

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Development Committee Meeting Part I Public, held via an Audio-visual Meeting on 09 March 2022, commencing at 1:06 pm

Members Present: Councillor Lorna Johnson (in the Chair), The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Rachel Bowen, Brent Barrett, Susan Baty, Zulfiqar Butt, Renee Dingwall, Lew Findlay QSM, Patrick Handcock ONZM, Leonie Hapeta, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor, Bruno Petrenas, Aleisha Rutherford, and Ms Danielle Harris.

Non Members: Councillors Vaughan Dennison and Orphée Mickalad.

1-22 Public Comment

Ms Ellen Dixon, Manager of the Housing Advice Centre, made public comment regarding homelessness in the Palmerston North area and presented the reasoning for the Housing Advice Centre's support of the Night Shelter project as a relevant tool to combat homelessness and the many other issues that accompany it.

Ms Dixon highlighted some factors of homelessness in Palmerston North including people being unable to get into emergency housing, overcrowding due to hotels and motels being closed due to Covid-19 and other issues.

Ms Dixon highlighted the significance of a Night Shelter with inter-agency involvement including PN City Council, The Salvation Army, Tuatahi Centre, etc. to work in the space for a cross-sector engagement with wrap-around services. Also, the presence and support from the Kaupapa Māori Organisations with its Tikanga Māori approach, connecting people with their whanau, is crucial as it gives people dignity and brings them into an inclusive space where they feel welcomed.

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Rachel Bowen.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the public comment be received for information.

Clause 1-22 above was carried.

2-22 Presentation - Sheltered Accommodation

Mr Frank Boulton, a resident of the subsidised housing at Persson Place, made a presentation regarding the problems he has faced over more

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than 6½ years including loud and disruptive noise day and night, damage to personal and Council property, threats of violence and death, etc.

Mr Boulton acknowledged that complaints had been addressed by the PN City Council, e.g. visits from Noise Control Officer, Police and the local MP, and that the problems were mostly sorted out.

He was more concerned about PNCC renting out some of its accommodation directly and other units being sub-let through MASH Trust. As he believed that the tenants of one organisation were unable to make complaints on tenants from the other organisation; depriving them of the right to go to the Tenancy Tribunal.

He suggested that the Council should be the only legal landlord and that the rent should be paid directly to the Council which would result in the same rules and rights for all tenants, making the solution of problems better and faster.

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Rachel Bowen.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the presentation from Mr Boulton be received for information.

Clause 2-22 above was carried.

3-22

Presentation - Manawatū Hindu Society

Mr Jitender (Joe) Singh, President and Mr Bipan Bansal, Executive Member of the Manawatū Hindu Society made a presentation on behalf of the Hindu Society of Palmerston North.

There is a growing Hindu community in the region and the Hindu Society would like to build a communal place to fulfil the social, cultural, and spiritual needs of the community.

The proposal is to build a Hindu temple and Community Centre to promote Hindu culture and religion, and to provide a platform to perform religious functions, celebrations, and events.

The presenters asked if Council could assist the Hindu Society to achieve its goal e.g. helping lease land and a suitable building from the Council.

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Rachel Bowen.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the presentation from Mr Singh and Mr Bansal be received for information.

Clause 3-22 above was carried.

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4-22 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Rachel Bowen.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting of 1 December 2021 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 4-22 above was carried.

5-22 **Night Shelter - Options, costs and timeframes for a feasibility study**

Report, presented by Stephanie Velvin, Community Development Manager.

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Rachel Bowen.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That the Council direct the Chief Executive to proceed with Option 1A in the 21-22 financial year with funding of \$100,000 for the Night Shelter feasibility study coming from the operational surplus and report back to Community Development Committee in the first quarter of the 22-23 year.

Clause 5-22 above was carried 14 votes to 3, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Lorna Johnson, Rachel Bowen, Brent Barrett, Susan Baty, Zulfiqar Butt, Vaughan Dennison, Renee Dingwall, Lew Findlay QSM, Patrick Handcock ONZM, Leonie Hapeta, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Aleisha Rutherford and Danielle Harris.

Against:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Karen Naylor and Bruno Petrenas.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

The meeting resumed at 3:35 pm.

6-22 **Welcoming Communities Programme Annual Report**

Memorandum, presented by Stephanie Velvin, Community Development Manager.

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Zulfiqar Butt.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the report titled 'Welcoming Communities Programme Annual Report' be received for information.

Clause 6-22 above was carried.

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7-22 Committee Work Schedule - March 2022

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Rachel Bowen.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Community Development Committee receive its Work Schedule dated March 2022.

Clause 7-22 above was carried.

The meeting finished at 4:05 pm.

Confirmed 8 June 2022

Chairperson