

MINUTES



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MEMBERSHIP: Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Shannon Dowsing, Sandra Faulkner, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Isaac Hughes, Tony Robinson, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake and Kerry Worsnop.

MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Held via Audio Visual Link on Thursday 10 March 2022 at 11:00AM.

PRESENT:

Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Shannon Dowsing, Sandra Faulkner, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Isaac Hughes, Tony Robinson, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake and Kerry Worsnop.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines David Wilson, Director Internal Partnerships James Baty, Acting Director Liveable Communities De-Arne Sutherland, Director Environmental Services & Protection Helen Montgomery, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Chief of Strategy & Science Jo Noble, Governance Advisor Tania Clarke and Committee Secretary Jill Simpson.

The meeting commenced with a karakia.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

4. Acknowledgements and Tributes

There were no acknowledgements or tributes.

5. Public Input and Petitions

There were no public input or petitions

6. Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

7. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

8. Adjourned Business

There was no adjourned business.

9. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION

9.1 22-70 Lease Hearing: Alfred Cox Pump Track

The following submitters attended via Audio Visual Link and spoke to their submission:

- Haimona Ngata & Ricardo Christie
- Garth Tattersfield
- Jill Smith
- Stefan Pishief
- Phil Watson
- David Newsham
- Tim White

Questions of clarification included:

- The BMX Track was relocated as it was not up to National standards.
- Some simple mitigations might be height restrictions (to ensure that the fixture does not end up impeding the privacy of neighbouring properties), planting on berms (having a positive effect on noise and privacy) and also ensuring that the design for the start/stop area is at the further most point possible from residential houses.

Officer's response covered the following points:

- The proximity to public conveniences is similar to other major sporting facilities. The public conveniences at the I-Site are open dawn to dusk and can be changed according to our arrangements with Recreational Services.
- The parking is adequate in its current form.
- The proposed pedestrian crossing will not eliminate any parks.
- A Hub is made up by people and the facilities surround them as necessary.

Discussion points included:

- Consider height restrictions for events and inclusion of permanent lighting which could be turned off at a certain time.
- Concerns around the opportunity as it stands might potentially lead Council to make decisions that are not as enduring as they could be in the long term as we have a responsibility to build solutions which are fit for purpose over the long term. Also concerns around possible further funding requirements to accommodate more parking and closer public conveniences as well as security at the site.

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher-Swann advised the Committee that given it is an amenity reserve the activity is permitted. The track itself does require a consent. Nuances around the lease can be picked up during the resource consent processing. The Community Facilities Strategy carried out in 2018 is the strategic road map for what is being proposed. In the Strategy that was adopted by Council the area identified in the report was the preferred location for the Skatepark and the pump track. Thorough engagement with the community and with sporting hubs has been carried out. From a strategic perspective the work has been completed and Council adopted it.

Further discussion points were:

- Structures such as seating, lighting and a tower are permitted activities within a recreation reserve.
- The hubbing or clustering of activities was promoted in the Community Facilities Strategy. When it comes to parking it is good practice to maximise the parking that is already available. While we are not looking to provide off-street parking there is considerable parking along the width of Grey Street. The recommendations in front of Council today support the hubbing or clustering of activities with like sports to maximise benefits and efficiencies.
- We are in a position of recognising and promoting our community to lead in places where they have strength. A desktop exercise was carried out around other potential sites for a pump track. Site 'A' provides the length, width and scale that the Adventure Trust are looking for to provide an optimum experience.
- Lotteries have committed \$250k with Trust Tairāwhiti underwriting the total amount with the proviso that external funding is obtained.
- At least one significant tree would need to be removed to extend into the amenity reserve and use Site 'B'. Consent would also need to be granted as it does not have the same designations as a recreation reserve and does not lend itself in the same way to having a sporting facility built upon it. From a reserves standpoint we are seeing more and more the importance of good set back from our rivers, streams and oceans.

Chief Executive further advised that it is not just about the funding but also the cost of the build itself. Any delay can cause a significant price escalation. Council adopted the report at the Operations Committee in November 2021 and agreed that this was the site for the Pump Track.

Acting Director Liveable Communities De-Arne Sutherland reiterated that the Business Case for the Sports Facilities came to Council in December 2020 and the pump track was included at that point as part of the hubbings and early wins. We would not want to locate permanent structures too close to the river or riparian margin. It is also about zonings and what is considered appropriate in a recreation reserve as opposed to an amenity reserve.

Further discussions included:

- Neighbour's concerns will be covered off in the special conditions in the Lease. Council will work with the Trust to deliver on this.

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Wharehinga

That the Council:

1. Consider the contents of this report and submissions made in person at the hearing.
2. Following the Hearing, decide whether to grant a lease for Site A (as shown in Attachment 1) on Alfred Cox Park, under section 54 of the Reserves Act, for the purpose of a pump track.
3. If the decision is to grant a lease:
 - (a) Direct the Chief Executive as to the nature of any special conditions to be included in the lease, such as restrictions on timing and frequency of events, height of structures, and light installations; and
 - (b) Instruct the Chief Executive to determine the final terms of the lease for agreement.

CARRIED

10. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12:58 pm.

Rehette Stoltz

MAYOR