



REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2014, AT 4.00PM.

PRESENT Cr Gover (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Byars, Dixon, D 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), Senior Planner (Mr Howard Alchin), Communications Coordinator (Sonia Gerken), Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Library Manager (Ms Lorraine Weston-Webb), Aquatic Centre Manager (Ms Kim Peterson), Corporate Support Officers (Mrs Tracey Millan and Mrs Kylie Weir)

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

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

1. UPDATE FROM VENTURE SOUTHLAND

A report had been received from Venture Southland. The Chief Executive of Venture Southland Mr Paul Casson was not in attendance but had provided an update on recent activities undertaken.

2. PRESENTATION FROM CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SOUTHLAND – SMS MESSAGING IN EMERGENCIES

The Manager of Emergency Management Southland, Neil Cruickshank was in attendance and provided a brief presentation on the use of SMS messaging in emergency situations.

Mr Cruickshank informed the Council that he was present to speak about warnings; probably more often referred to as Emergency Management public alerting. He believed that this concern had been raised after the recent Livestock Supplies fire and members of the public may or may not have been alerted to hazards and what they should do. He provided the information on an alerting platform. The main area

of discussion was around who the lead agency was in an emergency. The fire service was the lead agency at Livestock Supplies because of the size of the fire but many other agencies became involved. Emergency Management Southland only became involved when the Police contacted them about a possible evacuation being required.

When Emergency Management Southland became involved it was decided from the Fire Service that the smoke wasn't going to be particularly dangerous as long as members of the public took some practicable steps such as closing their windows and not taking in large quantities of smoke if it could be avoided. This message would have been a good one to get out to the public however there was no mechanism at the moment to achieve that. Traditional media could give good coverage at the time but it was a challenge to get anything in the media instantly. Emergency Management Southland was working with an app that had been produced by the Auckland Civil Defence group. In the past 18 months it had been developed throughout the country. It came down to reliability and making sure the system did not crash or become overloaded in an emergency. The cost to the Council also needed to be considered.

The Government was looking at a system that it could force messages through to cellphones in times of major emergencies, to get instructions out to the public. This system was still another two to three years away. Natural warnings were the best in an emergency. He believed that it came down to people's own initiative.

Cr Sharp informed the Council that he had spoken to Telecom and it had two examples, one being e texting and the other one being join me. The join me deal was really cheap with a \$100 cellphone and staff could put this into the computer and the cost was \$12 per group send out message.

In response to Cr Sharp, Mr Cruickshank said in an emergency there was no back up for off the shelf products and networks become cluttered. There were many examples where these products had been used in an emergency and the message had not gone through at all or went through a few days later.

In response to Cr Gover, Mr Cruickshank said there were two funding models. One was to pay for it upfront costing so much per year or take the risk that it was only used in an emergency costing so much per message. This could lead to a big hit on a budget at a time where an upfront payment could save money in the long run. If that proposal was adopted Emergency Management Committees would promote it and would ensure that it would work across all the networks.

In response to Cr Gover, Mr Cruickshank said alerting platform was the name for the system at the moment. However, in time it may change.

In response to Cr Bolger, Mr Cruickshank said commercial operations would be behind it. However in an emergency it would depend on the lead agency, like the

fire service could say it needed to get a message out and could ask Emergency Management Southland to get that out via its different communication networks.

In response to Cr Bolger, there was no situation that Mr Cruickshank could think of that the Council would be the lead agency for it to need this sort of service.

In response to Cr Beale Mr Cruickshank said Police did have the ability to activate it. However there was no system at the moment, which was why everyone was working to get a one up and running.

3. EXTENDING THE COUNCIL'S USE OF SMS MESSAGING

A report had been received from the Communications Coordinator regarding SMS messaging.

Currently the Council was using the e text system and it was only as good as the people who had joined it. Once the public have expressed their wish to join someone then has to manually load the information into a database where there is potential for human error.

In response to Cr Gover, the e text service was fulfilling the Council's current needs.

Cr D Grant reminded the Council that it was very unlikely that it would ever be its job to send out these messages.

Cr Sharp referred Councillors to a letter from Lynette King and believed the information contained within it was very relevant to the situation it was trying to resolve.

Cr Highsted stated that the Council had been told clearly from Civil Defence whose role it was to notify the public and while it had sympathy with the resident it could not do anything. It was not the responsibility of the Council to send out the messages.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the status quo remain.

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

4. REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The Committee perused the report from the Communications Coordinator.

The coordinator added that the conference she attended through Civil Defence was exceptional and she suggested that should the conference be held again that senior staff and some Councillors could benefit from attending.

His Worship the Mayor attended the meeting from 4.30pm

In response to Cr Beale, the coordinator advised the upgrade of the town entrance signs was scheduled to be carried out in the next financial year.

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

5. REPORT OF THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

The Committee perused the report from the Youth Development Coordinator.

Cr Gover reported the Youth Councillors had enjoyed the speed dating event but felt that there was not enough time. It had been suggested more time per station be allowed next year.

Cr D Grant suggested that they could maybe hold two events each year, where the Youth Council could see six Councillors each time.

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

6. REPORT OF THE LIBRARIES MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Library Manager.

The Manager informed the Council that she was seeking a recommendation about a self-issuing machine.

In response to Cr Gover the Manager advised the recommended option was the first one of lease to buy or rental of \$250 per month or \$3,000 per year.

In response to Cr D Grant the Manager said the life expectancy in similar units was at least nine years.

In response to Cr Beale the Manager did not think that this was a machine that would disappear and bigger libraries were getting even more equipment than just the self-issuing machines. The self-issuing machines cost around \$30,000 about 7 years ago and the Manager felt that they had reduced a lot. It enabled those who were ducking in on their lunch break or after schools to reduce queues at the counter while staff members were assisting other customers.

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

AND THAT the preferred option for a self-issuing machine be either lease to buy (purchase over 4-5 years) or rental at \$250 per month (\$3,000 pa).

7. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR

The Committee perused the report from the Arts and Heritage Curator.

The Committee noted the department's recent success with grants and congratulated both Stephanie and Bruce for their hard work in securing these.

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

8. REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Parks and Recreation Manager.

The Manager said the Aquatic Centre shutdown was going to plan and there had been regular meetings with the Project Managers. The reopening date was scheduled for 9 June 2014.

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

9. REPORT OF THE AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Aquatics Services Manager.

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

10. REPORT OF THE GORE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Information Centre Manager.

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

The meeting concluded at 4.47pm.