

**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2014, AT 4.45PM.**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mrs Sarah Crooks), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Communications Coordinator (Sonia Gerken), Senior Planner (Mr Howard Alchin), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Corporate Support Officers (Mrs Tracey Millan and Mrs Kylie Weir) and three members of the public in the gallery.

**APOLOGIES** Crs Byars, P Grant, Page and Sharp apologised for absence.

---

**1. GORE WASTEWATER PRIMARY POND ONE SLUDGE REMOVAL (SC0605)**

A memo had been received from the 3 Waters Asset Manager regarding the Council's goal to achieve the de-sludging of at least pond 1 at the Gore wastewater treatment site at Grasslands Road.

The Manager said a collaborative approach with the Southland District Council was a positive move and quite exciting.

Cr Dixon said he and His Worship had attended a conference where the process of using bio enzymes to break down the sludge had been discussed and asked if that was an option the Council could investigate.

The Manager said that process was still in a trial stage and was being tested in an environment where the discharge went to the sea. The impact on rivers and its ecology had not yet been investigated.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT the Council endorse the collaborative approach being undertaken with Southland District Council for the wastewater pond de-sludge programme.**

## 2. STREETScape ALTERATION REQUEST –19 NELSON STREET, GORE (SC0754)

A memo had been received from the Roading Manager together with a letter received from Mr Haydon Nicholson on 11 November 2013 seeking permission to alter the streetscape layout at 19 Nelson Street, Gore.

*The Chief Executive departed the meeting at 4.50pm.*

The Manager said two issues had been raised by Mr Nicholson, including drainage at the frontage of his property. The Council had agreed for drainage work to be carried out to correct the drainage property.

The second issue raised had been the existing grass verge parking out the front of the property. The Manager likened the situation to that in Pomona Street. Since writing the report, he had the opportunity to inspect the grass verge following very heavy rain and had been able to walk over it without needing to wear gumboots. There was an ability to park on the surface at present. The situation did not appear to be an extraordinary one that warranted the Council to override its Streetscape Strategy.

Cr Bolger asked what could be done to improve the drainage.

The Manager said Mr Nicholson had already put in a gravel drain at the edge of the footpath. The Council could increase that drainage by laying nova flow along the edge of the footpath. The existing driveway at the property formed a bit of a hump so water got trapped there, however, after inspection following a reasonable rainfall, there was not a lot of water lying around. He suggested option 3.3 would help drain the grass area as well as the footpath. Occasional parking on the grass frontage could then happen.

Cr Beale said the Council could be leaving itself open to requests to gravel other areas to enable residents to park their caravans.

His Worship said the photograph in the report was not reflective of the current situation. The hedge had been removed and gravel laid. He was pleased the issue around the drainage of the area was being addressed. He referred to the request to deviate from the Streetscape Strategy and the comments around parking on the grass verge being allowed and asked who would be responsible if there was damage to the grass area.

The Manager said the Roading Bylaw stated that no damage was allowed on ornamental verges and he did not expect Mr Nicholson would allow that to occur.

In response to His Worship, the Manager said he was reasonably sure the drainage work would alleviate the problem. There was room for three vehicles to park on the property.

His Worship asked how many streets were in the District without kerbing and channel.

The Roading Manager said Nelson Street could well be the only street. There were other streets such as Pomona Street that had a grass strip between the seal edge and the road. In his view the remedy proposed would work similar to that of a kerb and channel system.

His Worship asked what degree of flexibility there was for individual situations.

The Planning Consultant said the Streetscape Policy stated that anyone could apply and would be considered on a case by case basis. Issues such as the site, traffic and impact on cyclists were all taken into consideration.

Cr Beale said another application for an exception to the Streetscape Strategy could be expected in the near future from a Milton Street resident and needed to be mindful of more coming in.

*The Chief Executive returned to the meeting at 5.04pm.*

His Worship said a lot of faith had been placed in the drainage work fixing the problem so suggested a timeframe be implemented to allow for a review of the site to see how it was operating.

The Roading Manager said the drainage work had been programmed to be carried out that month. It could be reviewed on an on-going basis over the winter.

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

**THAT the Council carry out drainage improvements as agreed upon to reduce ponding on the footpath and to improve the availability of the grass to be parked on as overflow parking while retaining the existing configuration,**

**AND THAT the Council re-evaluate the site after the winter.**

### 3. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Roading Manager.

The Manager advised the report was for a three week period and reseals were the only capital works to still be completed. They were programmed to be completed during March. The weather had caused delays in reseal works.

In response to Cr Dixon asking when grading would be carried out in the town's boundary, the Manager said they would be completed on an as required basis.

He asked when a roundabout on High Street was going to be constructed and what the expected completion date was. It had been on the agenda for over 12 months now.

The Roading Manager said it would be completed by the New Zealand Transport Agency or its contractors. He had requested a meeting regarding the timeline for the project. He understood it would be prior to April but would make more inquiries.

He also advised that Downers had engaged a local contractor to carry out pest spraying as it had got behind with its programme.

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

The meeting closed at 5.13pm.