

**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 13 MARCH 2012, AT 4.46 PM.**

**PRESENT** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Davis (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Dixon, Gover, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Redhead and Sharp.

**IN ATTENDANCE** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Assets Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore) Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Community Development Officer (Mrs Jacqui Green), Communications Co-ordinator (Mrs Sonia Gerken), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and two members of the public in the gallery.

**APOLOGY** Cr Watt apologised for absence.

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1. GLENDHU ROAD RECREATION RESERVE (18.14.6)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager following a request from the Council at its meeting on 13 December 2011 to provide more information surrounding lease responsibilities of the Mataura Hockey Turf Charitable Trust. A trust deed, advice of the Trust's deregistration and a copy of an excerpt from the Mataura Community Board report from November 2011 had also been circulated.

The Manager said the Council had been under the impression that the Trust had been under a lease, however an investigation revealed that the lease as outlined in the Deed had never been actioned. There were therefore no lease obligations on the Trust. In effect the Council could not take the Trust to task over something that did not exist.

Cr Beale asked if there was a system in place now to check that other tasks that should have been done had been. Although not in recent times, something seemed to pop up every now and again.

The Chief Executive said it was difficult to have a failsafe process to deal with all of the history. Although he could not provide a cast iron guarantee he was confident processes were in place so that the same situation did not occur again, however with a legacy from the past, there was habitual discovery of things thought to be in place, that in fact were not. The key issue had been to identify the problem and move on.

Cr Highsted said in context, it was not a major issue as the matter was moving forward.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr P Grant, THAT the information be received,**

**AND THAT the Council approve in principle the proposed new use for the Glendhu Road Recreation Reserve.**

In response to Cr Bolger asking what the Council's involvement would be going forward, the Manager said the Maitara Community Board would drive the new activity and source the funding for it. In the interim the status quo for maintenance would remain. Hockey had vacated the site. There was an asset left at the site that had been gifted to the Maitara Community Board to use for the proposed use.

The Manager said he believed the Board was looking for external funding. It was hoped to be able to construct a bike track relatively cheaply with help from the community. The Council owned the land.

## 2. REPORT FROM ANIMAL CONTRACTOR (34.4.1)

The Committee perused the December 2011 and January 2012 reports from the Animal Control Contractor.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Chief Executive said there were two classifications, menacing and dangerous. A dog classified as menacing required a dog to be muzzled while in a public place. A dangerous dog was required to be neutered, muzzled and attracted a higher registration fee.

Cr Sharp referred the meeting to page 31 of the report. It was a serious offence for a dog to rush out and attack a small dog. He did not think the classification was tough enough.

The Chief Executive said the Council was restricted about what action it could take. A statement from a witness needed to be provided to the Council in the first instance.

Cr Sharp wondered if a dog classified as menacing was required to be neutered.

The Chief Executive would find out and advise Cr Sharp.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Redhead, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the reports be received.**

3. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER (3.34)

The Committee perused the report from the Roading Manager.

The Manager reiterated his thanks in reporting the damage to bridges. Some good feedback and helpful information had been received.

He advised a house on a low lying property in the Waikaka township had flooded during a recent heavy rainfall. Professional services had been contracted to carry out a survey on the culvert and a larger diameter culvert would be installed to prevent a future reoccurrence of flooding.

Cr Sharp said he had been impressed at the turnaround time it had taken for pavement marking to be carried out at a give way intersection on Lyne Street recently after he had reported it to the Council.

In response to Cr Beale, the Manager confirmed a letter had been sent to contractors regarding the damage to bridges and there had been no new damage. Hopefully the message had sunk in. A more comprehensive contractor list was required as feedback had been received from some who had not received the letter.

In response to Cr Dixon asking if it was getting too late for resealing in late March, the Manager agreed it was late, however the contractor was still hopeful to complete the work within the contract period.

In response to Cr Sharp asking who would foot the bill if the quality of the work was a failure, the Manager said there was a year long maintenance period. If work was not up to standard it was redone by the contractor at no cost.

In response to His Worship asking if there had been any update from the New Zealand Transport Agency regarding the resurfacing of the Main Street, the Manager said the contract for heavy duty repairs of failed asphalt had been tendered and let. He would check the timeframe for completion and relay the progress.

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

4. REPORT FROM ASSET MANAGER, UTILITIES (8.56)

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

The Manager said the pipeline in Mataura had been completed and residents' boundaries had been reconnected. The project was on target which was good considering recent weather conditions.

In response to Cr Redhead, the Manager said the river could go down to 15cumecs and had once been up to 604cumecs but the flood banks had coped well.

In response to Cr Beale, the Manager said on the odd occasion, a site had to be dug up, filled and then dug up again to complete a job. It could not be avoided sometimes due to the sizing of some gate valves.

In response to Cr Sharp asking why local contractors had not been approached over the cleaning of the Pleura Dam, the Manager said there had been several discussions over a prescriptive method that would be used, before a contractor who had a longer reach digger and a proven track record was hired.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the report be received.**

5. PLEURA DAM CLEANING COSTS (8.31)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets regarding the methodology employed and issues that had arisen from the cleaning of the Pleura Dam.

