



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE, ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2006, AT 4:00 pm

PRESENT Cr Davis (Chairperson), Crs Bolger, Dore, Harvey, Hellier, McFadzien, McIntyre, Ogg, Sutherland and Turnbull.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Neil Jorgensen), General Manager, Community Services (Miss Su Mohan Das), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore) Chief Financial Officer (Mr Doug Walker), District Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Aquatic Services Manager (Ms Kim Peterson), District Promotions Manager (Mrs Melissa King), Deputy Librarian (Ms Denise George), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones) and the Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell).

APOLOGY Cr McLennan apologised for absence.

1. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Committee perused the Operations Bulletin containing reports from the District Promotions Manager, District Arts and Heritage Curator, Deputy Librarian, Parks and Recreation Manager, Aquatic Services Manager and Animal Control Contractor.

Report of the District Promotions Manager (18.18)

His Worship commented on the work put into Gold Guitar Week by the i-Site Centre staff and the contributions towards the itinerary for the visitors from Tamworth.

The Manager introduced the 2006 Gold Guitar Young Ambassador, Tiffany Hiri to the Council.



Miss Hiri acknowledged the contribution of the Council and for the opportunities presented to her as Young Ambassador.

Report of the District Arts and Heritage Curator (23.5)

His Worship acknowledged the great events during Gold Guitar week and the contributions provided by the Curator towards the NZ Country Music Awards and the Songwriting Awards.

In response to Cr Davis, the Curator said he would be happy to provide a presentation on the Southern Odyssey project to the Committee at some time. He was hoping it would come to fruition by the end of July.

Report of the Deputy Librarian (25.1)

The Committee was pleased with the interest shown by East Gore School which was visiting the library on a regular basis.

Cr Dore acknowledged the donations from the Gore Rotary Club and the Pukerau School Jubilee Committee.

The Deputy Librarian displayed the books purchased with the donations.

Report of the Parks and Recreation Manager (18.1.2)

In response to Cr Harvey, the Manager advised the proposal to investigate the possibility of new hockey turfs in Southland was news to him. Cr Harvey added Venture Southland was undertaking a feasibility study.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sutherland, seconded by Cr Hellier, THAT the Operations Bulletin be received.

The District Arts and Heritage Curator, Aquatic Services Manager, District Promotions Manager and Deputy Librarian departed the meeting at 4:15 pm

2. GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY (18.70)

The New Zealand Recreation Association Project Manager, Mr Geoff Canham, was in attendance and provided a power point presentation on the physical activity strategy that the Council was involved with.



Mr Richard Pasco, Eastern Southland Sports Co-Ordinator was also in attendance.

In response to His Worship, the Parks and Recreation Manager advised the local involvement included Ralph La Salle from Gore Hospital and representation from PHOs, Southland District Health Board, Public Health South, Hokonui Rununga, secondary schools, Sport Southland and the Council.

Mr Canham fielded questions from Councillors.

The Manager extended thanks to Mr Canham for his presentation.

3. REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM PUBLIC CONVENIENCES WORKING PARTY (10.11.4)

A joint comprehensive report from the Parks and Recreation Manager and General Manager, District Assets had been circulated following the appointment of a working party to progress the establishment of new public toilets.

Consultation had been undertaken with local stakeholders including the results of the Gore public toilet facility strategy. It was clear from the information that both the Gore triangle site and the Main Street toilets should remain and be upgraded. As a result, the project had been split into two parts.

Options were detailed for both projects – Exeloos at the triangle site and the Main Street toilets. It was expected that both projects combined would currently meet the \$415,000 total price tag estimated in the Council's LTCCP.

The Manager advised the existing Exeloos had been closed due to recurring operational problems. It would be preferable if the Exeloos were replaced by a three cubicle Novaloo as soon as practicable and hopefully be operational by October 2006.

He added complaints were being received on a weekly basis about the current Main Street toilets.

In response to a question from Cr McIntyre, the Manager advised the Novaloo facility had been in existence for eight years and he expected it would be a reasonably long term option.

Cr Dore complimented the staff on the quality of the report provided. The replacement of the public toilets had been considered a number of times by the Council over the past few

years and if something was not done then the costs would simply keep on increasing.

Cr Hellier recommended THAT the Council approve the replacement of the Triangle Exeloo Facility with a three cubicle Novaloo and that a loan be raised to fund the facility as per the LTCCP,

THAT the Council authorise the Working Party to approve the choice of roof type and colour of the new conveniences,

THAT the Council approve the scope of the Main Street toilets in principle,

AND THAT the Council approve \$5,000 for concept designs to be developed.

The recommendation was seconded by Cr Sutherland.

The Manager advised the Eccles Street toilets would be maintained as a facility that would be open 24/7. There were also options available for ensuring that such facilities were not constantly vandalised, such as building concrete block surrounds around the hand basins and toilet pans.

The recommendation was put and it was carried.

