

**REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON
TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2010 AT 4.28 pm.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Library Manager (Mrs Jane Robinson), Community Development Officer (Ms Colleen TeAu), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and two members of the public in the gallery.

APOLOGIES Crs Gardyne, Heller and Sharp apologised for absence.

1. REPORT FROM ASSET MANAGER, UTILITIES (2.1.7)

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

Cr Davis wondered why the number of faults and leaks repaired on the Otama water scheme were so high.

The Planning Consultant now attended the meeting at 4.20pm.

The Manager explained that a water meter reading of all land owners had been carried out. While on each property, faults and leaks were identified and repaired at the same time. This was an annual exercise.

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

2. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER (2.1.7)

The Committee perused the report from the Roothing Manager.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Manager said the end of route for the high productivity motor vehicle permits being in the Gore District was pleasing because a lot of the permits that would be issued in the future would be on a through route and there would not be any benefits to the districts that the roads ran through. However, with the permit in question, it would probably benefit at both ends for Fonterra's dairy farmers and possibly Solid Energy.

The Planning Consultant departed the meeting at 4.38pm.

In response to His Worship, the Manager said the sealing on Gardyne Road had not yet been carried out due to the poor weather conditions, which was also preventing some other projects from being completed. The sealing at the end of Turnbull Road around the Waikaka cemetery had been completed.

Cr Grant complimented the Roothing Manager on the quality of the work being carried out by the grader at present.

Cr Davis said it was great to see the Waimea St pavement work started.

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

3. REPORT FROM ANIMAL CONTRACTOR (34.4.1)

The Committee perused the report from the Animal Control Contractor.

In response to Cr Dixon seeking a breakdown of wandering stock, Cr Davis said the figures included dairy cows. The costs involved were currently funded out of the dog registration pool, however if wandering cows increased, alternative funding would need to be investigated. If stock was reported wandering on the Main Road, she thought Opus could be charged.

The Roothing Manager said the issue had been touched on and more teeth had been given to the Council through the bylaw. He thought there might be an opportunity to get some funding through roading for the activity.

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

4. JR AND CR MARTIN – RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION
(11.14.1)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets together with a copy of a letter received from Environment Southland advising JR & CR Martin had withdrawn their application for a resource consent.

Cr McLennan said it was obvious the vigorous opposition expressed by the Council had been worthwhile.

Cr Grant said he knew the applicants and their decision to withdraw their application had nothing to do with the Council.

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

5. RACECOURSE ROAD SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION (3.24.24)

A report had been received from the Roding Manager following receipt of a petition had been received from Racecourse Road residents regarding concerns they had about speeding vehicles on the road. A copy of the petition had been circulated.

The Roding Manager said the petition had requested a speed reduction to 50km hr, which was not possible due to legal requirements for reducing a road's speed limit. The issue had been investigated two years ago and little had changed since then, which only strengthened the case to drop the speed to 80km.

Cr Highsted said the Charlton Road speed limit was 70km. He thought the same speed for Racecourse Road would set some consistency.

The Manager said Racecourse Road did not meet the criteria set for a 70 km speed limit. There were some very tight corners on Charlton Road and it had a much heavier traffic volume compared to Racecourse Road.

Cr Highsted said coming off State Highway 1 where the speed limit was 100km to the back of the racecourse was what residents were concerned about.

His Worship asked what the implications would be for the Council if it changed the speed limit on Racecourse Road to 70km.

The Manager said the Council could approach the New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) with worksheets to show what speed was appropriate.

Cr Highsted asked if there was a practical element allowed for by the NZTA.

The Manager said Racecourse Road was a different road than the Main Road. There were numerous cases of a side road having a different speed limit than a Main Road that it connected to.

His Worship said the Council did have sympathy for the residents of Racecourse Road. He asked if that would come into it.

The Manager said it would, together with other factors such as the number of runners and walkers that utilised the road, the number of driveways and the nature of any side road activity.

His Worship asked if horses had a category of their own as they could present quite a hazard to motorists.

Cr Davis wondered what the tipping factor was between 70 and 80km.

The Manager said a survey was carried out on the section of road in question and scores were applied to those various factors. Numbers were then calculated. The current speed limit and traffic volume would be factored in.

The Building Control Manager now attended the meeting at 4.46pm.

Cr Bolger said it was unfortunate the petitioners were not at the meeting. People needed to know that road speed limits were controlled by the national roading authority and to understand that they could come to the Council without a petition.

The Manager said there would be increased fluorescent signage erected on Racecourse Road shortly to alert motorists to horses. The road would be monitored on an annual basis.

Cr Grant said it was sad that common sense did not just prevail to enable the Council to make its own rules.

Cr Dixon thought it was good that a petition had been put to the Council. He also thought it was sad that the Council could not make its own rules.

The Manager said consistency was required throughout the country so visitors knew what to expect. A number of factors needed to gel together.

In response to Cr Dixey, the Manager said schedule 7 was one of the schedules that certain rules applied to. The Council had

criteria imposed on it by NZTA. The NZTA did subsidise over 50% of the District's roads so had a right to have some say.

Cr Dixey said the small Pukerau township had an 80km zone even though it only had houses on one side of the road.

The Chief Executive asked the Manager if the Council could make a request for a dispensation to NZTA to permit the Council to apply a slight relaxation to allow a 70 km zone.

Cr McLennan said the Council could implement whatever speed it wanted. He thought the speed should be reduced to 50km.

Cr Harvey thought 70km made sense.

The Chief Executive said any speed limit imposed needed to be lawfully introduced so that it could be enforced.

Cr Highsted said aside from the safety issue the Racecourse Road limit undermined the Charlton Road speed limit.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the Council resolve to apply to the Ministry of Transport for a dispensation from Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2003, in order that an amendment to Schedule 7, of the Gore District Council Land Transport Bylaw 2008, can be effected, so that the entire lengths of Racecourse Road and Raceway Lane will be subject to a speed limit of 70km per hour.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm.