

Report of the ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 13 October 2015, at 4.00pm.

Present His Worship the Mayor (Tracy Hicks, JP) (From 4.23pm), Cr P Grant (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Davis, Dixon, Gover, D Grant, Highsted, Page and Sharp.

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager Community and Strategy (Mr Aaron Fox), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Communications Manager (Mrs Sonia Gerken), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mrs Sarah Crooks), Library Manager (Ms Lorraine Weston-Webb), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Animal Control Officer (Mr David McKewen), Events and Promotions Manager (Ms Emma Carle), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Kylie Weir), Venture Southland (Mr Stephen Canny and Ms Rhiannon Sutter) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apologies Cr Byars apologised for absence and His Worship apologised for lateness.

Cr P Grant asked for any conflicts of interest. None were received.

1. VENTURE SOUTHLAND DIGITAL STRATEGY UPDATE (SC1077)

The Committee perused the report from the Communications Manager. A copy of the digital strategy update produced by Venture Southland had been circulated with the agenda.

Venture Southland's Business and Strategic Project General Manager Mr Stephen Canny and Ms Rhiannon Sutter were in attendance to provide an overview on the digital enablement strategy and update the Committee on its development.

Mr Canny advised Venture Southland had submitted two draft proposals to the Government on 9 July for Southland to be considered for future investment and these had been accepted. He advised the final documents were being completed to be submitted to the Government.

In response to Cr D Grant, Mr Canny advised the information obtained from aerial magnetic mapping would be available on a software programme called e-mapper which would be available for Councils to invest in.

In response to Cr Davis, Mr Canny advised staff were still in the process of submitting the final documents and the group was waiting on more clarity as to when the Government would make its final decision.

His Worship attended the meeting at 4.23pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the information be received.

2. REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCIL COORDINATOR

The Committee perused the report and the minutes from the Youth Council meeting held on 21 September from the Youth Coordinator.

Mr Stephen Canny and Rhiannon Sutter departed the meeting at 4.24pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Gover, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the information be received.

3. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR

The Committee perused the report from the District Arts and Heritage Curator.

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

4. REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Parks and Recreation Manager.

The Chief Executive said it was disappointing to see Martin Mackereth leave the Aquatic Centre but looked forward to the bond between the Multisports Complex and Sport Southland strengthen as he settled into his new role.

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

5. REPORT FROM THE GORE VISITOR CENTRE MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Visitor Centre Manager.

The Chief Executive advised a meeting had been held recently with the staff of the Visitor Centre to review the purpose of the Centre after the Manager's departure earlier in the year.

In response to Cr D Grant, the Chief Executive advised tourism numbers had dropped however, staff feedback noted the booking service was still utilised.

The Library Manager advised she did not have statistics on visitor numbers but could for the next meeting. She added people using the centre fluctuated according to the season and they wanted to know more information about places to visit, activities on offer and places to stay on top of making any required bookings.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the report be received.

6. REPORT FROM AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Aquatic Services Manager.

In response to Cr Dixon, the Chief Executive advised a high staff turnover was endemic in the aquatic industry with younger people hired and then moving onto university or other career options.

The General Manager District Assets added staff retention was an issue nationally in the aquatic industry.

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

7. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Communications Manager.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager advised brochures were published on the appropriate social media networks whether it was the GoreNZ website, Facebook page and the Council's website but she could look at more options to get the information out.

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

8. REPORT OF THE GORE DISTRICT LIBRARIES

The Committee perused the report from the Libraries Manager.

The Manager advised the statistics mentioned in the report had been lost due to a configuration failure in the server and the files could not be retrieved.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Manager advised libraries nationally were investigating if book rentals were reducing due to the ability of downloading a book online, however the numbers appeared to be remaining steady.

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

The meeting concluded at 4.46pm.