In response to Cr Davis, the Assets Manager, Utilities said it was the first time that method had been used.

Cr Beale asked if the contractor had used its 17 metre reach digger during the dam cleaning process.

The Manager said it had not been used. It had been tied up on another job. However, it could not have been known until the dam was drained that it had not been required. The contract rate charged had been adjusted.

In response to Cr Bolger, the Manager said it would be possible to increase storage further up the dam, but it would still have to come down to the existing dam to get released to the treatment plant. The silt could be seen building up and by cleaning, the capacity had been increased. It would be a major exercise to take the level of the dam further back as there was major rock underneath and the sides were already steep enough.

In response to Cr Sharp wondering how he would answer back to the contractor, the Manager said K2 Contracting had tendered to do work through the Council's works contract. It had also been used for other jobs.

In response to Cr P Grant, the Manager said the Coffey Dam had a second pipe was there in case there was a big downfall and it would allow the water to go through the pipe.

In response to Cr Davis asking if the Coffey Dam was still in place, the Manager said there was only about 300m left. The black pipe was still there but a lot of the dam had been removed to allow water to go through the pipe at the base. The width of the dam was probably now only 1.5 metres.

The General Manager, District Assets said to leave the Coffey Dam as it was would have required a resource consent from Environment Southland.

Cr Dixon asked if it would cost \$99,000 to clean the dam next time, considering lessons had been learned this time round and if workers worked 12-14 hour days to get the job done quicker.

The Asset Manager said the rock path into the site was now set up for future cleans.

The General Manager, District Assets said the whole process had been frustrating for those involved in the job as well as Mataura residents. Work had to be suspended when trucks started to slip due to driver safety. In the future he believed water would have to be pumped around the dam in order to meet the consent not to discharge into the stream. There should have been better communication with Mataura residents. He noted complaints only came about the taste and odour of the town's supply when the water levels dropped, which would have happened anyway.

In response to Cr Highsted asking if there were other alternatives to avoid filling the dam, the General Manager said although Environment Southland was currently realising the regional issue of high country farming methods and looking at ways to prevent sediment coming into the waterways, one still had to expect sediment would get into waterways when there was a big rainfall. It was typical of other streams around the region and would be an ongoing challenge.

Now that the Council had a profile of the dam, it would be monitored and could act earlier so that a shorter timeframe would be required to clean in the future.

The General Manager agreed with His Worship that it was the most thorough cleaning the dam had ever had.

Cr Grant said if the Dam had not been there, the sludge would be in the creek anyway.

Cr Dixon said the silt would be good topsoil that could be utilised.

The General Manager said the silt was in the farmers paddock but had a high moisture content. When dewatered, it would weigh a lot less and it would be a long way to truck the silt out.

In response to Cr Davis, the General Manager said there were a number of hollows within the vicinity of the dam and would be a safe place to fill in with the sediment. Environment Southland had been viewing work. The consent did not have conditions around disposal of the sediment.

Cr Bolger said he found it interesting that surrounding landowners had made initial complaint about sediment going down the Pleura Dam and Environment Southland reacted and assured them that the Gore District Council would have to take up a cleaning regime. He suggested Environment Southland could follow up and determine where the sediment was coming from in the first place. It could perhaps be coming from the same landowners properties that had initially registered the problem.

The General Manager said an officer from Environment Southland have visited the dam post cleaning, regarding reinstating vegetation and went for a tour upstream to see if there were any areas where enhancement of riparian zones could help reduce sediment coming down the stream.

Cr Davis wondered if it would be in order to request a report on Environment Southland's findings.

Cr Bolger said it was not a new issue. Environment Southland should be looking into it.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Asset Manager said the dam was last cleaned out in November 2008. Although there would be less to clean out if the cleaning was more frequent, the timing and weather needed to be considered. Environment Southland would still want the dam cleaned using the same methodology.

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

## 6 DRAFT SOUTHLAND WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN (10.18)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets regarding the draft Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2012-18 developed in accordance with the legislative

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requirements under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, by WasteNet Southland on behalf of the Gore District, Invercargill City and Southland District Councils. Feedback was also circulated from the Waste Working Group and Waste Advisory Group together with Statement of Proposal.

Cr Davis welcomed Mrs Donna Peterson from WasteNet to the meeting.

Mrs Peterson said the draft plan had looked at waste in a new light. The key focus had been looking at waste as a resource. The harder part of the waste stream was looking at reduction and re-use.

Cr Bolger said a lot of work had been put into the draft plan, in particular by Mrs Peterson. The process had been done well in Southland and would survive a lot of scrutiny from other regions further north.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the report be received,**

**THAT the Draft Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2012-2018 be adopted for public consultation using the special consultative procedure as per the Local Government Act 2002,**

**THAT public submissions open on Thursday 5 April 2012 and close on Monday 7 May 2012 at 5pm,**

**AND THAT Waste Advisory Group members form the joint hearings committee to hear submissions.**

The meeting closed at 5.37pm.