



REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2006, AT 4:06 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE 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) District Promotions Manager (Mrs Melissa King), Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Aquatic Services Manager (Kim Peterson), Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre Senior Consultant (Mrs Rose McMillan), Deputy Librarian (Ms Denise George), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and one member of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGIES Cr Ogg 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, 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 McIntyre asked whether a financial report could be produced at a future meeting with regard to the increase in sales.

The District Promotions Manager explained that some of the information was commercially sensitive and was the reason for percentages being used in her report but she would be happy to provide the report in dollar terms to Cr McIntyre. She said the

increase in sales was mainly due to visitors booking activities for Fiordland, InterIsland ferries and accommodation.

In response to Cr McFadzien, the Manager said the accommodation was mainly for the visitors next destination, rather than specific events in Gore.

Cr Hellier congratulated the team at the Gore i-SITE Visitors Centre and noted he had received comments that it was the best in New Zealand.

Report of the District Arts and Heritage Curator (23.5)

Cr Davis asked if an opening date for the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre had been set.

The District Arts and Heritage Curator replied there was no set date as the Centre was still dependent on fundraising for completion of the project. In response to Cr Davis, he said the project required approximately \$200,000 for completion with substantial funding applications pending.

The Chief Executive attended the meeting from 4:13 pm.

Report of the Deputy Librarian (25.1)

Cr Harvey had visited the library and thought that some parts of it appeared a bit tired and thought it would not cost a lot of money to remedy it.

Cr McIntyre thought Cr Harvey could donate some money to the Library for such a project.

The Deputy Librarian replied that Cr Harvey already donated funds.

Cr Sutherland was very impressed with the Library and its new layout.

Report of the Aquatic Services Manager (24.11)

Cr Davis asked if the pool party would be run each year.

The Aquatic Services Manager replied she would like to run another party in the January school holidays.

Cr Hellier asked if the number of visitors to Mataura pool could be included in the report.

In response to Cr Turnbull, the Manager would look into the possibility of holding a pool party at the Mataura pool.

Report of the Parks and Recreation Manager (18.1.2)

In response to Cr Hellier, the Parks and Recreation Manager advised the cost of the new toilets had not exceeded the budget.

Report of the Roothing Manager (2.1.6)

Cr McIntyre queried the mowing of grass verges being done twice.

The Roothing Manager said it was possible that the flanks of the road had been mowed twice, however it had no impact on the cost to the Council as the contractor was not paid on time. He added the flanks had to be kept at a certain tolerance level as required by the contract.

Cr McIntyre was concerned about the road signs on Otama Road which appeared neglected.

The Roothing Manager said he would address the issue.

Cr Bolger queried whether the Transfund subsidy being behind had been a problem with work not being completed.

The Roothing Manager said the current seasons reseal programme had not been started yet and the onus was on the contractor to get the reseal designs checked first. Area wide pavements had not started either however the contractor was in the process of finalising the designs and there would be big blocks of money spent relatively quickly. He added that the Council was not expending any money at this stage so it was not utilising the subsidy either.

Cr McIntyre asked what the timeframe was between the subsidy being received and the work being completed.

The Roothing Manager replied the subsidy was usually received two to three weeks after completion of the work and at the same time that the contractor was paid.

Cr Sutherland was concerned about the noxious weeds on the roadside from McNab to Gore.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised he would look into it.

Report of the Asset Manager, Utilities (2.1.5)

Cr Davis asked if the walking track from Hamilton Park to the transfer station, once completed would be maintained by the Council.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised once the track was usable for the public, it would need to be maintained and it had been flagged in the budget.

In response to Cr McIntyre, the Asset Manager, Utilities said the transfer station comparative figures would be included in the report once it had been operational for more than one year.

Report of the Animal Control Contractor (34.2)

Cr Davis wondered if there was a solution to the frequency of stock calls.

The Chief Executive did not believe a bylaw was necessary but he noted that the Council had the power to impound livestock and he would speak with the Contractor about this issue and provide a report at a future meeting.

Cr Davis asked for the report to include the costs involved for the Contractors visits.

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

The District Promotions Manager, Aquatic Services Manager, Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre Senior Consultant and Deputy Librarian departed the meeting at 4:32 pm.

The Planning Consultant attended the meeting from 4:32 pm.

