

25. 2. 99

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
JOINT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL/  
CANTERBURY REGIONAL COMMITTEE  
17 FEBRUARY 1999**

**A meeting of the Joint Christchurch City Council/  
Canterbury Regional Committee  
was held on Wednesday 17 February 1999 at 4.00 pm  
in the No. 2 Committee Room, Civic Offices**

**PRESENT:**

**Christchurch City Council:**

Councillors David Close, Anna Crighton,  
Carole Evans, Pat Harrow, Charles Manning and  
Sue Wells.

Alternates: Mayor Garry Moore.

**Canterbury Regional Council:**

Councillors Sir Kerry Burke, Valerie Campbell,  
Sir Hamish Hay, Diana Shand, Judy Waters and  
Peter Yeoman.

Alternates: Councillors Neil Cherry and  
Richard Johnson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Robert Johnston and Mark Oldfield.

**APOLOGIES:**

Mayor Garry Moore was present to 4.30 pm and  
Councillor Sue Wells to 5.20 pm.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Mike Richardson, City Manager, welcomed members to the Civic Offices and referred to progress being made with members on waste, transport and water.

Ian Cumming, Chief Executive Officer, saw the Committee as incredibly important, with issues to be worked through, in order to reach an agreed policy position. There was need to respect each other's respective areas of responsibility, but to work together collectively.

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Mike Richardson advised that the election of chairperson would be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act, and enquired whether members wished to use the open voting method or not.

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At this point Councillor Richard Johnson suggested that:

1. Joint chairpersons be elected, with chairing of meetings to alternate.
2. The three-year term be broken into two half-terms of 16 months each, with the alternate chairperson to serve as chairperson for the remainder of the term.

It was agreed that the 16-month term split of the Joint Committee term be approved.

Peter Mitchell, Legal Services Manager, advised that the Local Government Act did not provide for joint chairpersons. It was proposed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson should change roles in June 2000.

Ian Cumming indicated that the Regional Council had received contrary legal advice on the matter, and he proposed that the information be brought to the next Committee meeting for further consideration.

***Resolved***

*That the open vote method of voting be adopted for the election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.*

Close/Manning

Mike Richardson called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Joint Committee to 30 June 2000. Councillor Close nominated Councillor Anna Crighton and this was seconded by Councillor Burke.

There being no further nominations, Councillor Anna Crighton was declared elected as Chairperson of the Joint Christchurch City Council/Canterbury Regional Council Committee.

Councillor Crighton assumed the chair and thanked members for their support, and spoke of the important work the Joint Committee would be undertaking.

**3. DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

Councillor Waters nominated Councillor Valerie Campbell and this was seconded by Councillor Evans.

There being no further nominations, Councillor Valerie Campbell was elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Joint Committee.

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**4. INTRODUCTIONS**

After a brief exchange of introductions, the Chairperson invited members to comment on the Joint Committee's role.

Richard Johnson spoke of the tremendous role the Committee had to play and the need to overcome any misunderstandings that might occur between the various parties.

Mayor Garry Moore commented that the Joint Committee was the forum for major issues such as transport and water to be openly debated.

Councillor David Close spoke of the need not to be diverted off course by newspaper headlines.

**5. MINUTES OF MEETING – 27 AUGUST 1998**

Minutes of the meeting of 27 August 1998, as circulated, were received.

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

**NATURAL RESOURCES REGIONAL PLAN – AIR PART**

Councillor Close sought an indication when the Air Plan might be in place as a means of supporting the City Council's open fireplace conversion grant scheme.

John Talbot updated members on the situation that had occurred following the coal producers' challenge to the High Court. He indicated that a decision might be available at the end of winter if all went to plan, but he warned there could be further legal challenges.

**STOCK EFFLUENT**

A check is to be made as to whether the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board had received an update on the situation, including the screening of a video.

**7. DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Nil.

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**8. 1999 MEETING SCHEDULE**

*Resolved*

*That the Joint Committee meet on a monthly basis on the dates as set out on the meeting timetable, to enable more concise meetings to be held.*

Evans/Waters

**9. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

An updated version of the Terms of Reference was tabled.

*Resolved*

*That the Joint Committee Terms of Reference, as tabled, be confirmed and received.*

Close/Burke

**10. FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

*Resolved*

*That the functional relationships discussion paper dated August 1997 be received.*

Close/Burke

**11. CENTRAL CITY BUS TERMINUS AND INTERCHANGE STUDY**

Stuart Woods spoke to the report, noting:

- Proposed study process target dates may not be met
- A public meeting is proposed for Thursday 4 March at the Convention Centre
- The subcommittee had met once during mid-December

Stuart Woods further illustrated his report with a series of overhead transparencies depicting:

- Conceptual map of existing central city routes and termini
- Peripheral terminus concept
- Peripheral terminus options

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**11 Cont'd**

In the discussion which followed it was suggested that:

- Any policy decisions reached needed to be brought to the Joint Committee, before being recommended to the respective Councils
- The work of the subcommittee in establishing places for bus interchanges, etc would be brought back through the City Services Committee to the Joint Committee
- The Joint Committee's current Terms of Reference did not reflect the process proposed
- The Christchurch City Council had rejected the Joint Committee's recommendation for the provision of three regional councillors to be members of the subcommittee
- The need to find a structure/method where the two authorities work as partners, to avoid matters being presented as a fait accompli
- Regional Council staff were, in effect, working for another organisation, which was not appropriate as the Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Council was their employer, therefore this was neither fair on him or on those staff involved
- If the subcommittee required joint input, then this needed to be addressed by the Joint Committee

