

RURAL CITY LIVING



Report of a meeting of the Mataura Community Board, held in the Mataura Community Centre, McQueen Avenue, Mataura, on Monday 16 March 2020, at 5.35pm.

Present Alan Taylor (Chairman), Steven Dixon and Sue Taylor.

In attendance Administration Manager (Susan Jones) and Parks and Recreation Manager (Ian Soper).

Apologies Linda Sinclair apologised for absence and Cr Neville Phillips apologised for lateness.

1. CONFIRMATION OF REPORT

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Sue Taylor, seconded by Steven Dixon, **THAT** the report of the meeting held on Monday 2 December 2019, as circulated, be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and complete record.

2. MEETING SCHEDULE

A memo had been received from the Administration Manager including a proposed meeting schedule for the remainder of 2020. Meetings would be held as follows:

- Monday 4 May
- Monday 15 June
- Monday 27 July
- Monday 14 September
- Monday 19 October
- Monday 23 November

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Alan Taylor, seconded by Sue Taylor, **THAT** the meeting schedule for 2020 be adopted.

Cr Phillips attended the meeting from 5.38pm

3. CULLING TERRACE WALKWAY (SC2766)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager seeking direction from the Board on how to proceed with the development of the Culling Terrace walkway. The overarching issue on the site was the sheer number of large rogue trees, namely Gums and Sycamore. Compounding matters was a proliferation of rambling and climbing Ivy amongst other undesirable weed species. The other major impediment was the steep slope making all site access troublesome. The site lent itself to being planted out in native species to act as a natural haven for birds and other wildlife while retaining the walkway with seats at various locations where vistas of the Mataura valley could be viewed. Details of the work undertaken to date had been provided.

The Manager referred to a previous request from the Board three years ago when costings had been obtained for the clearance of the site by installing new driveway access along the base of the hill. The option was cost prohibitive and was abandoned at the Board's request. The only ongoing funded work stream on the site was spraying, clearance and maintenance of structures associated with the walkway. The Manager proposed a budget allocation of \$20,000 per annum over the life of the upcoming Long Term Plan to tackle the issue piece by piece, year by year.

S Dixon asked whether the track could be relocated to the bottom of the slope while the development of the walkway was undertaken. The Manager said that option had been considered in the past, however, it was cost prohibitive. The Board had determined about three years ago that it would not progress due to the cost. He could obtain updated costs for the work if the Board wished.

S Dixon asked if it would help if one of the property owners on Kana Street agreed to allow access through their property. The Manager said it would, however, if access was to remain open for the duration of the project which could be 10 years, it would be a big ask.

The Chairman added there could be community input into tidying up the walkway which could assist with reducing costs.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steve Dixon, seconded by Sue Taylor, THAT the information be received,

THAT the Council support the planned development of the Culling Terrace walkway project by including it in Asset Management Plans with a funding consideration of \$20,000 per annum being added to the upcoming 2021-2031 Long Term Plan consultation process,

AND THAT community input be invited in an effort to reduce costs.

In response to Cr Phillips, the Manager said \$20,000 per annum would be achievable. All that was currently contained in the Council's budget was an amount for maintenance.

4. FORMER SWIMMING POOL BUILDING (SC2491)

The Chairman referred to the former swimming pool building that had been removed from the Tulloch Park redevelopment plans due to security concerns. He said consideration would be given to retaining the building and making it more usable for the community. There would not be a lot of cost involved in filling the tank.

Cr Phillips suggested the Board consider the best outcome for the building at a workshop and then provide options at a future meeting.

5. GENERAL

- Cr Phillips referred to an article in the Southland Times about the Mataura railway station. He suggested the Board have a plan about what its intention was for the building and convey that to the Council. He was concerned and disappointed that the information had been released.

The Chairman advised he had had a meeting earlier in the day about potential funding for the project. He was also disappointed with the article and that the reporter had not contacted him for any comment.

The Administration Manager advised the Council had received an official information request from the Southland Times and there was no reason to withhold the information.

Cr Phillips said with the likelihood of land being purchased now being made public it was likely to impact on the price.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 4 May 2020, at 5.30pm

The meeting concluded at 6.00pm