

**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD AT THE HOKONUI RUNANGA, 140 CHARLTON ROAD, GORE, ON TUESDAY 28 AUGUST 2012, AT 4.49 PM.**

**PRESENT** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Davis (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Dixon, P Grant, Highsted, 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), Consultant Planner (Mr Keith Hovell), Communications Co-ordinator (Mrs Sonia Gerken), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and three members of the public in the gallery.

**APOLOGIES** Crs Gover and D Grant apologised for absence.

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Cr Davis called for any conflicts of interest. None were received.

1. REPORT FROM ANIMAL CONTRACTOR (34.4.1)

The Committee perused the July report from the Animal Control contractor.

In response to Cr P Grant asking whether the Council could recoup the costs of sorting problems such as 100 sheep out in Glendhu Road, the General Manager, Corporate Services said it could. However, the Council took a conciliatory approach where possible, similar to what other local authorities did, usually by talking to the stock owner about fencing solutions. A logistical problem was there was a cattle stop that had to be crossed to get into the pound. The police would assist if called upon and if available.

In response to Cr Bolger, the General Manager said putting wandering stock into a nearby paddock at night time until the morning was part of the contractor's conciliatory approach.

Cr Grant said the Council needed to be cautious about putting stock onto another landowner's property without their consent. There were issues such as lice and diseases to consider.

Cr Davis said there were organic farms in the District and wondered about the ramifications around a property's organic status if neighbouring stock were to be housed on an organic property.

The General Manager, District Assets said safety would always be the first priority. Wandering stock on a road could potentially cause an accident.

Cr Grant said all properties were easily identified by rapid numbers and if the contractor asked the landowner, they would always almost receive a positive response.

In response to Cr Davis, the General Manager, Corporate Services said recurring incidents of wandering stock had not been a problem in the District, with the exception of one property which had now been rectified.

Cr Dixon suggested the Council could introduce a new Bylaw that would allow the Council to temporarily house wandering stock on private property.

Cr Watt said he had full faith in Council staff to handle all operational matters. The Council's job was governance. If staff had a problem, it would be referred to the Council.

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

Cr Grant said there were a lot of dead end roads around the district. Wandering stock could be pushed up those roads and the contractor or someone could sit up the road and stop vehicles from travelling up that road until daylight.

## 2. REPORT FROM ASSET MANAGER, UTILITIES (2.1.7)

The Committee perused the report from the Senior Asset Management Officer.

The General Manager, District Assets said the Council's new Essential Services Supervisor was progressing well in his new role.

In response to Cr Davis, the General Manager said contaminants entering the stormwater system in the southern industrial zone would be breaching the resource consent. It was quite critical that the

issues were addressed and significant effort had been going into determine what the cause was. There was a huge area to cover and rainfall was required to track down the cause. More emphasis had been placed on trade waste applications and a risk analysis could be carried out.

Cr Dixon wondered if a lack of a used oil drop off facility in the district could be the root of the problem. Contamination had been detected on a regular basis after the first shower of rain in a given period.

In response to Cr Davis suggesting some publicity to approve awareness around the issue, the General Manager said a letter had been sent to all businesses advising them to be vigilant with the disposal of oil. However, considering the age of the network and premises changing hands, the message could sometimes get lost.

He said it was an obligation of oil retailers to provide a facility to return used oil, but that was not happening. The refuse station did not accept used oil.

Cr Grant was surprised there was not a demand in the area for used oil.

In response to Cr Davis suggesting the Council work collaboratively with potentials users such as St James Theatre, Cr Watt said the first step was to determine how many people had a problem disposing used oil and how they disposed of it.

In response to Cr Watt, Cr Highsted said if someone took used oil to the refuse station for disposal, they would be told to return the oil to the retailer where they had purchased it.

In response to Cr Highsted, the General Manager said an issue had been identified, so a report about possible outcomes and costs on oil disposal and the lack of a facility would be completed and provided to the Council.

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

### 3. REPORT ON WANDERING STOCK ISSUES (3.24.5)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, Corporate Services regarding concerns raised in the Animal Control contractor's May report about wandering livestock in the district.

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

#### 4. MATAURA SERVICEPERSON (46.36.3)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets in response to a request from the Mataura Community Board for the Council's consideration to be given to providing Mataura with a dedicated serviceperson.

Cr Dixon said a service person would not necessarily have to reside in Mataura. He did not agree with the comments in the report about rationalisation of the level of service. He still thought one mower based in Mataura would be more efficient and could also be used to mow the cemetery grounds. Fixing a toby tap would not be a specialised job so tools would not have to be duplicated and he did not think the management of the operation would be fragmented. He said residents of Mataura just wanted what it already had to be kept a bit tidier. It did not have the flash gardens that Gore had.

In response to Cr Redhead, Cr Dixon said he envisaged a part time position that would turn into full time with the person being able to cross over and assist essential services staff in Gore as well.

