

Report of the Ordinary Meeting of the Operations Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 29 April 2014, at 5.20pm.

PRESENT Cr Beale (Chairperson), Crs Bolger, Byars, Dixon, P Grant, Highsted, 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), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Communications Coordinator (Sonia Gerken), Corporate Support Officers (Mrs Tracey Millan and Mrs Kylie Weir) and one member of the public in the gallery.

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

Cr Davis asked for any conflicts of interest.

Cr Highsted declared an interest in item 5. He was employed by a local transport company.

1. PRESENTATION FROM POWERNET – SMART METER ROLLOUT (SC0229)

PowerNet Project Manager Paul McCullagh was in attendance and provided a presentation about the smart meters project.

In response to Cr Beale, Mr McCullagh said smart meters would not be mandatory. However, all meters would have to eventually be replaced.

2. SOUTHERN RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY - STATEMENT OF INTENT 2014 – 2017 (SC0506)

A report had been received from the Roding Manager together with a copy of the Southern Rural Fire Authority Draft Statement of Intent 2014 - 2017. Mr Mike Grant, Chief Executive of the Southern Rural Fire Authority, was in attendance.

Five organisations had formed the Southern Rural Fire Authority in 2003 and continued to be recognised nationally as the model for other regions to emulate.

In response to Cr Highsted, Mr Grant said the bulk of the increase in the levy was to try and smooth out its capital programme. The increase in the levy would be 2.5%, not 3.3% as stated to in the report.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Chief Executive said if the Council thought the amount was worthy enough, it might want to highlight the increase in the levy through the Long Term Plan process and invite feedback through a submission process.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the Southern Rural Fire Authority Statement of Intent 2014/2017 be approved by the Council, noting a 2.5% increase in the levy sought from the Council.

3. STREETScape ALTERATION REQUEST – MILTON STREET, GORE (SC0754)

A memo had been received from the Roading Manager together with correspondence between the Council and Mr and Mrs Goodwin and residents regarding the streetscape layout of Milton Street, between Eccles and Crombie Streets.

The Manager said there was an additional purpose of the report also. That was to provide detailed information sought from earlier requests from the Council. The residents wanted to increase parking. The Streetscape Strategy required extraordinary circumstances. This was not the case.

Cr Dixon said the street was narrow and it would help if the trees were cut back. The lawn would get roughed up when cars were parked on it.

The Manager said as the pictures showed in the report, there was parking on the grass edges, the grass was in good condition and the traffic count was low. The street's function was not a thoroughfare. If the streetscape changed, it would change the function of the street and undermine the reason for change, which was safety. If changes were made to the street, the trees would have to be removed altogether.

Cr Highsted thanked the Manager for the informative report. Milton Street was a quiet street. The Council had to be careful not to set a precedent. A strategy was in place and needed to be utilised.

Cr Beale said he thought the Wolsley and Hokonui Street corner was a more deserving situation for change. He was, however, sympathetic to Mrs Goodwin.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Manager confirmed there were a few streets in Gore with a low traffic count that only had a footpath on one side. The large verge on the east side of the street was still safe for pedestrians to walk on.

Cr Sharp said a request from 15 residents was worth consideration. He suggested replacing half the grass with gravel to provide somewhere for residents to park cars. The Council could share the costs with residents, as residents had been promised some years ago that it would do the job. An option should be explored.

The Roding Manager said a gravel strip would just create new problems, as gravel would migrate on to the seal. It would be difficult to grade and would get potholes. The tree root structure of the mature trees would be affected too.

The Parks and Recreation Manager agreed.

Cr Beale said some residents could not park on their driveway as they shared it with a neighbour.

Cr Highsted said if someone purchased a property in Gore and wanted the streetscape changed, there was a process to be followed and the situation on Milton Street did not fit the criteria around the strategy.

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

AND THAT the Council decline the request to replace the existing grass verge and street trees on the west side of Milton Street with chip seal.

Cr Sharp voted against the motion and asked for his vote to be recorded.

4. REPORT OF 3 WATERS ASSET MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager.

The Manager said the focus for staff had been replacing the main reservoir on top of Pyramid Hill at Otama. The site was operating well now with only a couple of minor tasks yet to be completed.

She said staff were looking at cutting water restrictions back as the wells were filing up and the operations at Coopers Wells had contributed to that too.

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

5. 50 TONNE MAXIMUM HIGH PRODUCTIVITY MOTOR VEHICLES (SC0790)

A memo had been received from the Roding Manager advising the Council of a request received from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to consider

permitting 50 tonne High Productivity Motor Vehicles (HPMV's) to use the Gore District Council road network. The NZTA had also requested that the Council enter into a memorandum of understanding with it to enable it to issue permits for those vehicles, on behalf of the Gore District Council.

The Roothing Manager said NZTA Planning and Investment advisor Gordon McDonald had been unable to attend the meeting.

He said the New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) and Land Transport Authority were trying to maximise the efficiencies, and local and international competitiveness in moving freight around the country. A high number of HPMV permits were already issued for larger trucks on the local network. The Council was the first in the country to do that. The trucks referred to in the report were lower bound HPMV's and up to a maximum of 50 tonnes. An extra axel would be added to a rig to spread the load to prevent any additional wear to the pavements and bridges than a 44 tonne rig would.

The Manager said MWH had assessed the network and a list of 22 bridges and their locations that would not cope with the heavier truck weight had been provided in the report.

He said as a part of the proposal, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would have to be entered into with NZTA and it would then issue 50 tonne maximum permits. Several other Councils already had a MOU with NZTA. Research into the wear and tear of roads provided confidence that it would not be detrimental to the District's roads.

In response to Cr Bolger, the Manager said the list of excluded bridges allowed some measures of controls over exclusion. He could not imagine trucks going up the roads in question. The Council could pull out of the agreement at any time and could change the list of bridges on the list. It took away the administration part of issuing permits.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Grant, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the Council receive the report and that;

- 1. Lower bound high productivity motor vehicles (HPMV's), up to a gross weight of 50 tonnes, which are configured to the requirements of the HPMV rule be permitted to use the Gore District road network where appropriate.**
- 2. Permits be issued on behalf of the Gore District Council by NZTA for vehicles with a gross weight of 50 tonnes, which are configured to the requirements of the HPMV rule.**
- 3. The Chief Executive be authorised to do all that is required to give effect to the Roothing Committee's resolution in relation to this proposal.**

6. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Roothing Manager.

The Manager advised that Downer contractors and staff were in full swing collecting the autumn leaf fall. Leaves could cause problems if heavy rain fell so the situation was being monitored.

He said the Council and contractor services had assisted with traffic control during the recent Livestock Supplies fire. The offer was gratefully received by the fire service. Staff and contractors provided assistance with the closure on the Gore Bridge. It was a hazardous situation with a lot of spectators on the roads.

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

7. FUNDING ASSISTANCE RATES REVIEW OPTIONS SUBMISSION (SC0788)

A memo had been received from the Roothing Manager together with a copy of a submission received from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) regarding the Funding Assistance Review Options.

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

AND THAT the Council ratifies the submission made.

The meeting closed at 6.44pm.