



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 8 AUGUST 2006, AT 4.02 pm.**

**PRESENT** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP) Cr Davis (Chairperson) Crs Bolger, Dore, Harvey, Hellier, McFadzien, McIntyre, Sutherland and Turnbull.

**IN ATTENDANCE** The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), the General Manager, District Assets (Mr Neil Jorgensen), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roothing Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore) Chief Financial Officer (Mr Doug Walker), Aquatic Services Manager (Kim Peterson), and Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and two members of the public in the Gallery.

**APOLOGIES** Crs McLennan and Ogg apologised for absence.

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**1. OPERATIONS BULLETIN**

The Committee perused the operations bulletin containing reports from the District Promotions Manager, District Arts and Heritage Curator, Deputy Librarian, Aquatic Services Manager, Parks and Recreation Manager, Roothing Manager, Asset Manager, Utilities and the Animal Control Contractor.

Report of District Promotions Manager (18.18)

Cr Davis asked if any of the Councillors had attended the Pandemic Preparedness Roadshow mentioned in the report.

The Chief Executive advised that he had attended the roadshow which had been held via the Eastern Southland Chamber of Commerce. The attendees represented mainly businesses rather than community organisations.

Cr Harvey thought it was worthwhile for Councillors to have information on this issue.

The Chief Executive agreed with Cr Harvey and said the Council's Pandemic Response Plan still needed some finishing touches. However, he thought that the people who were running these seminars could be approached to come and speak at a meeting to give the Council a picture of what was happening both regionally and nationally.

Cr Hellier was happy with the increase in July 2006 visitor numbers as he knew other areas were experiencing a decline in numbers at this time of year.

Report of the District Arts and Heritage Curator (23.5)

Cr Harvey was concerned about the publication of Michael King's *Splendours of Civilisation* book recently launched. He wanted clarification on the Council's role with regard to the book.

The Chief Executive replied that the Council had not underwritten the book, it was part of the Eastern Southland Gallery, which was a separate entity, and the Gallery would be the recipient of the proceeds.

Cr Hellier said the Council would get royalties from the book and it was going to be a good earner for the Gallery in the future.

Cr Bolger asked for elaboration on the distinction between the Eastern Southland Gallery and the Art Gallery.

The Chief Executive replied that the Arts and Heritage Curator was employed by the Council and he worked closely with members of the Eastern Southland Gallery which was its own separate entity, although the Council did give it a small operational grant annually. The Gallery secured larger grants through its own devices, although driven by the Council staff. He explained that the Council provided human capital and the Gallery provided the physical capital.

In response to Cr Bolger, the Chief Executive said the Gallery owned the building.

Cr Hellier said Alistair Wilson had started building the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre and it was expected to be open by February 2007.

Report of the Deputy Librarian (25.1)

In response to Cr Bolger, Cr Hellier said that currently if you hired a book from another district you would have to pay a fee, but with the reciprocal borrowing it would be waived.

Cr Harvey queried what parts of the Southland District Council currently have free access to the Gore Library?

The Chief Executive was unsure but would report back to the committee about this.

Report of the Parks and Recreation Manager (18.1.2)

In response to Cr Davis, the Parks and Recreation Manager said a small number of rose plants were replaced each year.

Cr Hellier asked whether the new toilets in Gore would be the same as the recently renewed Ashburton toilets as he had received comments about how good the toilets were.

Report of the Roothing Manager (2.1.6)

Cr McFadzien asked when the top sealing of rural roads was to start.

The Roothing Manager said maintenance metalling had started about a month ago but weather had interrupted the work. It would be done over an extended period.

Cr McFadzien said he had noticed the top broken through by the frost heave.

The Manager said repairs on this were being done first.

Report of the Asset Manager, Utilities (2.1.5)

Cr Davis had been to the Mataura pool and was very pleased to see the progress being made.

The Asset Manager, Utilities said it should be completed by the end of the week.

Report of the Animal Control Contractor (34.2)

Cr Davis queried whether the Council would get the proceeds from the sale of the bull.

The Chief Executive said normally the Council would receive the proceeds, however, since the person who had the bull arrive on her property had received damage to a fence and had to graze it for ten days, it was likely she would be entitled to the money.

Cr Turnbull noted that the Invercargill City Council was enforcing the microchipping of dangerous dogs rather than all dogs. She asked what steps the Council were taking.

The Chief Executive said it was not a priority but he would provide a report to the Council on this issue.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Chief Executive said the equipment for microchipping was paid for by the dog owners.

Cr Turnbull queried the existence of a national dog register.

The Chief Executive replied there was a national dog database and each local authority had to provide details to it at an extra cost to the owners. He believed it was close to being operational, if not already in place.

Cr McIntyre said the dog owner's extra \$1.50 on their registration fees was for the national dog database.

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

## 2. PROPOSED WASTE MINIMISATION BILL (10.18)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets about the proposed Waste Minimisation Bill. WasteNet had compiled a submission and recommended that representatives be sent to speak to the Select Committee about it.

Cr Bolger was happy with the submission, particularly that WasteNet seemed to be unhappy with the Bill. He thought it was a political platform that had been passed down to the local authorities and he believed it had the potential to cost the ratepayers a lot of money.

Cr Dore said the Bill had a big bureaucratic feel. He was unhappy that it was telling the Council what to do. It would put more costs onto the ratepayer and he was reluctant to move in that direction. He believed the Council had the power in its own hands to minimise waste without the Bill.

Cr Davis said it simply did not fit small councils.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Hellier, seconded by Cr Harvey THAT the Council endorse the WasteNet submission on the Bill as well as the WasteNet recommendation to send representatives from Southland to speak to the Select Committee.**

Cr McFadzien felt the WasteNet organisation the Council had, did a wonderful job. He believed it was totally impractical to audit waste streams and the cost would be phenomenal. He thought reducing packaging was a good idea although it had its own complications.

His Worship said the concept and style of the submission by WasteNet was very good and he was pleased to see another example of Southland working together and the inclusion of the effect such a Bill would have on a small district like Gore.

Cr Davis was very pleased with the calibre of the people involved in WasteNet.

**The motion was put and it was carried.**

### 3. TRANSFER STATION PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT (10.14.4)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets with regard to the completion of the Transfer Station Project. The Regional Landfill was a state of the art facility compared to the two sub-standard landfills at Gore and Maitua which had now been closed.

The General Manager, District Assets said the change in delivery from local old style landfills to a new regional facility had been a long process. A 35 year term contract for the facility had been secured. Environmentally the project was a winner but it had come at an economical cost, however, the costs were still \$25 per tonne more favourable than the national average.

In response to Cr Bolger, the Manager said the factor to consider for the lower than average cost per tonne was due to the AB Lime site being a quarry rather than a virgin site.

Cr Davis added that the three Council's working together had also made the landfill economical.

Cr Dore agreed and said that it had been noted by other councils of the strategy employed by the three Council's in Southland.

Cr Hellier had raised his concerns previously on the tidiness of the transfer station and queried when a working party was to be started.

The Manager said the working party had been postponed due to other commitments and also a number of changes to the transfer station had been expected to improve the problem. He said he would report on it shortly.

Cr Turnbull wondered if anything was proposed for the beautification of the Mataura transfer station.

The Manager replied at the moment there was a concentrated effort on the Gore transfer station with planting of 500 trees around the site.

In response to Cr Turnbull, he added that at this stage, no plans had been made for beautification of the Mataura site, although once the topsoil had been spread around the Gore site, it would be looked at.

Cr McIntyre asked what budget provided for the purchase of trees for the site.

The Asset Manager, Utilities replied the operations budget covered the purchase of the trees.

In response to Cr McIntyre, the Manager said the loader could not have been any smaller and it was doing the job well.

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

#### 4. LAND TRANSPORT AT A GLANCE – GORE DISTRICT (4.3.2)

A memo had been received from the Roothing Manager, together with a copy of the Land Transport at a Glance – Gore District publication and accompanying letter recently received from LTNZ. A comparison between the Gore District and the national situation was provided in the document.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sutherland, seconded by Cr McIntyre THAT the information be received.**

Cr Davis noted the projection for population estimates that LTNZ had provided and queried where the figures had come from.

His Worship said it was from the previous census held in 2001.

Cr Dore congratulated the Roading Manager for a job well done.

*The meeting adjourned for 54 minutes.*

5. TOTAL MOBILITY SCHEME (12.9.2)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive with regard to the Southland Total Mobility Committee. Since August 2005, the Council had not had a representative on the committee. With the financial concerns the Council had foremost in mind in 2004 now receded into the background due to a cap being placed on its annual grant, he thought the Council might wish to make a political appointment to the Southland Total Mobility Committee.

Representatives from the Eastern Southland Arthritis Support Group (Jan Prior) and Gore Taxis (Pat Foley) were in attendance.

Cr Hellier expressed concern about the scheme being abused by using it for trips to the pub or lotto shops. He said it was set up to be used for medical visits or grocery shopping or other urgent business.

His Worship said that was why the Council needed a representative on the Committee to ensure the people using the scheme did not abuse it.

Mr Foley said that the Total Mobility funding from Transfund had increased the level of funding needed and if the Council retained the current level, then an extra 30% funding would apply. He said that most people who used the scheme used it for the purpose intended and he discouraged people using it for other reasons. He believed it would be good to have an extra person on the Committee as it was growing bigger fast.

Cr Turnbull asked if it was only available for Gore residents.

Mr Foley replied that it was a nationwide scheme and that residents from the likes of Riversdale or Tapanui or Edendale could use it. The maximum fare charged was \$40 with a reduction of \$20.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Chief Executive said that the Southland District Council was not a part of the scheme.

His Worship said it was vital that the Council had a representative on the Committee.

In response to Cr Dore, the Chief Executive said at the time, the rising costs of the scheme concerned the Council, however, now that a cap had been placed on the Council's contribution, he believed it was necessary to have a Councillor on the Committee to monitor the mechanics of the operation.

Cr Harvey asked why Southland District Council had not been included in the scheme.

Cr McIntyre queried how the figure \$18,000 had been reached.

His Worship said there had been discussion on this issue and it was thought that the scheme did not need more than that amount of money.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Dore THAT this report be received and that Cr Sutherland be appointed as Gore District Council representative on the Southland Total Mobility Committee.**

The meeting concluded at 5:54 pm.