4. GORE WATER TOWER PROJECT (8.34)

A memo from the General Manager, District Assets had been received advising that a project that had been signalled in the LTCCP was to remove the water tower at the Hilbre Avenue water treatment plant. The life of the water tower was not sustainable in the long term and the pumps that pumped water to the top of the tower were at the end of their life and required replacement in the near future.

It was planned to install a new pump station at the base of the water tower and the total project was estimated to cost \$300,000. The budget in the LTCCP was \$140,000. Two options were detailed. The General Manager added there would be no impact on rates if the recommendation was accepted as the extra funding required would be met from depreciation.

In response to Cr Bolger, the General Manager said the Council did not have the expertise in house and professional technical advice was required, hence the consultancy fees of \$20,000.



Cr Sutherland had spoken to some ratepayers who did not wish to see the tower removed. It was a landmark in Gore.

The General Manager said rehabilitation was an option but it was financially beneficial to remove the tower.

Cr Hellier agreed it was a landmark, but if it was removed, people would soon forget about it. It was an ideal time to remove it with the adjacent vacant section. If its removal was delayed, it would be more expensive in the future.

His Worship asked if there had been a report done about the condition of the tower.

The General Manager confirmed there had been. It could be rehabilitated but the cost of doing that worked out to be more expensive than removing the tower.

The Chief Executive suggested including the report that was undertaken on the tower some years ago on the June Council agenda.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Hellier, seconded by Cr Harvey, THAT the Council approve the removal of the water tower with an additional \$160,000 to be funded from depreciation in the 2006/07 year, subject to viewing the report on the condition of the water tower at the June Council meeting.

5. RECYCLING OPTIONS FOR THE GORE DISTRICT (10.15)

A very comprehensive report from the General Manager, District Assets had been circulated about recycling options for the Gore District.

Cr Harvey said recycling was an issue expected by a lot of people in the community. He said there could be added costs and he suggested there be a public meeting held to consider the options put forward.

Cr Harvey moved THAT subject to the preparation and approval of a consultation plan, that the Council undertake the consultative process with the community on recycling options.

The recommendation was seconded by Cr Dore.



The General Manager said the purpose of the report was to ensure that everything that the Council wanted was covered. There was always an intention that consultation would be undertaken with the community.

Cr Bolger acknowledged there was a public desire for recycling. There were already recycling opportunities in the community for the public. What the Council needed to do was not dangle a lot of other initiatives, but educate the public on what options were currently available. The status quo option served both parties and it did not cost the Council any money or put anyone at risk.

Cr Sutherland also supported the status quo.

Cr Dore did not believe the Council was in an ideal position to offer recycling. He said his own personal recycling system was very efficient and he put one rubbish bag out a fortnight. There needed to be a process that was compatible with the majority of the community.

Cr McIntyre supported the status quo and believed that educating the public was the best way to go. If there were any opportunities for recycling then they should be left for private enterprise to take up.

Cr Turnbull supported recycling options and believed the Council had to start somewhere.

Cr Hellier agreed and thought the Council needed to move forward with consulting with the community.

Cr Ogg reminded Councillors that private enterprise had tried recycling in a certain area of town that had since ceased.

Cr McIntyre said she would be concerned with the impact on rural ratepayers if the Council offered recycling.

His Worship complimented the General Manager on the extent of his report. He received a lot of comments about recycling and the Council certainly seemed to be behind the eight ball. He supported the recommendation and there was no downside to consulting with the community.

Cr McFadzien said the Council had spent a lot of money on a new transfer station in Gore and people were complaining about the costs of using it. He did not believe the Council could afford to send its recyclables to Invercargill. In his opinion, the



smaller bins similar to those used by the Southland District Council would be a good start.

Cr Bolger did not accept consulting with the community would produce the right answer. It could be an exercise in futility. The Council had the opportunity to push the existing recycling options that were available and should give the public a chance to demonstrate its willingness to recycle.

The General Manager said technical issues referred to by Councillors had been included in his costings, ie sorting refuse and transportation costs. If the Council wanted to consult with the public, then the finer detail could be worked through once any preferred option was found.

Cr Harvey urged Councillors not to make their mind up before any consultation was undertaken. There was a lot of interested in the community about caring about the environment.

The recommendation was put and it was carried.

Cr Bolger and Sutherland voted against the recommendation and asked for their votes to be recorded.

6. COST OF ANNUAL BEDDING PLANTS (18.9.6)

A memo from the Parks and Recreation Manager had been received following several requests about the cost of the annual bedding plots.

Whilst the activity was not specifically and separately tracked from the other parks activities, an in-depth analysis of purchases, plant and human resource cost centres as related to the 2006/07 budget had been undertaken. Based on the information available, the analysis showed that the Council spends about \$112,000 per annum on the annual plots, equating to \$72.60 per square metre.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Ogg, seconded by Cr Hellier, THAT the information be received.

The meeting concluded at 5:42 pm

