



REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2013, AT 4.00PM.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), P Grant, (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Davis, Dixon, Gover, D Grant, Highsted, Redhead, Sharp and Watt.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roding Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Ms Sarah Dowling), Communications Coordinator (Sonia Gerken), Community Development Officer (Mrs Melissa Smith), Keith Hovell Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Aquatic Services Manager (Ms Kim Peterson), Library Manager (Ms Lorraine Weston-Webb), Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes) and Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan).

Cr Grant called for any conflicts of interest. None were received.

1. UPDATE FROM VENTURE SOUTHLAND (SC0321)

The Chief Executive of Venture Southland Mr Paul Casson was in attendance and provided an update on recent activities undertaken by Venture Southland.

Mr Casson tabled a memorandum from Venture Southland's Group Managers regarding current topical issues and actions and the Venture Southland Action Plan for Development 2013-2014.

He said Venture Southland had been actively working with Meridian Energy and the Tiwai Aluminium Smelter. It was also looking at new initiatives around technologies and how to get a share of economic benefits from the Christchurch earthquake rebuild.

Venture Southland was working with several groups to put pathways in careers around farming for young people in Southland.

In response to Cr Watt, Mr Casson said Venture Southland had been looking at technology advances in terms of IT and UHV around horticulture around crop

productions to work smarter to add value to what the province did now and whether that be through science or IT technologies.

The Chief Executive said the relationship with Venture Southland and the arrangement with the Community Development Officer was working well.

2. REPORT OF THE AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER (SC0257)

The Committee perused the report from the Aquatics Services Manager.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the report be received.

3. REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER (SC0257)

The Committee perused the report from the Parks and Recreation Manager.

The Manager said winter conditions had been very favourable for good growth making the staff very busy.

He said the security camera upgrade included interactive cameras that connected directly back to the local Police Station. It would be a very useful tool for the Police who were very appreciative of the cameras. It was pleasing that Pakeke Lions were able to support the Council with the upgrade.

In response to Cr Dixon, the Manager said staff were currently exploring the idea of having the technology to view the Mataura streets from the Gore Police Station. He would keep the Council informed of progress.

The General Manager, District Assets said the volume of recycling that went to Pakeke Lions gave the group the ability to fund the cameras. The Council should be recognised for its involvement too. The relationship was a win win situation for the whole community.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr Dixon , THAT the report be received.

4. SPORT SOUTHLAND – ANNUAL REPORT (SC0319)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager together with a copy of the Eastern Southland annual report compiled by Eastern Southland's Sport Southland Coordinator, Harley Ware.

The Manager apologised for Mr Ware's unavoidable absence. Mr Ware had fitted in well to the role and was doing a sterling job being involved with a lot of events across the community. His role was full time with some additional support hours.

The Chief Executive said Sport Southland had come ahead in leaps and bounds over the last 10 years. The Council was certainly getting value for money.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Gover, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the report be received.

5. REPORT OF THE LIBRARIES MANAGER (SC0257)

The Committee perused the report from the Library Manager.

The General Manager, Corporate Services said a lot of enhancements had been made to the library over the last couple of years together with the recent refurbishment. It was certainly now a people friendly area to visit.

The Chief Executive said library staff were recently able to order and obtain books for him recently within 48 hours. The staff provided an excellent and smooth service.

His Worship endorsed the Chief Executive's comments. He congratulated the library on being awarded the Gore Parents Centre Friendly Service Award recently and acknowledged the aquatic centre and cycle park for also being nominated. He commended the local Parents Centre for starting the awards initiative the previous year that several other centres had started the awards also.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Gover, seconded by Cr Watt, THAT the report be received.

6. REPORT OF THE GORE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE MANAGER (SC0257)

The Committee perused the report from the Information Centre Manager.

In response to Cr Beale asking if staff were competent to deal with Chinese visitors, the Arts and Heritage Curator said staff liaised in the main through experienced operators in the sector. Recent figures from Museums Aotearoa indicated the demographic for Asian visitors only accounted for 5% of visitation numbers.

Mr Casson advised that Venture Southland was currently running training classes around a Chinese awareness programme. The Indian visitor market was becoming an even bigger tourist market. The language barrier was an issue.

Cr Gover said she had cued outside the information centre to buy tickets to the recent Hokonui Fashion Design Awards. There had been some disgruntlement from people cued up because staff continuously took phone call orders while the cue waited.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the report be received.

7. REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR (SC0257)

The Committee perused the report from the Communications Coordinator.

The Coordinator advised the number of people following the Council's page had increased to 376 since the report had been written.

The Chief Executive said the Coordinator's role was quite far reaching and not just about producing press releases.

In response to the Chief Executive, the Coordinator said over 150 survey responses had been returned. That was a 2% response which was pleasing a 1% was considered good. Results were still being collated. Anecdotally some good comments had been received.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Redhead, seconded by Cr Watt, THAT the report be received.

8. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR (SC0257)

The Committee perused the report from the Arts and Heritage Curator.

The Curator said the gallery had been fortunate over the last 12 months to attract some volunteers who had been coming in on a regular basis to both Gore and Matura. A group of 13 students had been working on a gallery collection too.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the report be received.

9. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (SC0257)

The Committee perused the report from the Community Development Officer.

The Officer said it had been a busy reporting time. The highlight had been the funding received from the Ministry of Youth Development Youth Partnership Fund and Lottery Commission for the Migrant Services position.

The social sector alliance meeting had been a good initiative and there had been a good atmosphere at the meeting

The Chief Executive endorsed the Officer's comments. The Youth Council had come a long way since its inception. The secured funding would enable the Youth Council to do something really special. He paid tribute to the Officer's efforts in securing the funding. When the role had been mooted, some had wondered what the role could involve. It was now touching all areas and making a difference.

In response to His Worship, the Officer said the people who participated in the recent governance workshop were from a wide range of sectors across the community. The law centre had received several inquiries from groups now wanting to update their constitutions.

His Worship endorsed the Chief Executive's comments. Community Development work was important and would not be getting done without the Council's initiative. It was great work that the Officer was doing.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Gover, seconded by Cr Watt, THAT the report be received.

10. REPORT OF THE GORE DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL (SC0257)

The Committee perused the reports of Gore District Youth Council meetings held on 26 March and 18 April 2013.

The Community Development Officer said it was great to see progression from the Youth Council and a link with outside organisations.

Cr Sharp advised he had a suitable empty paddock available where students could learn to drive if they wish to utilise it.

Cr Davis said it was good to see the Youth Council interacting with other councils.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the report be received.

11. REPORT FROM MIGRANT SERVICES COORDINATOR (SC0257)

A memo had been received from the Community Development Officer together with a copy of the Migrant Services report for activities undertaken in July and August compiled by the Migrant Services Coordinator Mihaela Erdelyi.

The Community Development Officer said it was great to get funding to continue the great work she is doing.

The Chief Executive said it was great that the Coordinator could provide practical on the ground help to new people in the District. It was a really important position and she was doing a great job.

His Worship said at the last count, there were 24 different ethnicities living in the District.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT the report be received.

12. LIFE EDUCATION TRUST – ANNUAL REPORT (SC0)

A memo had been received from the Community Development Officer together with the Heartland Otago/Southland Life Education Trust Inc's annual report for the year ending 31 December 2012.

In response to Cr Dixon, Cr Gover said Harold the giraffe was the key to the connection the Trust had with children Australasian wide.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the annual report of the Trust for the year ending 31 December 2012 be received.

The meeting concluded at 4.53pm.