



REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2007, AT 4:05 pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), 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) Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Aquatic Services Manager (Kim Peterson), Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre Senior Consultant (Mrs Rose McMillan), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and two members of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGY Cr Davis apologised for absence.

1. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Committee perused the operations bulletin containing reports from the Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre, 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 the Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre Senior Consultant (18.18)

His Worship congratulated the Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre staff on the results from the Mystery Shopper Survey.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Senior Consultant advised IBIS was the system the Centre used to make its bookings.

The Deputy Librarian attended the meeting from 4:08 pm.

Report of the Deputy Librarian (25.1)

Cr Harvey was pleased with the attendance between Christmas and New Year which showed the service was in demand over that period.

In response to Cr Hellier, the Parks and Recreation Manager advised that maintenance for the east side of the Library building was on the schedule and would be tidied up.

The Deputy Librarian departed the meeting at 4:11 pm.

Report of the Aquatic Services Manager (24.11)

Cr Harvey suggested the Aquatic Services Working Party should convene six monthly to liaise with pool staff, users and the Council.

His Worship agreed it was a sensible idea. He noted that most of the recommendations made by the Working Party would go through the Annual Plan process.

Cr Harvey asked if the increase in users of the pool could be measured financially.

His Worship said it depended on the volume of people using the pool and while the increase had been positive, it had not been big enough.

The General Manager, District Assets added overall the numbers were reasonably similar to the previous year. Income from paying users only contributed to 30% of the operational costs of the pool.

Cr Harvey said although he believed the pool would never be totally self funded, it would be good if the contribution of 30% could be increased in the future.

In response to Cr McFadzien, the Aquatic Services Manager advised the Mataura pool had been fully operational with plenty of advertising during November and December and she was not sure why it had experienced a fall in patrons.

Report of the Parks and Recreation Manager (18.1.2)

His Worship said the town was looking wonderful and congratulated the Parks and Recreation Manager on a job well done.

In response to Cr Ogg, the Manager advised that not all of the owners of the 18 non compliant overgrown sections had paid for the contractor as some invoices had only just been issued. He expected they would all be paid.

Cr McFadzien asked who owned the land between a section and a road.

The Manager advised the road reserve was Council land and the landowner was responsible for it but the Council had to maintain it if a landowner did not look after it.

His Worship mentioned his recent trip to Matura with Cr Turnbull and he noted there were a couple of sections that needed attention.

Cr Hellier asked whether trees on a street frontage were Council owned.

The Manager replied they were and any damage was treated as wilful damage.

Cr McIntyre wanted clarification that all street frontages were the Council's responsibility.

His Worship confirmed that the frontages were owned by the Council.

The Manager added that landowners maintained the frontages as part of a social conscience.

Cr McIntyre asked what happened when the frontages were not maintained. Would the Council do it? She queried whether the Main Street frontages in Gore were Transit NZ related or owned by the Council.

The Manager replied that the Council sometimes mowed the reserves and the Council owned the frontages in the Main Street area as well.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Manager advised the Council would be cutting back some of its own overhanging trees.

Cr Harvey noted there were several trees which needed attention in Gordon Terrace.

Report of the Roothing Manager (2.1.6)

In response to His Worship, the Roothing Manager advised the repair work on the Gore bridge was expected to be completed by 13 February. However, more work was to be carried out over the next two weeks on Medway Street.

Cr McFadzien reported gorse spraying had been carried out around Kaiwera and he was very pleased with it.

Report of the Asset Manager, Utilities (2.1.5)

In response to Cr Hellier, the Asset Manager, Utilities advised there had been no excessive dumping of rubbish outside the transfer station over the Christmas period.

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

The Arts and Heritage Curator, Aquatic Services Manager, Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre Senior Consultant departed the meeting at 4:21 pm.

2. EMERGENCY POWER BACKUP GENERATOR (45.7.1)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets about the installation of an emergency power backup generator as one of the key objectives of the SCDEMG to improve civil defence preparedness in Southland. The report commissioned recommended the Council purchase a 125kVA capacity generator which would be capable of running all services in both the James Cumming Wing and administration building. It was estimated the cost would be in the range of \$110,000 to \$125,000 with \$14,000 already set aside for the project in the 2006/07 financial year. The balance of \$111,000 could be funded by way of a rating increase of 1.1% in the 2007/08 financial year or funded over a ten year period.

His Worship was surprised the Council did not already have a generator.

The General Manager, District Assets spoke to his report and added the Council did own a smaller generator but it would not keep the building operating in an emergency. He had received comments about the suitability of having the Council's administration building as an emergency centre due to its location in a flood prone area. However, he noted that since the flood banks had been constructed in 1922, no flooding had occurred in that area and there was no evidence that the flood

banks would burst in the future. He believed it would be a great advantage to keep the Council running as usual.

Cr McFadzien asked if the generator at the Works yard would be suitable.

The General Manager advised the it was old and two fifths of the size required. He added the generator cost was only a fraction of the overall costs involved and he still believed it was worthwhile to supply power to the whole building.

Cr McLennan recommended THAT the Council approve the installation of an emergency generator for the administration building in the 2007/08 financial year,

AND THAT the Council give guidance on its preferred funding mechanism, for the project.

The recommendation lapsed for want of a seconder.

Cr McIntyre asked what amount had been set aside in the Annual Plan.

The General Manager advised \$14,000 had been allocated which was clearly not sufficient.

Cr McIntyre wondered why such a low amount had been allocated when it was known a generator would be needed.

The General Manager said the generator had not been included in the LTCCP at this stage but it could be added into the Annual Plan.

Cr Bolger felt the Council had a responsibility to the public to supply a generator and wondered if it should be funded from depreciation over a fifteen year period which would have no significant impact on rates.

Cr Hellier said it was obvious that the Council needed a generator but wondered if there was one available in the District that could be hired in the event of an emergency.

The General Manager replied he was not aware of a big enough one and there would be major costs for installation of it.

Cr Ogg believed it was a big ticket item to be lumped on Councillors in February and she wanted it held over until after the estimates had been set. She thought the maintenance costs

of \$500 were low and would not support the recommendation. She asked how many more surprises there would be.

His Worship said the world was full of surprises.

Cr McIntyre asked what the other Councils in Southland were using.

The General Manager advised the generators were of similar size although the others had larger buildings than the Gore District Council.

In response to Cr McIntyre, the General Manager advised there was always a risk of a major earthquake occurring.

Cr McIntyre asked if it was a risk the Council needed to take.

His Worship said Gore was not usually prone to earthquakes.

Cr Bolger said as a private individual he would take the risk, however the Council was supplying information for 12,000 people.

Cr Turnbull supported the recommendation but was concerned about the cost of the shed and mentioned that a Skyline garage could be a cheaper option.

The General Manager advised the costs were only estimates at this stage and if the recommendation was approved tenders would be called.

Cr Bolger said the Council was supplying power for Civil Defence.

Cr Ogg said the Council had managed in the past.

His Worship felt it was prudent that a generator be purchased, however, he agreed with Cr Ogg that the Council needed to look at the way it was to be financed.

Cr McFadzien referred to the severe snow storm in 2006 in Canterbury and the subsequent power disruption that lasted for days. It could happen anywhere. He supported the purchase of a generator but was concerned about the rest of the costs.

Cr Hellier recommended THAT the Council approve the installation of an emergency generator for the administration building in the 2007/08 financial year,

AND THAT the final decision be considered at the time of the Annual Plan process.

The recommendation was seconded by Cr McFadzien.

3. GORE AND MATAURA OXIDATION POND UPGRADE PROJECTS (9.13)

A memo from the General Manager, District Assets had been received, together with a project timeline on the Gore oxidation pond Actiflo Treatment Plant and Mataura oxidation pond wetland projects. The new discharge consents required the Actiflo plant at the Gore ponds to be operational by 1 September 2008 and the Mataura wetland to be established and bedded in by 30 June 2009. Therefore it was intended that a preliminary site investigation at the Actiflo site would be undertaken in the current financial year to ensure the project was not delayed.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr McFadzien, THAT the information be received.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT – PUKERAU AND MANDEVILLE SEWAGE (8.48)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets about the assessment of the provision of water and sanitary services within the District. The report from WSSA stated that the properties in Pukerau and Mandeville using septic tanks to treat sewage were not causing a significant impact on the environment or causing a risk to public health.

Cr McFadzien asked for a copy of the report.

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

Cr Sutherland thought septic tanks were the responsibility of the landowner.

Cr Hellier thought the Mandeville township was going to put in its own scheme.

The General Manager confirmed that was correct.

5. SOUTHERN RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY – 2005/06 ANNUAL REPORT (15.6.2)

The Southern Rural Fire Authority (SRFA) 2005/06 Annual Report had been circulated by the Roading Manager. It provided

an overview of the various activities the SRFA had been involved with over the past financial year.

The Manager advised the Principal Rural Fire Officer, Mr Mike Grant could make a presentation at a future meeting if the Council wished.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Hellier, THAT the report be received.

In response to Cr McFadzien, the Manager advised no fires of significance had occurred because of wet weather.

Cr McIntyre asked if the budget was healthy.

The Manager said the Council made a grant of \$35,000 per annum to the SRFA and actual activity did not play a great part in relation to what the Council paid.

6. LAND TRANSPORT NZ – 2007/08 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RATE (4.3.1)

A memo from the Roothing Manager had been received, together with a copy of a letter from Land Transport NZ advising the current financial assistance rate (FAR) of 56% applying to the Gore District roading would remain unchanged for 2007/08.

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

Cr Hellier asked if Land Transport NZ was looking at constructing passing lanes in the area.

The Roothing Manager said Transit NZ had been investigating the possibility of passing lanes in the region and it was one of the projects to be funded by the 'R' funds. He added that one of the problems the region faced was lack of traffic volume. Transit NZ required a volume of over 4,000 cars per day and there were not many areas in the region that met that requirement.

Cr Bolger asked what a percentage decrease to the rate would have meant.

The Manager replied approximately \$32,000 of ratepayers actual rates.

Cr Bolger queried how much was needed to maintain the current level of service. Was it more than the \$32,000?

The Manager replied it would be \$32,000 to match the Land Transport NZ subsidy.

The meeting concluded at 4:44 pm