

REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2012, AT 4.40 PM.

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

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

APOLOGY Cr Highsted apologised for absence.

1. WASTENET WASTE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES – 17 AUGUST 2011 (10.23)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets, together with a copy of the minutes from the WasteNet Waste Advisory Group meeting held on 17 August.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2011 be received,

AND THAT the recommendations contained within the minutes be ratified.

2. WASTENET WASTE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES – 3 NOVEMBER 2011 (10.23)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets, together with a copy of the minutes from the WasteNet Waste Advisory Group meeting held on 3 November 2011.

In response to Cr P Grant, the General Manager advised minutes were slow to be received by the Council because Wastenet met quarterly and ratified previous minutes some months later.

The Chief Executive suggested the minutes could be put to the Council once available in draft form.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2011 be received,

AND THAT the recommendations contained within the minutes be ratified.

3. CHARLTON LANE STORMWATER INSTALLATION VARIATIONS (9.31)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets following a request for an update on the cost variations for the Charlton Lane stormwater installation project.

Cr Davis said the coloured photos were welcomed to help understand the issues of what had been happening with the project.

The General Manager said it was a credit to those involved of how they had responded to what could have been a nasty incident.

Cr Gover said the name of the road had changed to Falconer Road and wondered if the creek should go through the same process.

The Chief Executive said Cr Gover had made a good point. The naming of waterways was not part of the Council's jurisdiction. A request would need to be made to Environment Southland.

The Roding Manager said the creek might not have an official name. It could simply be a spelling change and he suspected that was the case.

Cr Bolger asked if that meant the Council could change the creek name immediately.

Cr Davis said it would be investigated.

The Chief Executive said Land Information New Zealand held all plans that named waterways.

In response to Cr P Grant, the General Manager said an investigation to find where an unidentified pipe led to would be carried out. He suspected it travelled down the middle of Charlton Lane and it could

be part of a stormwater discharge into the creek. A camera could be necessary for further investigation.

In response to Cr Redhead, the General Manager explained that a rising main was where material was pumped through a main, instead of just relying on gravity.

Cr Watt asked if it was going to be an ongoing process, would there be an opportunity for accurate geographical positioning system (GPS) and documentation to be phased in on an ongoing basis.

The General Manager said new installations were GPS and were inputted to the GIS and mapping system at the Council to record the size, material age and location of the pipes. He said it was a continuous improvement process. It had to be appreciated how long the pipes had been in the ground and who had installed them.

In response to Cr P Grant asking if there had been anything going down the pipe when it was found, the Manager said staff had been reluctant to go into the pipe as yet, in case it had been a rising main.

In response to Cr Beale, the Assets Manager, Utilities said due to the volume, staff had to act quickly to keep on top of a potential discharge. Only one truck had been available from Gore at the time, so three trucks had been called in from Invercargill.

In response to Cr Sharp asking why the Council staff did not know where the pipes were, the Manager said all one knew was where a pipe started and ended as there were no manholes because the pipes were buried 2.5 metres deep.

Cr P Grant thought a lot of records would have been lost in the fire at the old town hall years ago.

The Chief Executive said up to the pre late 1970's most details of where pipes were laid was in the heads of the supervisors at that time.

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

4. KERBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE (10.20)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets providing an update about the kerbside collection service implementation.

The Manager advised delivery of bins would commence on 21 May and would take three weeks to deliver to Gore and Mataura residents. An

information pack would go with the bins and another notice to update residents about the timeframe would follow. Implementation was expected to commence in July.

In response to Cr Davis, the General Manager advised collection days for each area would be included with the information packs. Information around collection days would also be available on the WasteNet website which would also be a tool for the Council customer service staff to utilise.

In response to Cr Beale, the Assets Manager, Utilities said a few businesses had phoned the Council with queries. He had followed up by visiting the businesses. Some had difficulties around the storage of the bins but most were looking forward to the new service.

Staff had spent four days speaking with the community at the local supermarkets. It had been well worth the exercise with good feedback received. The main concern had been around how residents would dispose of green waste but once it had been explained that Paddy's Bins were planning on implementing a green waste service it quelled any concerns.

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

5. DRAFT SOUTHLAND REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN SUBMISSION (4.6.1)

A memo had been received from the Roding Manager together with a copy of the draft Southland Regional Public Transport Plan.

The Roding Manager advised the submission had been lodged. It highlighted the disappointing aspects of the plan that was to cover the region but it only covered Invercargill. A number of other towns in the wider region that could be looking at public transport like the Gore District needed to be encouraged and supported by the plan.

In response to Cr Bolger asking if the total mobility had changed through the policy, the Manager said it was the only area that had applied to areas outside of Invercargill. It had basically remained unchanged.