Cr Beale said he would be concerned that having a person permanently situated in Mataura to mow the frontages of properties would set a precedent for Gore residents.

Cr Dixon said the outside front of properties was currently mowed once a year by the Council.

The General Manager said the meeting was getting into the issue of overgrown sections. Mowing of the street frontage was a landowner's responsibility. If an overgrown section was heading toward creating a fire hazard the Council could act, at the landowners cost. That was different to what Cr Dixon had proposed. He said the hedge cutting which was more like a bank that was mown was the only hedge cut in Mataura by a Council contractor. There was currently eight hours of lawn mowing carried out per week in Mataura.

Cr Highsted said the issue was not a Gore versus Mataura issue. The district had one workforce. If there was a problem with the level of service, the CSR system should be used to lodge a complaint or issue.

Cr Sharp said he liked the idea. He asked Cr Dixon if the current level of service in Mataura was inadequate.

Cr Dixon said it was. A permanent mower for Mataura could be parked in someone else's yard. The person employed would not need to live in Mataura.

Cr Bolger said there had been no problem in asking. He was however happy with the report. It would be difficult to define what the cost was to maintain Mataura.

His Worship said it was not about where the service was domiciled or based. He asked if the expectation of a level of service was different in different areas.

The Parks and Recreation Manager said the levels of service were the same right across the district.

His Worship asked if people wanted a higher level of service, would there be a higher level of cost.

The Manager said there would be.

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

**AND THAT the Council maintain the status quo for service delivery in Mataura.**

**Crs Sharp and Dixon voted against the recommendation and asked for their votes to be recorded.**

5. POMONA STREET STREETScape – PROGRESS REPORT (3.32.1)

A memo had been received from the Roothing Manager updating the Committee on the issues raised at the Council's May meeting about a request from residents in Pomona Street to remove all of the existing grass verges and replace them with chip seal.

Cr Davis asked if the level of input suggested was required and what the cost would be.

The Roothing Manager said the outcome of the previous report had been that the Council had not appeared happy with the position of where the hierarchy sat within the streetscape strategy. A review had been required to see if the hierarchy was appropriate.

Cr Davis asked how much that would cost. The Council had not agreed to canvas the Pomona Street residents, nor hire a consultant. The process was a step further along than what had been agreed upon.

The Manager said the previous report had contained a sample survey to potentially canvas residents, however the Council did not accept that suggestion, hence it was going down a different path. The cost would be \$4,000-\$5,000. The process could be halted.

Cr Beale wondered if it could be handled in house. The Council had a Roding Manager and Planning Consultant. It would be a relatively simple exercise to canvas residents. There were two issues to deal with, parking and the narrow width of the road for buses.

His Worship said he was confused. He thought it had been decided at the previous meeting that the Council was going to liaise with Pomona Street residents. He was surprised it had gotten to this stage.

The General Manager, District Assets said there were two issues to consider. First, consulting with the residents in Pomona Street and secondly a number of questions had been raised by Councillors around the whether the design proposed in the streetscape strategy fitted with the street, how it could impact on the street traffic and also the traffic flow in other streets.

The Chief Executive said he endorsed that observation. The Council had always tried to come up with a solution for Pomona Street without really understanding the wider ramifications of what it was trying to achieve or the downstream impacts. He endorsed the engagement of a consultant in terms of the investment of the transport model. At a cost of \$4,000-\$5,000, it would be a judicious course of action to arrive at a permanent solution to what is a pressing problem.

Cr Davis said Pomona Street would be the first street that would be tested under the new strategy. There had been confusion over the recollection of the previous meeting. She suggested if staff were going to move in a different direction, then elected members needed to know. She asked if Pomona Street residents were going to be consulted and when.

The Roding Manager said the current wishes of the residents did not match what the Council had already approved in the streetscape strategy. There may be some way to provide a solution with the strategy.

The Chief Executive suggested the results be collated from the study based on the model of the streetscape strategy and a report be provided to the Council with a proposed set of options to take to Pomona Street residents.

Cr Dixon said as with the situation of frontages in Matura, maybe the residents of Pomona Street should be asked to come up with the consultant costs.

The Chief Executive said he had always viewed the Pomona Street issue as a “dummy run” and whatever was done would be unlikely to

be just quarantined to just that street. There could be benefits to other streets.

Cr Highsted wondered if bus companies could be consulted about whether they would consider using other streets.

The Manager said one of the original purposes of the strategy was to determine which streets were the best for traffic to use.

Cr Grant said the Coutts Road route was already far too congested.

Cr Davis asked if everybody was comfortable to travel down the road being discussed.

Cr Highsted said there were a number of other streets that could be used. He said constructive feedback was required on the streetscape strategy. It was not an effective tool. The Council should regroup and get it right.

The Roding Manager said he was confident the Council had got it right apart from the Pomona Street situation, which was unique. That was why a consultant had been suggested.

