

REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 13 MAY 2008, AT 5:13 pm.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Davis (Chairperson), Crs Bolger, Dixey, Dixon, Grant, Harvey, Heller, Highsted, McLennan and Sharp.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Neil Jorgensen), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roothing Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and one member of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGY Cr Gardyne apologised for absence.

1. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Committee perused the operations bulletin containing reports from the Roothing Manager, Asset Manager, Utilities, and the Animal Control Contractor.

Report of the Roothing Manager (2.1.7)

Cr Davis asked how soon after reseals were completed, were the streets to be swept.

The Roothing Manager replied it could be 48 hours or longer. Some seal coats would require more than one sweep.

Cr Dixey said the 48 hour time period was not being adhered to.

The Manager said there could be other factors that could have resulted in the sweep not being carried out in the timeframe allocated, such as rain.

Cr Dixey said blocked gutterings were never cleaned.

The Manager replied that the material might not be from the reseal but in fact from repairs carried out just prior to the



reseal. A full town sweep was due soon which would address the problem.

Cr Davis asked Cr Dixey to talk to the Manager after the meeting about the streets he was concerned about.

Cr Sharp noted that residents were delighted with the repairs to a road in Waikana and thanked the Manager.

Cr Dixon referred to the report from Works and thought it still had items that had been completed showing in it.

The Manager thought if the wording was compared to the previous report, it would show that there were similar type projects being completed as well as cyclic activities such as remote kerb and channel cleaning and concrete repair works. He thought any completed work should not be in the report.

Cr Dixon was concerned about the clearing of sump tops and vehicle crossings. He felt it was not being done very well.

Cr Heller agreed and noted that there had been rain over the previous weekend, Works had to come and clear the water away. If it had already been done, it would not be such an issue.

The Manager advised that cleaning of kerb channels and sump tops was done on a twice yearly basis. Works did not want to do its cleanup while leaves were still falling from trees. He agreed that when it rained, Works needed to go and clean channels, however, cleaning more frequently would be an expensive exercise.

Report of the Asset Manager, Utilities (2.1.7)

In response to Cr Davis, the Asset Manager, Utilities advised that refuse was averaging 550 tonnes per month and had been fairly steady over the past two years. He noted there were more people using the facility and separating their loads. He circulated a picture of the Matura landfill.

Cr Grant asked what would happen to the landfill now.

The Parks and Recreation Manager replied the adjoining lease would be extended to cover the landfill area.

Cr Dixon asked if grazing was the best use of the land.

The Manager replied it was in the meantime as it was still under the terms and conditions of the landfill.

Cr Dixon thought pine trees could be planted on the site to create some capital in the future. Returns could be far better than grazing.

The Manager responded that it would depend on the conditions in the resource consent and he would provide a report on it.

Cr Harvey asked if a group was going to plant natives at the former Gore landfill site.

The Manager said a meeting had been held with interested parties and plans had been drawn up by a nursery for the site.

Cr Davis requested that both Gore and Mataura landfills be included in a report.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the Operations Bulletin be received.

2. LAND TRANSPORT AT A GLANCE – GORE DISTRICT (4.3.1)

A memo had been received from the Roding Manager, together with a copy of the “Land Transport at a Glance – Gore District 2007” publication.

The Roding Manager explained that Land Transport New Zealand required local authorities to carry out various surveys of performance factors mostly on sealed roads which were reported on annually. The factors measured gave a picture of the condition of the District’s roads and showed trends of improvement. He noted that the District’s roads were performing well on a national and South Island basis both by condition and financially.

His Worship said it illustrated that the Gore District’s roads were in a good state. He asked for an explanation of the Gore District vehicle kilometres travelled on local roads graph.

The Manager replied that traffic counting throughout the year went into the Council’s database and showed the trend of how the roads in the District were being used. He noted that the figure used in 2004 was incorrect as it reflected a downward trend.

Cr Dixey asked what safety measures were being put in place for pedestrians when traffic counting was being done. He referred to a chain across a footpath that had been difficult to see at night.

The Manager would talk to the consultants about improving the safety.

Cr Bolger asked how the Gore District compared to its neighbours.

The Manager replied it compared very well with 24 kilometres per dollar spent on its network. Clutha District was 11 kilometres per dollar and Southland District was 16 kilometres per dollar. He said it could be that the District was more intensive but it did show Gore to be more efficient.

Cr Bolger noted that ratepayers were getting good value from its investment in roading. He thought it was unfortunate that Cr Gardyne was not present to hear it. He wished the Council and the Manager would enjoy a bit of credit for the hard work being done which was verified by the report.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixey, seconded by Cr Heller, THAT the information be received.

3. LAND TRANSPORT NEW ZEALAND PROCEDURAL AUDIT (4.4.3)

A memo from the Roading Manager had been received, together with an audit report from Land Transport New Zealand covering four financial years from the start of 2004 to the end of 2007. The audit confirmed that roading practices in the Gore District during that period fully complied with its requirements with the exception of three minor issues which had since been addressed.

Cr Davis asked for an explanation on whether the audit had ascertained if the funding was being used in the correct areas, given accusations in the past about costs for rural roading being used for urban and vice versa.

The Roading Manager said the procedural audit only looked at the global picture for expenditure of Land Transport New Zealand subsidies, and did not refer to the internal split between rural and urban roading which was in fact audited by the Council's auditors. The Land Transport New Zealand audit clearly showed that expenditure of subsidised funds was not been misappropriated. Land Transport New Zealand had given the Council a clean bill of health apart from some very minor housekeeping issues.

Cr Bolger said if there was a belief by some people that roading funds had been diverted to somewhere else, they would not be able to convince either Land Transport New Zealand or the Council's auditors.

The Manager replied the perception of misappropriated funding had nothing factual to back it up.

Cr Bolger asked if there had been any misappropriation of subsidised roading funding.

The Chief Executive added that it was just another report that showed conclusively that the allegations were clearly shallow and baseless. He hoped it was time to move on and look forward rather than back.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the report be received.

The meeting concluded at 5:40 pm.