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

AND THAT the Council endorse the submission.

6. REPORT FROM ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACTOR (34.4.1)

The Committee perused the February and March reports from the Animal Control Contractor.

In response to Cr Redhead asking if the numbers of incidents were unusually high, the Chief Executive said a small number of a high number of dogs in the district caused all the problems.

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

7. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER (2.1.7)

The Committee perused the report from the Roading Manager.

The Manager advised the reseal programmed had been completed successfully.

He said a much larger culvert would be required to be installed in the Waikaka township. A kind offer from a local resident to put in a ditch to the stream across his property would solve flooding issues. A consent would be required to discharge into the ditch. A survey would be carried out to check that the water would travel successfully to the stream.

In response to Cr Dixon, the Manager said a catchment survey had been necessary to identify what size pipe would be required.

The Chief Executive now left the meeting at 5.12pm.

Cr Dixon said the number of gravel road gradings seemed high.

The Manager suspected dry weather had been a contributing factor. Also winter was coming up. Getting roads reshaped in good weather was like an insurance policy. Some work would have been for compliance too.

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

8. REPORT FROM ASSET MANAGER, UTILITIES (2.1.7)

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

The Manager said the section of water main replacement had been completed with a good outcome. There had been no positive ecoli tests over the period of installation and the level of chlorine residual required by national standards remained below the minimum requirements.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said a reduction to the amount of general refuse going to Browns was expected to continue to drop due to the upcoming introduction of the new two bin system. Based on figures from other towns, it was expected that approximately 1,000 tonnes of recyclable refuse going to the Invercargill refuse centre which would reduce the overall disposal cost as there would be no transporting fees and gate fees to go to Browns.

The Chief Executive now returned to the meeting at 5.18pm.

In response to Cr Dixon, the Manager confirmed there would still be a cost to transport recyclable material to Invercargill. There had been an increase in the price for metal scrap. However, there were less cars dumped at the transfer station now.

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

Cr Davis asked the Manager to provide an update about the Mataura wetlands following a recent newspaper article.

The Manager advised there had been dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) issues at the oxidation ponds at the Mataura wetlands. The Council had lodged a consent with Environment Southland to increase the limits for DRP and ammonia levels. Previous limits set were tougher than those at the Gore actiflo plant. It was interesting to note that previous levels of discharge had not been monitored. There had been no restriction. Levels were checked every three months.

His Worship now left the meeting at 5.23pm.

The excursion at the Gore actiflo plant was one off that collected a high level of ecoli and suspended solids. It was probably a clog that had got caught in the sample. All test limits since then had been below consent levels.

The Manager said the Waikaka incident had been about the actual flow from the pond and had been put down to wet weather.

Cr Bolger said it did rain quite heavily at Waikaka sometimes. What could be done?

The Manager said he had had discussions with Environment Southland and it had suggested the Council change the limits on its consent.

Cr Davis asked if Environment Southland was concerned about ongoing issues.

The Manager said Environment Southland wanted 100% compliance. Through the operations of the wetlands the Council was never going to achieve that. The DRP discharges varied on a month by month basis.

Cr Bolger said it concerned him when one read a veiled threat of prosecution in the paper. He asked if prosecution would change anything.

The Manager replied it would be better to use the money on equipment to fix the problem, rather than defending a prosecution.

The General Manager, District Assets said a dollar spent in prevention would be better than a fine. The monitoring system was volatile as the environment the Council operated in when sampling could be easily misrepresented, such as a passing duck stirring up sediment. It only became known after it had happened if consents had been breached.

Cr Bolger said discharges to local rivers over the past 10 years had decreased markedly. The newspaper article had made it sound like it was not doing too well, when it had improved substantially.

The General Manager said the capital extended to improve the quality of the discharge in the last three years were exceptional. He took particular interest in the results and had seen significant improvement.

In response to Cr P Grant, the General Manager said the Waikaka River had breached consent levels four times in the last year.

In response to Cr D Grant asking if retesting was carried out when a test result failed, the Manager said sample results, apart from the DRP tests, took up to three weeks, so it would be too late for retesting.

Cr D Grant asked if three tests could be taken each time.

The Manager said the costs of collecting and testing had to be considered, together with transportation of the samples.

Cr Beale asked how Environment Southland became aware of the results and wondered if samples could be taken for two consecutive days.

The Manager said under the consent rules, the Council had to collect a sample, send it to the lab and report within the calendar month what those results were. Audits also took place.

The General Manager said Environment Southland also received a copy of the results from the lab.

Cr Bolger said the Council staff had a robust testing system where best practise was used.

The meeting closed at 5.36pm.