



Brighton Council

MINUTES OF THE **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**
OF THE BRIGHTON COUNCIL HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES
GAGEBROOK AT 4.35 P.M. ON TUESDAY,
8TH MAY, 2012

PRESENT: Cr Curran (Acting Chairperson); Cr Garlick; Cr Gray;
Cr Jeffries and Cr Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Owen; Cr Taylor; Mrs J Banks (Manager
Governance & Human Services); Mrs G Browne
(Executive Officer - Corporate Services) and Miss A
Courtney.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cr Gray moved, Cr Williams seconded that Cr Foster be granted leave of absence.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Williams	

2. QUESTION TIME & DEPUTATIONS:

As there were no members in the gallery there was no requirement for question time.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

In accordance with Part 5, Section 48 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Chairman of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have an interest in any item on the agenda; and

Part 2 Regulation 8 (7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*, the Chairman of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda.

Accordingly, Councillors are requested to advise of any interest they may have in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the Council has resolved to deal with, in accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*.

There were no declarations of interest.

4. BUSINESS:

4.1 OLD BEACH CRICKET CLUB LEASE OF CLOAK & THOMPSON OVALS:

FILE REFERENCE: JETTY/100 & MIDHWY/236

AUTHOR: Council Services Officer
(Mrs C Harper)

Background:

The Old Beach cricket club have contacted Council to request that they be able to lease Cloak Oval during the cricket season; September through March each year. Cloak oval is the home ground for the Old Beach Cricket Club and is attached to the Old Beach Community Centre which they have a seasonal hire agreement to use as their clubrooms.

They have contacted Council to apply for a lease as they are currently charged by Southern Cricket Association \$33.50 per/hr for the use of the ground. If they were to hire directly from Council they would pay the schedule fee according to Council's Fees and Charges, currently \$17/hr.

The Southern Cricket Association charges all clubs, for all grounds the fee of \$33.50, regardless of what fee they are being charged for the ground. Therefore in the case of ovals hired from Brighton Council Southern Cricket Association are making a profit of \$16.50 per hour this financial year.

Consultation:

Ross Wooldridge (OBCC), Greg Davoren (Deputy General Manager), Gillian Browne (Executive Officer), Cathy Harper (Council Services Officer).

Risk Implications:

Nil.

Financial Implications:

Nil - Council would retain the current level of payment for the use of the ground.

It would potentially enable Old Beach Cricket Club to earn extra income by charging Southern Cricket Association a slightly higher fee than what the club is charged by Council.

Other Issues:

Nil.

Assessment:

Old Beach Cricket Club if able to lease directly from Council would benefit financially by both paying considerably less annual fees for the year and also by potentially being able to increase the clubs income, by charging Southern Cricket a higher charge.

The extra funding and reduced expenditure would support the increased growth the Club is experiencing and continue to provide greater support for juniors in the municipality who are pursuing cricket as a sporting avenue.

This agreement would mean that any profits made on ground hire would remain within the community, through the Old Beach Cricket Club, and would not be leaving the community as is the current practice with profits being made by the Southern Cricket Association.

Options:

1. As per the recommendation.
2. Not allow Old Beach Cricket Club to lease Cloak Oval and to remain with the current hire situation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council allow the Old Beach Cricket Club to hire Cloak and Thompson Ovals directly for the 2012/13 season at the rate specified by Councils Fees and Charges.

DECISION:

Cr Garlick moved, Cr Jeffries seconded that this matter be held over to the Ordinary Council Meeting pending further information from Council Officers.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Williams	

4.2 RATE REMISSION – 244 MIDLAND HIGHWAY, PONTVILLE – EPSOM HOUSE:

FILE REFERENCE: MIDHWY/22

AUTHOR: Deputy General Manager
(Mr G Davoren)

Background:

A letter had been received from Geoff and Jacqui Robertson requesting a rate remission for their property at 244 Midland Highway, Pontville.

According to the Valuer General, the property has a capital value of \$994,000 with an AAV of \$39,760 based on a valuation level at October; 2006. The property classification is set by the Valuer General and is recognised as commercial.

According to www.epsomhouse.com, Epsom House can accommodate auditorium conferences, meetings or cocktail parties for up to 100 delegates in the ballroom. Can cater for private dinners or table-based conferences for up to 50 people and provides facilities include on-site parking, dining and bar service, morning and afternoon teas.

Consultation:

Nil

Risk Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

The general rate for a residential property in Pontville for the financial year ending 2012 is \$780.80 whereas the general rate for a commercial property with an AAV of \$39,760 is \$3,047.83

Usually the general rate is tax-deductible for a commercial property or portion thereof.

Other Issues:

Nil

Assessment:

Epsom House is recognised as one of Australia's hundred oldest houses. It has significant heritage value, not only within Brighton but also nationally. There is little doubt that the Robertson's have invested a considerable amount of money and effort in its restoring Epsom House to its original Georgian glory.

Council may need to consider that no other commercial property within the municipality has ever been recognised as residential for rating purposes.

Audited Financial Statements for Epsom House have not been requested.

Options:

1. Do not remit rates
2. Remit general commercial rate permanently to equal the general residential rate equivalent. (Remission currently equal to \$2,267.03 per annum)
3. Remit general commercial rate for the 2012/13 year and reviewed annually to equal the general residential rate equivalent. (Remission currently equal to \$2,267.03 per annum)
4. Remit the general commercial rate permanently to equal 50% of the difference to the general residential rate equivalent. (Remission currently equal to \$1,133.51 per annum)
5. Remit the general commercial rate for the 2012/13 year and reviewed annually to equal 50% of the difference to the general residential rate equivalent. (Remission currently equal to \$1,133.51 per annum)
6. Remit a set amount per annum permanently or reviewed annually to be advised by Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

To be advised by Council.

DECISION:

Cr Jeffries moved, Cr Garlick seconded that Option 1 be adopted.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Williams	

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

Confirmed:

(Acting Mayor)

Date:

15th May 2012