

ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY

JOINT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL/ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Christchurch City Council/Environment Canterbury Committee held on Wednesday 17 May 2000 in the Committee Room of the Christchurch City Council, Tuam Street, Christchurch from 4.00pm.

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PRESENT

Christchurch City Council

Councillors A. Crighton (Deputy Chairperson), D. Close (from 4.10pm) and P. Harrow.

Environment Canterbury

Crs V Campbell (Chairperson), H Hay (till 5.00pm), D. Shand, R Johnston, N. Cherry, P. Yeoman.

In Attendance

Cr R Johnston (EC) and G Scanlon (Press)

Staff Present

Christchurch City Council

J. Fletcher, W. Brixton and for part meeting A. Watson.

Environment Canterbury

J Talbot, E Brussovs and for part meeting T. Boyle (Item 5) and B. Reid (Item 6).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and sustained for Crs Evans, Wells and Manning (CCC) and Crs Waters and Burke (EC). Cr Hay apologised for early departure.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 March 2000, were taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Cr Shand sought information about the City Council's response to Environment Canterbury's request to be a partner in the Northern Roding (Alternatives to Roding –NRoss) study. It was reported that the City Council had agreed that the study should be in collaboration with Environment Canterbury. Cr Shand and other Committee members expressed concern that a collaborative status did not recognise the Environment Canterbury's role in developing the Regional Land Transport Strategy and also the co-ordination of the regions funding proposals to Transfund.

Cr Crighton observed that arising out of concern of the proliferation of buses in Rolleston Avenue that she had observed an increase in buses and bus stops being established. An update was requested for the next meeting.

4. DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

Nil

5. EXTRAORDINARY AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairperson sought agreement for the inclusion of an additional item on to the agenda namely the relationship between the City Council and Environment Canterbury. The reason for inclusion was that the matter had been raised since circulation of the agenda. The motion was put and carried.

Resolved

That the item relationships between the City Council and Environment Canterbury be included on the agenda.

Crighton/Cherry

Relationship Between the City Council and Environment Canterbury

Cr Shand said it was disappointing to read the newspaper report in which Cr O'Rourke again questioned Environment Canterbury's future. She noted that Cr O'Rourke was an infrequent attendee of Joint Committee meetings and it was difficult to see how he had formed his view. Environment Canterbury was legally constituted with a number of responsibilities clearly different to TLAs with some slight overlap. A study by an independent consultant D. Collins in 1997 had indicated that the Region's and City Council functions were clear, and that where there were overlaps processes were in place to avoid duplication. She hoped that Christchurch City Council staff tasked to carry out the review would refer to the Collins report because many constituents

regarded this continued questioning of Environment Canterbury's role as a waste of time and money. Cr Shand hoped that the co-operative approach of Councillors on the Joint Committee would continue.

Cr Cherry echoed Cr Shand's views and noted that Councillors were charged with working for the betterment of the City and Region. It was particularly concerning when political sniping occurred on matters where the critic had not even read the reports. He mentioned a number of projects where the two organisations had to work together, e.g. the Millennium Bridge consent and Coastal areas.

Cr Close said he was not surprised at the Environment Canterbury reaction, but clarified that despite Cr O'Rourke's strong views that the resolution was not seeking abolition of the Region but rather ways of progressing a review under the auspices of planned changes to the Local Government Act. He noted that some conciliatory remarks made by Cr O'Rourke were not reported. It was agreed that the two organisations work together on some projects and through the Joint Committee mechanism, however, that did not remove the need to review where some responsibilities should not be re-allocated bothways. The Local Government Conference in Christchurch would no doubt discuss the changes to the Act.

Cr Crighton observed the views of Cr O'Rourke were not the view of most City Councillors and the media were a factor in exacerbating the situation.

The following additional points were made in discussion.

