

REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE REGULATORY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2014 AT 5.18 PM.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Highsted (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Byars, Dixon, Gover, D 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), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mrs Sarah Crooks), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Communications Coordinator (Sonia Gerken), Senior Planner (Mr Howard Alchin), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Senior Regulatory Officer (Mrs Frances Shepherd) and Corporate Support Officers (Mrs Tracey Millan and Mrs Kylie Weir).

APOLOGIES Cr P Grant and Davis apologised for absence.

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

1. SCHEDULE OF BUILDING CONSENTS

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

The Building Control Manager said figures for the year until the end of May were up with 342 consents issued at a value of \$31.5million.

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

2. DISTRICT PLAN CHANGES - PLAN CHANGE 19 – MATAURA AND PLAN CHANGE 20 – WAIMEA STREET (SC0947 and SC0948)

A memo had been received from the Senior Planner regarding Plan Change 19, Mataura and Plan Change 20, Waimea Street.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixon, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the information be received.

3. SCHEDULE OF LANDUSE CONSENTS ISSUED

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant along with a schedule of landuse and subdivision consents issued as at 22 May 2014.

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

4. LOCAL APPROVED PRODUCTS POLICY (LAPP) – PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (SC0955)

A memo had been received from the Senior Regulatory Officer regarding a recommendation from the Ministry of Health that Councils continue with the development of their Local Approved Products Policies (LAPP's) and have these in place as soon as reasonably practicable.

The Officer advised submissions had closed and a date for a hearing was still to be finalised.

The Chief Executive said the urgency surrounding the issue had gone but the issue was still there. A robust policy that would protect the community from potentially harmful products finding their way into the marketplace in 18 months' time was required.

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

AND THAT the Council proceed with the development of a joint Local Approved Products Policy (LAPP) with the Invercargill City and Southland District Councils.

5. ANIMAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR APRIL 2014 (SC0393)

The Committee perused the April report from the Animal Control Contractor.

In response to Cr Sharp asking what had happened to the dog that had attacked a lady in Mataura, the Chief Executive said he would find out and report back.

Cr Beale said he noted that Rottweiler dogs featured more and more as offending dogs and wondered if a bylaw could be introduced that required Rottweiler dogs to be muzzled when in public.

The Chief Executive said there was a lot of research being carried out around the breed of dogs and overwhelming evidence was suggesting that problems had to do with the owners, rather than the breed. The Rottweiler was a popular breed and probably the victim of some indiscriminate breeding. Some dogs had a natural tendency to be aggressive and an owner could influence that. The Council could not impose more controls than what the statute permitted. The statute had five breeds that were banned. It would be unreasonable for the Council to automatically assume all Rottweiler dogs were dangerous. The best action was to put a dangerous classification on dogs that had shown themselves to be a danger.

Cr Sharp said he wondered if the owner of that dog had been prosecuted.

The Chief Executive said if the Council prosecuted an owner, a report would go to the Council with a recommendation to prosecute. If a dog was involved in an attack, the Council sometimes issued an instant infringement fee of \$200 to an owner which was an efficient way to send a message that it disagreed with what their dog was doing.

Another common approach used with owners if a dog was involved in an attack was to give the dog owner a choice to voluntarily let the Council euthanase the dog, otherwise it would prosecute. Either way, the dog did not go home.

Cr Bolger said more people owned dogs now.

The Chief Executive said studies carried out often suggested that a dog's behaviour could be a reflection of its owner's personality.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Chief Executive said the Council was currently working through the process of prosecuting a dog owner.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the reports be received.

The meeting closed at 5.32pm.