***Recommendation:***

*That the Joint Committee draw to the attention of the Christchurch City Council subcommittee on central city bus terminus and interchange, the need for involvement of regional councillors in the study, in order to facilitate the input from Regional Council staff.*

Close/Campbell

**12. CHRISTCHURCH WATER – FUTURE STRATEGY**

Eric van Toor, in speaking to his report, illustrated it with a series of overhead transparencies showing:

- Why the preparation a strategic plan for water supply services was needed:
  - Minimise potential adverse environmental effects
  - Minimise costs
  - Need to seek and act on community values
  - Water supply asset management plan is incomplete without comprehensive resource strategy

He then referred to the process diagram contained within the agenda.

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**12 Cont'd**

In the discussion which followed, comments or questions were made in respect of:

- The study had to be a dynamic study with interim reports being available
- No research was needed over the next two to five years, as all the information was available for decisions to be made

**13. CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Michael Dicker gave a presentation on aspects of the Christchurch District Water Resource, with a series of maps and charts showing:

- Contours of piezometric surface and direction of ground water flow
- Schematic cross-section
- Christchurch West Melton ground water investigation of wells and consents
- Monitoring network
- Estimated annual inflows – river and rainfall
- Computed annual outflows – GHB, wells, springs and coast
- Ansons Road well
- Ravensdown well
- Museum deep well
- Avon – Heathcote surface water current flows
- Schematic cross-section freshwater/saltwater interface
- First aquifer piezometric contour map
- Unconfined aquifer recharging
- Augmentation/artificial recharge process and investigations
- Ground water abstractions 1986-1998
- Waimakariri River flow rates and abstractions

John Talbot summarised the Christchurch West Melton water resource use and management issues, covering:

- Description of the ground water system
- Sources of water for Christchurch
- Resource management issues for the Canterbury Regional Council
- Some issues for the Christchurch City Council of interest to the Canterbury Regional Council
- Planning development

In particular, he drew attention to the abstraction information.

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**GROUND WATER**

The 1986 ground water abstraction of 111 annual MCM has been updated in 1998 to a reduced 83 MCM, which now provided an even greater comfort level between current abstraction and the interim safe annual yield of 143 annual MCM.

As a result, the Regional Council could continue to grant further permits from all aquifers, as the current abstraction rate is well below the interim safe yield.

**WAIMAKARIRI RIVER**

In respect of the Waimakariri River, the present river flow rate was around 44m<sup>3</sup>/s and there was potential for water to be abstracted from the river, but this would need to be treated.

**LOCAL RAINFALL**

This was seen as a potential source of water supply in urban areas.

**ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE**

As the benefits were outweighed by the costs, this was not seen as one which should be pursued for the city. Reports on this matter had been issued previously would be made available to the City Council.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

How much water was wanted in the Avon and Heathcote Rivers was an important issue.

Minimum ground water levels needed to be set, with an appropriate management regime in place.

**ISSUES FOR THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL**

A network of wells was crucial for the city.

Was the water going to be used wisely.

An urban growth strategy was desirable for integrated planning purposes.

The recommendations contained in the future strategy report of the City Council would be endorsed.

In the discussion which followed, a number of questions and comments were made in respect of:

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**13 Cont'd**

- The point where the rainfall started to affect the ground water supply
- Noting the abstraction need to supply 50,000 people

John Talbot reiterated that there were two clearly separate issues:

- (i) How much water can be safely extracted out of the ground water system; and
- (ii) How much infrastructure does the City Council put in place to service its customers.

He suggested that the current infrastructure may not be capable of delivering the water available. There was huge potential to put down more wells in the network design and this was something the Regional Council could assist the City Council with.

- There was potential for pollution seeping into wells from sea water, old landfills on the western fringe, and failure of the existing well structures themselves. Sewage and stormwater seepage represented another threat.

John Talbot advised that, currently, half the water taken is from the first aquifer, and there was potential to develop the other remaining aquifer.

- The City Council had been planning its water resources on the old abstraction levels and would now have to look at the new information.
- There were other users, such as industrial and agricultural, which impacted on the margin between the level of abstraction and safe yield figure.
- Figures were required on the abstraction rate by other users beyond the 50 MCM the City Council extracted.
- Abstraction permits were held by the City Council and other users in excess of what was currently being extracted. This would be provided at the next meeting.

The discussion concluded with thoughts being expressed on the matters which could be discussed the following month, including:

1. The problems faced by irrigators on the Canterbury Plains.
2. Examination of the growth priorities for water extraction by industrial, agricultural and city use.
3. The effect on available water in a changing climate.



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***Resolved:***

1. *That the two reports as presented be received.* Close/Campbell
2. *That the Joint CCC/CRC Special Committee support the development of a Water Use Strategy for completion by June 2001, in conjunction with the Water Chapter of the Natural Resources Regional Plan.*

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.

**CONSIDERED THIS 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 1999**

**MAYOR**