Nina Hori Te Pa was absent.
Cr Jonathan Procter was absent.

The division was declared LOST by 0 votes to 10.

LOST

MOVED by Cr Tamihana, seconded Cr Boyle:

That Council request officers to offer the building and land for public a deadline sale within 6 months via an expression of interest process, with the intention that we value community good for Foxton, local Iwi and an element of historic commemoration above fiscal outcomes, with the current operational arrangements continuing until sold. Council notes that before the expression of interest is advertised the Chief Executive will present to Council the EoI for approval.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Councillors: Rogan Boyle
Justin Tamihana
Alan Young

Against:

Councillors: David Allan
Mike Barker
Ross Brannigan
Sam Jennings
Paul Olsen
Piri-Hira Tukapua
Bernie Wanden

Cr Clint Grimstone was absent.
Cr Nina Hori Te Pa was absent.
Cr Jonathan Procter was absent.

The division was declared LOST by 3 votes to 7

LOST

Councillors noted concerns about lack of control over who might be the ultimate purchaser or the future use of the building

The matter was laid on the table until after consideration of item C1.

C3 Foxton War Memorial Hall Proposed Transfer to Interim Committee (continued)

Debate continued on the proposed transfer of the Hall to the Society. Concerns remained over the viability of the of the business case, and whether giving the Society more time to develop further would result in a more viable outcome either in the business case itself, or suitability and stability of the building.

MOVED by Cr Brannigan, seconded Cr Jennings:

That Council request Officers complete the transfer to FWMHSI of the Foxton War Memorial Hall in line with the resolution outlined in the Council meeting of 26 May 2021, noting the documentation provided by the FWMHSI, and evidence provided

by the Working Party, and further that the Chief Executive be delegated authority to finalise the transfer and appropriate conditions, which will provide a 24 month period for the FWMHSI to develop a robust plan for earthquake strengthening and financial sustainability, otherwise the building will return to Council's ownership.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Councillors: Ross Brannigan
Sam Jennings
Alan Young

Against:

Councillors: David Allan
Mike Barker
Rogan Boyle
Justin Tamihana
Piri-Hira Tukapua
Bernie Wanden

Cr Clint Grimstone abstained.

Cr Nina Hori Te Pa was absent.

Cr Paul Olsen left the meeting.

Cr Jonathan Procter was absent.

The division was declared lost by 3 votes to 6

LOST

Resolution Number CO/2023/2

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Cr Young:

That Council direct Officers to make other plans to dispose of the Foxton War Memorial Hall and proceed with preparing the hall to be released to the general market for disposal.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Councillors: David Allan
Mike Barker
Ross Brannigan
Sam Jennings
Piri-Hira Tukapua
Bernie Wanden
Alan Young

Against:

Councillors: Rogan Boyle
Justin Tamihana

Cr Clint Grimstone abstained.

Cr Nina Hori Te Pa was absent.

Cr Paul Olsen had left the meeting.

Cr Jonathan Procter was absent.

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 2.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Cr Jennings:

That the proceeds of the sale be ring-fenced for the Foxton Future activities

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Councillors: David Allan
Rogan Boyle
Ross Brannigan
Sam Jennings
Justin Tamihana

Against:

Councillors: Mike Barker
Clint Grimstone
Piri-Hira Tukapua
Bernie Wanden
Alan Young

Cr Nina Hori Te Pa was absent.
Cr Paul Olsen had left the meeting.
Cr Jonathan Procter was absent.
The division was declared EQUAL.

In accordance with standing order 19.3, in the event of an equality of votes for any question, that question would be lost.

LOST

Resolution Number CO/2023/3

MOVED by Cr Boyle, seconded Cr Jennings:

That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to expend up to \$10,000 from within existing budgets on retrieving and appropriately displaying memorabilia from the Foxton War Memorial Hall in Foxton.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2023/4

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Cr Brannigan:

That Council release the minutes and resolutions in relation to item C4 Foxton War Memorial Hall Proposed Transfer to Interim Committee from In-Committee to the FWMHSI and then to the public generally.

CARRIED