

Minutes of a meeting of an extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 28 August 2018 at 8.02pm.

Present His Worship the Mayor (Chairman, Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Crs Beale, Bolger, Davis, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Phillips and Reid.

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh), Communications/Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Corporate Support Officer (Suzanne Lucas) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apology Cr Sharp apologised for his absence.

1. ASPIRE PARK – APPLICATION TO PROVINCIAL GROWTH FUND (SC2255)

A report from the Chief Executive had been received.

Discussions had been held with MBIE officials to ensure the project was aligned with the funding criteria for the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF). Before it was forwarded to the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) in Wellington for formal consideration, the application required specific endorsement by the Council that the former Gore hospital site was available for the project.

Cr Phillips said there had not been a definitive agreement that the hospital land be used for the project and that needed to be endorsed prior to the application being submitted to MBIE.

Cr Highsted expressed concern about ownership of the venture and the sustainability of the business model. He asked if conditions could be put on the approval.

His Worship suggested a recommendation that should the funding be obtained from PGF for the Aspire Park project, the Council agree for it to be located on the former hospital site.

Cr Highsted expressed his concern about the ownership of the various commercial entities proposed to be included in the project.

The Communications/Marketing Manager said the financials had been presented at a recent workshop which Cr Highsted had not been present at.

The Chief Executive there was a clear indication of how the new venture would operate in terms of utilising existing structures and the employment of a manager and the MLT had been identified as a potential business partner.

Cr D Grant was concerned about the concept and ongoing management of the equestrian centre. He was doubtful there was a need for extra accommodation within the District.

His Worship said he was mindful of time and the need to progress the application to MBIE.

The Chief Executive said the project would not have been considered if there was not the opportunity to access the fund. This was an opportunity to be embraced and if the Council was successful in securing funding from the PGF then surely the Council could make it work.

Cr Beale also expressed his concern about the financial viability of the project.

Cr Davis asked about the future of the project and how maintenance and other costs would be funded further down the track.

His Worship confirmed there was a 10 year plan and it was financially supported.

Cr Bolger said the Council needed to expedite the application for funding and embrace the opportunity. The decision before the Council was not to build Aspire Park but to expedite the application for funding.

Cr Highsted asked who would own the land.

His Worship confirmed ownership would remain with the Council.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Dickson THAT the Council approve and endorse the use of the former Gore Hospital site on the corner of Wigan and Salford Streets, Gore and now owned by the Gore District Council, as the site for the new equestrian centre of excellence and eco-accommodation,

THAT the Council note that a formal application to the Provincial Growth Fund is now in a position to be sent to MBIE for consideration,

AND THAT it be further noted that the Council's contribution to the project is limited to making available the land and staff time.

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Cr Highsted wished it to be noted he did not endorse this resolution.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm