



REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2007, AT 4:03 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager. Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roding Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Library Manager (Jane Robinson), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and four members of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGIES Cr McLennan and the General Manager, District Assets 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, Animal Control Contractor, Deputy Librarian, Parks and Recreation Manager, Aquatic Services Manager, Roding Manager, and the Asset Manager, Utilities.

Report of the Library Manager (25.1)

Cr Davis welcomed the new Library Manager to the meeting and wished her well in her new role.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Library Manager advised she had not started to cull books yet as it was too early in her tenure but she expected to look at it within the next six to eight months.

Cr Hellier was pleased with the clean up of the front of the Library building.

Report of the Aquatic Services Manager (24.11)

Cr Davis noted the different initiatives being introduced at the Aquatic Centre were great.

In response to Cr Harvey, the General Manager, Corporate Services said the actual fees were not really significant enough to contribute to a change in the financial situation.

The Chief Executive added that the pool operation had stabilised in the past twelve months and the staff were now managing to improve the facility for the public.

Report of the Roading Manager (2.1.6)

The Manager reported that the first half of July had caused a lot of damage to roads and asked the public to have patience as the contractors had a backlog of repairs to be undertaken.

Cr Hellier was concerned with the damage caused by logging operations on Mountain Road and asked whether the Council could be reimbursed for the costs involved in repairing it.

The Manager advised the Council did not have a lot of leverage in this area provided the loads on the trucks were transported in a legal manner. He believed the Council needed to be wary of this situation at the consent stage and put in some protection then.

In response to Cr Hellier, the Manager advised the cost of repairing the damage to Mountain Road was quite major with basically a reconstruction of several kilometres of road being required. He noted the Gore District was not alone in suffering damage to roads by logging trucks. However, there had not been a lot of complaints received about the road which had surprised him.

His Worship said he had travelled many rural roads over the last two weeks and thought the contractor was doing its best. He added that the issue with Mountain Road was because the contractor had not contacted the roading engineer.

The Manager said that was not correct. The logging consultant had contacted the Council about the route it intended to use and at the time, it was expected that it would only be for a short period of time. Unfortunately, the trucks continued into the winter and he was disappointed that the logging company had not advised the Council of the damage before it got so bad as it

would have been able to reduce the amount of work that was now needed to be undertaken.

Cr Bolger thought it would not have been such a problem if there had not been so many frosts.

The Manager agreed and said the logging trucks had coincided with the freeze/thaw cycle and could not have been at a worse time.

Cr Davis asked if there had been any similar incidents.

Cr Bolger said the District Plan, as it now operated, required a resource consent from commercial loggers and he assumed it would go before the Roding Manager to ensure a solution was in place to avoid these situations. The consent would be applied for at the planting stage and would need to provide for harvesting conditions.

The Manager agreed and added the conditions recommended would ensure that commercial loggers contributed to any damage that may be caused from frequent truck use on the roads.

Cr Bolger added it would effectively give the Council 15 to 20 years to be prepared for the eventuality.

Report of the Asset Manager, Utilities (2.1.6)

Cr Davis asked why the clean up of Faulkner Creek had not been done by Environment Southland.

The Asset Manager, Utilities replied the Council had always done it in the past because it was part of the town's stormwater system. A lot of water went into the creek and it could cause a problem with flooding if it was not kept clear.

Report of the Animal Control Contractor (34.2)

His Worship was concerned about the issue of dog welfare.

In response to Cr Hellier, the Chief Executive advised the SPCA would be approached if it was warranted.

His Worship said he had received a letter from Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Associate Minister of Local Government asking for input from Councils about changes to the Dog Control Act but there was only a very short timeframe and he asked for the

Council to discuss it on Friday 17 August after the hearing of submissions to the arts and heritage proposal.

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

The Arts and Heritage Curator departed the meeting at 4:24 pm.

2. CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT
(14.1.2)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager advising that the annual site inspection of the Gore Aerodrome had been carried out on 13 June by the Civil Aviation Authority Inspector. The report received had been favourable with only one item raised relating to some irregularity of the ground surface where two runways cross. It was deemed by the Inspector that it did not currently pose any risk.

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

The Parks and Recreation Manager confirmed the runway would be monitored.