2. FUEL SUPPLY DURING AN EMERGENCY EVENT IN MATAURA (45.6.1)

A memo had been received from the Civil Defence Officer following a query from Cr Turnbull about what contingency Mataura had for continuity of fuel supplies during a prolonged power outage. After investigation, the Officer found that fuel supply could be an issue, however in an emergency the community would rally together and it was anticipated that fuel would still be able to be delivered to where it was needed most.

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

3. ZERO WASTE NEW ZEALAND LTD – BLUEPRINT (10.18)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets, together with a letter from Zero Waste New Zealand to the Zero Waste member Councils encouraging them to record waste minimisation milestones towards zero waste to landfill to be used as a benchmark against other Councils. The cost of being involved was \$2,500 per annum.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sutherland, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the Council take note of the Zero Waste journey but does not join the scheme at this time.

Cr Davis felt the application including an invoice was a bit cheeky.

Cr Hellier supported the recommendation but thought it was necessary for the Council to review its position in the future when a recycling strategy was considered.

Cr McIntyre felt the cost of \$2,500 was high for a District of Gore's size.

4. HOKONUI PIONEER PARK DEVELOPMENT (50.1.1)

A memo from the Arts and Heritage Curator had been received about the proposed development of Hokonui Pioneer Park to address the current shortage of display and storage space at the Park. The Hokonui Pioneer Park Committee required permission to further investigate the construction of an additional display building on Council owned land adjacent to the main display building.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Hellier, THAT the Council endorse the preparation of concept plans for an addition to the main display building at Hokonui Pioneer Park, on land owned by the Gore District Council.

Cr Dore recalled a visit to the Park where the Chairman of the Hokonui Pioneer Park Committee had suggested the development would cost around \$2 million. Was that correct?

The Arts and Heritage Curator said that this particular part of the development was the first stage of many small manageable steps envisaged and it was expected to evolve over ten years so it could possibly cost more.

In response to Cr McIntyre, the Curator advised the project was self funded and would not cost the ratepayers although Council staff were assisting.

5. LAND TRANSPORT NZ – 2005/06 ROAD QUALITY BENCHMARKING (43.2)

A memo had been received from the Roothing Manager, together with a copy of the Road Quality Benchmark Report recently received from Land Transport NZ.

The Roothing Manager was pleased with the results from the report as it was evidence that the roads in the District were kept in relatively good condition.

Cr Harvey asked if the report could be sent to a local resident who had complained to the media about the condition of roads in the Gore District.

Cr McIntyre said the sealed roads were not the problem, it was the unsealed roads the local resident was complaining about. She mentioned that two years earlier she had concerns about the Kee road near Pyramid and it had been repaired with Pyramid gravel to stop corrugation but now it was corrugated again. She believed the roads were not graded frequently enough. There had been comments made about the lack of complaints being received, but she felt that was due to the dry weather.

Cr Bolger said the Council needed to be careful not to over dramatise the condition of unsealed roads to what may be seen as a minority of the District. He believed that the roads were improving and asked why those people did not contact the Roothing Manager directly. He asked the Manager what he thought the condition of unsealed roads was.

The Manager believed the roads were in a very good condition given his involvement with other parts of the Southland network. He said that Cr McIntyre's statement about the dry weather not causing a problem for the roads was incorrect as this was in fact the time when the most damage occurred. Unsealed roads needed moisture to prevent corrugation. He noted that Key Road was an extremely steep and windy road which was very difficult to maintain, however, it had been identified in the LTCCP as a candidate for traction seal.

Cr Dore said he had attended roading meetings for a number of years and could not remember a time when an issue brought up at them had not been dealt with promptly and felt the

complainants needed to contact the Roothing Manager directly. He asked if there was a specific timeframe from when a complaint was received until a problem was fixed.

The Manager said he did not want the roads to be graded before it was necessary, and it was a good sign to get the odd complaint about the roads, however, in most circumstances the grader could only be a week away from grading the roads in question.

In response to Cr Dore, the Manager said that when a complaint was received, an inspector would check that the perception of the complainant met the threshold of the performance requirements in the contract. He added that if the Council increased the level of service beyond what was in the contract, it would cost more.

Cr Bolger asked if over the past twelve months since Works changed its contract, had there been any relaxation in roading work.

The Manager replied the previous contractor had a different approach but the new contract was possibly a tighter document.

Cr Bolger asked the Manager if he had required the new contractor to relax his standard.

The Manager replied he had not.

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

Cr Davis said it was a very good report for the District's sealed network and people who had complaints about the roads should contact the Roothing Manager.

The meeting concluded at 4:51 pm.