His Worship asked for clarification. He asked if a study was going to be conducted, followed by consultation with the Pomona Street residents.

The Manager said a better solution than what had been proposed needed to be found. It may fall within the streetscape strategy.

The Planning Consultant said a report would come back to the Council, prior to residents being consulted. The traffic would need to be slowed down.

The Chief Executive said in that report the Council would suggest a consultation process with the residents of Pomona Street. The effects on other neighbouring streets would also be encompassed in the report.

In response to Cr Davis, the Consultant said the streetscape strategy highlighted the issue of who would pay when work was carried out. Adjoining landowners would need to be made aware of that at the time of consultation.

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

6. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER (3.34)

The Committee perused the report from the Roding Manager.

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

7. FAIRFIELD STREET PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS (3.24.1)

A report had been received from the Roding Manager following concerns raised about the safety of pedestrian crossings on Fairfield Street.

The Manager said the Fairfield Street pedestrian crossings had the worst statistics in the area for crashes. A safety engineer had inspected the street and come up with some options. The suggestion of a sandbag trial of the recommended option had been omitted from the recommendation in error. It was common practice for a trial to be carried out before concrete went down.

In response to His Worship, the Manager said the report had come about from concerns raised by residents, with Greypower being the most recent. The New Zealand Land Transport Association's crash database had also brought the issue to his attention. The pedestrian crossings at the south end of Fairfield St were very close to intersections. Any treatment could be mirrored in some other intersections around the town.

His Worship said he had concerns about the pedestrian crossing placements in Fairfield Street right down to Civic Avenue which were all potential traps. The focus of the review needed to be on all the pedestrian crossings in that area, not just the Irk Street intersection.

The Manager said Gore had wide streets. The issue would be whether pedestrian crossing were necessary. An island could be put in place of the pedestrian crossing which would allow pedestrians to take refuge in the middle of the road while waiting on passing traffic.

In response to His Worship, the Manager said some photos had been omitted from the report.

In response to Cr Redhead, the Manager said formulas were used to calculate foot and vehicle traffic.

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

**THAT the Council approve the implementation of a sandbag trial of option 2,**

**AND THAT if the trial is successful, the implementation of option 2, including removal of the existing pedestrian crossing subject to the cost being able to be met by the urban Minor Works budget.**

8. REFUSE – RECYCLING REPORT (10.20)

A report had been received from the Asset Manager, Utilities regarding the new wheelie bin collection service for the Gore District urban residents.

Cr Davis said some Councillors had recently visited the recycling centre in Invercargill. It had been interesting and well worth the visit.

In response to Cr P Grant, the General Manager, District Assets said if a car was parked in front of a full bin situated on the footpath kerb, the driver would get out of the truck and move the bin. Areas where cars did park on the street had been highlighted and those property owners had been written to requesting that they put their bins out earlier for collection. That was working well.

In response to Cr Redhead, the General Manager said bins were not at too much risk of vandalism if put out on the street early. Collection of those bins was at about 6.30am. The Council would be responsible for replacing a vandalised bin.

Cr Davis said the recycling centre was happy overall with the presentation of the Gore district's recycling. Councillors were advised to tell residents to keep lids on bottles as the tops tended to get stuck in the machines used. She suggested the Council could do more to get the message out to highlight that.

Cr P Grant said it also needed to be highlighted that recycling from the area went to the Invercargill recycling centre for further processing and not just to the refuse station.

The General Manager said he had visited one local group and presented an information video about recycling that featured material being sorted. The group had found it interesting and he would be happy to visit other groups.

In response to Cr Davis suggesting the Council could set up a video link to YouTube, the Communications Co-ordinator said she would arrange that.

The General Manager confirmed that bottle tops should be screwed on bottles before putting in the recycle bin or put into the waste bin as they jammed up the machine at the recycling centre.

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

9. WASTENET DISPOSAL FEE (10.23)

A memo had been received from the Asset Manager, Utilities advising a letter had been received from JD Souness requesting the opportunity to negotiate a new contract for continued use of the Gore transfer station at a discounted price.

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive said the item could be moved into committee if the Council so wished. On balance, he had thought it was an older issue.

Cr Beale said given the level of waste going to Souness, he felt it could not be offered to one and not the other.

In response to Cr Highsted asking if the gate fee Souness paid went from \$111.85 to \$160.00 was a result of defaulting to the market rate, the General Manager confirmed that was correct.

Cr Highsted thought a review should be carried out in 12 months time and a report come back to the Council on the economics of the changed landfill now that recycling was in place so that it could understand the size of the small balance that contributed to the operation going forward.

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

**THAT the Gore District Council offer a discount to J D Souness Ltd similar to that offered to Paddy's Bins Ltd, for a period of 12 months,**

**AND THAT a financial report be provided to the Council regarding the changed landfill operational now that recycling was in place, before the 12 month period was up.**

The meeting closed at 6.09pm.