3. DUTCH ELM DISEASE (18.4.3)

A memo from the Parks and Recreation Manager had been received following a report issued by Biosecurity New Zealand which related to the national threat that Dutch Elm Disease (DED) posed to the nation's Elm trees. There had been a question raised about the level of support amongst territorial authorities for the long term management of the disease, both in principle and financially. A discussion document from Biosecurity New Zealand had been circulated recommending that the Gore District Council would need to contribute \$1,000 per annum for the 70 Elm trees listed in the Council's database.

Cr Davis asked if the disease affected trees other than Elms.

The Manager advised it was just Elms that were affected. The problem existed in Auckland and had been funded by its Council and Biosecurity but it was at the stage it had to look at funding resources to formulate a way through for the future and if the programme was dropped now the disease would spread throughout the country over the next few years.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager advised the trees affected would need to be destroyed and constant monitoring was required.

His Worship asked if the Manager had contacted other territorial authorities about it.

The Manager replied that most of his counterparts were in the same boat and supported a concerted effort in one direction to contain the disease.

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

AND THAT the Council agree to commit \$1,000 per annum to the national Dutch Elm Disease control programme, to be funded from existing budgets.

Cr Harvey was disappointed that Biosecurity New Zealand had the gall to say it would cut the local authorities off and discontinue its programme if support was not forthcoming. He said Biosecurity New Zealand had failed in the past with many diseases and he thought it was rather cheeky to take such an attitude.

Cr Hellier agreed with Cr Harvey's comments and asked how the Council would know of trees owned by householders.

The Manager advised it would only be when the disease arrived in the area that liaisons with the public would occur and any trees found would become part of the monitoring process.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Manager advised that propagation would be dealt with in the same manner.

4. SPORT AND RECREATION NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND (18.81)

A memo from the Parks and Recreation Manager had been circulated about the Rural Travel Fund from SPARC. The Gore District was eligible to apply for contestable funds to cover the cost of district residents travelling to sporting events. The Council had been granted \$9,000 to be distributed via a panel to applicants who met strict criteria.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager advised the latest census had alerted SPARC to the eligibility of the Gore District to receive the grant. The fund had been applied for and it would be forthcoming for the 2007/08 year.

Cr Harvey was concerned that it would not have strict enough guidelines.

The Manager assured Cr Harvey that the criteria set by SPARC was very stringent and there were strong guidelines to follow.

The Chief Executive departed the meeting at 4:32 pm.

Cr Hellier asked if the whole fund of \$9,000 could be carried forward if it was not used in this financial year.

The Manager replied it could.

Cr Davis asked if it was necessary to have a panel appointed before the coming election.

The Manager said he would like to have a panel available before the end of the calendar year.

In response to His Worship, the Manager advised the availability of the fund would be publicised.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hellier, seconded by Cr Harvey, THAT the Council support the Rural Travel Fund in principle,

AND THAT the report be tabled until the first Operations Committee meeting held after the coming election.

5. LAND TRANSPORT NEW ZEALAND – CHANGES TO REGIONALLY DISTRIBUTED R FUNDING (4.3.1)

A memo had been received from the Roothing Manager, together with a copy of Land Transport New Zealand's General Circular Funding advising of changes to its 'R' funding policy. The changes to the policy would allow Road Controlling Authorities such as the Council to use 'R' funding for renewal activities including area wide pavement treatments and resealing.

The Roothing Manager advised the change had resulted from the extra petrol tax charged a couple of years previously. The Council had already benefited from 'R' funding as it had quite a number of significant works which were to be funded in that way. He added the Council had to be careful it did not give the impression that it could afford roading and it still needed to set its budget cautiously. The 'R' funding would benefit the Council in the long term.

The Chief Executive returned the meeting at 4:37 pm.

Cr Bolger said the Council had received criticisms in the past about its roading. However, the Southland District had more sealed roads than the Gore District and it had to apply for 'R' funding which suggested that roading could not be maintained unless funding came from the Government.

The Manager agreed and said the Southland District was large and sparsely populated which was a problem for its ratepayers. He added Gore was lucky due to its geographical features.

Cr Bolger said although the Council had ceased its unsubsidised reseal programme, it was now almost doing the same amount of work in the form of area wide pavement treatments.

The Manager said it was in fact traction seals and bridge approaches rather than area wide pavement treatments.

Cr Bolger said it was unfortunate that people did not contact the Roading Manager about these issues before going to the press. He asked why the Council was able to access the 'R' funding earlier.

The Manager said the Council had sites that met the criteria and with unsubsidised seal extensions being deferred, it was able to use that money as a local share for 'R' funded seal extensions.

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

The meeting concluded at 4:43 pm.