

REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010, AT 5.20 PM.

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

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and five members of the public in the gallery.

1. REPORT FROM ANIMAL CONTRACTOR (34.4.1)

The Committee perused the report from the Animal Control Contractor.

Cr Sharp referred to the Customer Service Requests and wondered if an owner could refuse to have their dog put down after attacking calves.

The Chief Executive agreed to find out more information and report back.

Cr Gardyne wanted the report to include whether the offending dogs were registered or not.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixey, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the report be received.

2. REPORT FROM ASSET MANAGER UTILITIES (2.1.7)

The Committee perused the report from the Asset Manager, Utilities.

The Manager advised the first level of water restrictions had been introduced that week, on alternative days only at this

stage. A significant amount of rain had fallen in January which had prevented restrictions being introduced earlier.

The installation of the new boiler at Mataura pool had been completed. Outside air temperature fluctuations caused temperature fluctuations in the pool. It was a matter of getting the synchronisation right.

Cr Dixon said he would like to see the Mataura pool to sit at 30 degrees as some Gore recreational swimmers liked to visit the Mataura pool because the pool temperature was warmer.

In response to the Manager's comments about the aquifer not filling as quickly once the river dropped, Cr Grant said Environment Southland was not telling the truth when out consents stating that aquifers did not affect the Mataura River. Water was disappearing onto dairy farms, instead of coming down the river.

Cr Highsted asked the Manager if the water restrictions were based around the resource consent causing the restrictions or from the wells not working.

The Manager said the restrictions were a combination of both consent restrictions and the wells. The Council needed to be mindful now to prevent having more drastic measures later.

Cr Heller asked the Manager if he was confident there would be enough water for Mataura Valley Milk and Mataura township from the current wells.

The Manager said water was currently being supplied from three wells. The Council needed to secure a second pump at Jacobstown.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Manager advised there was still ecoli results coming through because of the Pluera Dam issue. To help the filtration process, lime had been introduced. Staff had commented on improved water quality, and it would be monitored over the next few months.

Cr Dixon could not recall water restrictions being imposed in Mataura years ago when the population was much larger.

His Worship said although he could remember the river being low years ago and some restrictions being imposed, the current regulations imposed by Environment Southland did not exist then.

The Manager said there was a lot more redevelopment now on the farm land above the Pleura Dam so there was not the same retention of water.

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

3. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER (2.1.7)

The Committee perused the report from the Roading Manager. The Manager advised two corrections in the monthly activity figures; 251km of gravel road should read 368km and 364km should read 282km.

With drier conditions being experienced there had been a lift in customer service requests about corrugations on gravel roads. He wondered if sending a flyer to drivers on how to drive on gravel roads to avoid corrugations forming would be a good idea.

He advised Black Top would be in the area over the next few days completing maintenance.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Manager confirmed Black Top would be completing maintenance on the area beside the Gore Bowling green and at intersections around the town.

In response to Cr Dixon querying about road signs being covered by overgrown vegetation, the Manager said some had been addressed.

Cr Gardyne said the width of the Leithan and Clutha Hill Roads were significantly narrower in the Gore District boundary than on the Clutha District side. It was almost a year since the Council was promised a report from Dr Hutchison on the condition on the Gore Districts roads. He would look forward to receiving it.

The Manager said the widths of gravel roads in the district had been monitored. There had been no reduction in specified widths. Leithan Road in the Gore District Council had always been slightly narrower than the Clutha section. Also, Clutha sprayed its gravel roadside which gave the appearance of a wider road. The Gore District Council did not spray, as it was not trafficable. It was incorrect to state the roads had reduced in width.

Cr Gardyne said he had been around long enough to know that to use the excuse about spraying was not appropriate. In some areas in the Gore District, the Leithan Road was 5.5 metres wide compared to a 7 metre width on the Clutha side.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said he had received one complaint about the width of the gravel road that morning. He was reasonably confident that the width of the road would not be less than the requirement. There was more cost involved in maintaining a wider than necessary road. He would investigate and report back to a future meeting.

The Manager advised a letter had been sent to the Vintage Car Club seeking its approval to utilise a section of its driveway through Pioneer Park instead of manoeuvring the tricky road side. The work would be completed before the end of the financial year. He said the highest priority had been the completion of reseals.

In response to Cr Grant, the Manager said the laying of a footpath in McKellar Street was on the programme, however Waimea Street was the highest priority. The footpath should have been installed when the Windsor Park retirement home had been built. Now it had to wait its turn.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Grant, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the report be received.

4. PROPOSED WATER BYLAW (22.21)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets regarding a proposed water bylaw together with a copy of the draft bylaw for the Council's consideration. Once approved, the bylaw would be released for public consultation and it was anticipated it would come into effect on 1 July 2010.

The General Manager said although lengthy and complex, the bylaw would enable the Council to manage water requirements when the need arose. It would also cement in place steps with how to deal with water issues when the river dropped below 17cumecs.

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive advised the Council's intentions would be to follow the normal submission process. The draft would be advertised. Submissions would then be invited and a formal hearing of submissions would follow. Any changes would be made and the bylaw would then be adopted.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the Council resolve pursuant to Section 146 of the Local Government Act 2002,

THAT the adoption of a bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the control of water for the Gore District Council,

AND THAT the Council approve the release of the draft Gore District Council Water Bylaw 2010 for public consultation.

The meeting concluded at 5.56 pm.