

Report of the Ordinary Meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 29 April 2014 at 4pm.

PRESENT Cr Highsted (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Byars, Dixon, D Grant, P Grant, Page and Sharp.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roding Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mrs Sarah Crooks), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell) Senior Planner (Mr Howard Alchin), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Communications Coordinator (Sonia Gerken), Library Manager (Mrs Lorraine Weston-Webb), Community Development Coordinator (Kayla McIntosh), Corporate Support Officers (Mrs Tracey Millan and Mrs Kylie Weir) and two members of the public in the gallery.

APOLOGIES His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Davis Gover and Grant apologised for absence.

Cr Highsted asked for any conflicts of interest. None were received.

1. REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLAN

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant regarding controls Environment Southland had identified that could be introduced to improve air quality in Gore and was seeking feedback from the Council by 2 May.

The Chief Executive advised it had recently been decided at a meeting between both Councils that there was merit in holding a workshop around the Air Quality Plan. Following the workshop, the matter would appear on a future operations committee agenda.

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

2. DISTRICT PLAN CHANGES (SC0455)

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant regarding decisions made on submissions lodged to changes to the District Plan processed by the Council.

The Consultant advised the plan changes around inundation had been cleared. As soon as information was received from Environment Southland, the decisions would be released.

In response to Cr Dixon asking what the criteria was around old buildings, the Consultant said as a result of some submissions lodged, there was now a good balance built into the District Plan that recognised the heritage value of buildings. An additional policy had been included to take into account the earthquake risk. It now allowed the value to be recognised and a practical approach taken. Some work was still to be done on earthquake standards and yet to be finalised by the Government.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT the Council note the decisions issued on submissions to the District Plan changes.

3. ANIMAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES REPORTS FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2014 (SC0393)

The Committee perused the February and March 2014 reports from the Animal Control Contractor.

Cr Sharp said there were still too many wandering dogs. The Council needed to come down stronger on owners. They were wandering because they were hungry and children were easy meat. He suggested giving dogs three chances, before euthanising.

The Chief Executive said the Council was restricted to the law. The Council had submitted on a three strikes and you are out basis a few years ago. At that time it was considered quite draconian that wandering dogs met their end. The Council currently impounded wandering dogs and charged infringement notices and could put a dog down if its owner was not found. The trouble was people could just go and get another dog. He had done a lot of research in the area. Half the problem was a dog owner could not be restricted in New Zealand.

The dog control contract would be up for review shortly and those issues would be looked at. The Council was currently in the process of prosecuting a dog owner whose two wandering dogs killed a cat in its home. It may need to continue with that sort of action to send a message to the community that dire actions could result.

Cr Sharp said there was an issue that was not going away. He thought the animal contractor did a good job.

In response to Cr Page, the Chief Executive said infringements were usually paid.
RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT the reports be received.

4. SCHEDULE OF BUILDING CONSENTS

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive along with a schedule of building consents issued for March 2014, together with comparisons of the previous two years.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Page, seconded by Cr Byars, THAT the information be received.

5. SOUTHLAND ENERGY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION (SC0333)

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant together with copies of reports considered by the Venture Southland Joint Committee about proposed governance and operational structure to implement the Strategy.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr Byars, THAT the Council endorse the proposed Working Group structure to implement the Southland Energy Strategy.

6. MFE RMA 2012/13 SURVEY REPORT RELEASED

A memo had been received from the Senior Planner regarding the recently released 2012/13 RMA survey to local authorities.

The Chief Executive said the Council had that day received a letter of congratulations from the Minister of the Environment for achieving 100% compliance with statute for its processing. Councillors would receive a copy of the letter.

COMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixon, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the information be received,

7. SCHEDULE OF CONSENTS ISSUED

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant along with a schedule of land use and subdivision consents issued as at 10 April 2014.

Cr Sharp asked why Oakley Motels had been refused an expansion.

The Senior Planner said the application had been returned because it was of a substandard. It was an easier process to return the application back to the applicant to avoid a processing issue. It usually got the information sorted quickly.

Cr Sharp said he had phoned the applicant and they had said the issues in the application were minor.

Cr Highsted said Council staff dealt with applications in a professional manner and an application would not be returned lightly. Crs should respect that.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Senior Planner said the next step would be for the applicant to submit another application or may request a meeting going forward. The Council was very much open for business and wanted the work to go ahead.

The Chief Executive said the Council's regulatory department was also there to ensure compliance. It had to ensure its obligations were met also as it was audited by its insurer. It tried to get people over the line in the process.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the information be received.

8. DOG REGISTRATION (SC0395)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with an excerpt from the November Regulatory and Planning Committee meeting regarding a query around the 250 dog owners that had not reregistered their dogs and had been visited.

The Chief Executive said the report showed the vigilance of the staff. The Council was very fortunate for the dog administrator Mrs Rowena Burnby lived and breathed dogs and knew dogs and their owners extremely well. She followed up on issues to ensure there was not an army of unregistered dogs in the district.

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

The meeting closed at 4.33pm.