- That the Local Government Act Review had been signalled as a high priority and centred on the principles of TLA's being responsible and accountable to their communities and also provision of a form of power of general competence. It was thought that despite priority this process would be lengthy.
- Some Councillors asked how resource use and regulation separation could occur in one body and the perceived conflict that already occurred under present arrangements e.g. Canterbury Waste.
- Cr Hay said there was a need to ensure that figures used about Environment Canterbury's operations and costs were accurate. He reminded the committee that some \$12 million of the operating Environment Canterbury budget was for Public Passenger Transport.

Following extensive discussion Cr Yeomen suggested Cr O'Rourke be invited to the next meeting to outline his opinions and reasons for them. Cr Harrow supported Cr Yeoman's intent but suggested that a joint seminar (without media) of both councils be convened to discuss the 1997 Collins report.

Resolved

That the Christchurch City Council invites Environment Canterbury to a joint seminar (without media present) to discuss the 1997 Collins Report – Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council functional relationships, and promote greater understanding between the two bodies.

Harrow/Yeoman

5. GRAVEL EXTRACTION WAIMAKARIRI RIVER BED

Tony Boyle (Environment Canterbury) provided a presentation (copies of the overheads to be made available to the Committee). He explained the significant features and processes which occurred in the upper catchment but that the issue of interest was the re-working of the river bed below the gorge. The Waimakariri gravel fan had been deposited over 65,000 years as illustrated by the original coastline being at the site of the museum. Confinement of the river within the stopbank system had aggravated the problem. River bed build up (3.3million cubic metres between 1930-87) had reduced the stopbank system's designed flood resistance from 4,700 cumecs to about 2000 cumecs at Englebrechts and Crossbank. Stopbank erosion was a significant additional factor in flood breakout.

From a users perspective contractors processed 54 different types of aggregate with about 3 million cubic metres per year from pits and the river. River run gravel was good for concrete aggregate, in particular, for kerb and channel paths, and tilt slab construction. Pit gravel was needed to obtain the total volumes needed and also for specialist applications such as road formation. In order to deal with bed build up there was need to extract an additional 500000 cubic metres from the river over each of the next 3 to 5 years. One factor which led to less river gravel being utilised was the distance to processing plants. It was noted that a similar gravel build up problem existed on the Ashley.

The following points emerged from discussion.

- The use of economic instruments such as gravel royalties had been explored by DOC but did not find favour from Government.
 - It was noted that pits were excavated to about 1 metre above the water table and monitoring bores provided water quality trends.
- It was agreed that there was a need to develop a shingle production extraction strategy covering all sources (including dredging).

Resolved

That a strategy be developed for the demand production and extraction of gravel from rivers, pits and other sources to manage environmental effects.

6. HALSWELL DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Bob Reid (Environment Canterbury) spoke to the report which proposed adjustment to the Christchurch City Council's land drainage boundary in response to urban development pressure in the Halswell area. The change needed to be investigated to ensure that double rating did not occur and it was noted that a number of different rating zones existed. City Council officers indicated they had been in discussion with Environment Canterbury officers and had seen and agreed with the report.

In subsequent discussion it was agreed that cross boundary issues dictated that Selwyn and Banks Peninsula Districts should be consulted. The Halswell District Drainage Committee should also be consulted at an early stage.

Resolved

That the Joint Christchurch City Council/Environment Canterbury recommend to their respective councils that a joint staff working party develop recommendations for a possible change in the management of the Halswell Drainage District and the statutory processes necessary to achieve any recommended change.

7. EXTRAORDINARY AND URGENT BUSINESS

(See Item considered at Clause 5 above)

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 14 June 2000.

9. CLOSURE

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5.45p.m.

CONFIRMED

DATE _____

CHAIRPERSON _____

ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY

ORDER PAPER ITEM NO 16

JOINT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL/ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY COMMITTEE

Attached are the unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Christchurch City Council/Environment Canterbury Committee Meeting held on 17 May 2000. Council will note that it was resolved by the Committee to hold a Joint Council Seminar on the subject of relationships and responsibilities of the two bodies, on a date to be determined.

The next meeting is scheduled for 14 June 2000.

Report by El Brussovs
Administration Officer

Recommendation

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Christchurch City Council/Environment Canterbury Committee meeting of 17 May 2000 be received.