

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 31 January 2008, commencing at 1.30 pm

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor M B O'Malley; Councillors B A Tasker (Chair), L J Leadley, N A Brown, I J Burgess, K W P Lowe, P W Reveley, K L Holmes and J A Everest.

Also in attendance Councillors R C Beavan, R J Kilworth, J Kingsbury and J Sparks; Operations Manager, Roading & Street Services Manager, Water Services Manager and Committee Secretary.

Confirmation of Minutes

"That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 6 December, 2007, be taken as read and confirmed."

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Matters Arising

Traffic Counters

The Roading and Street Services Manager was asked whether counters had been placed as suggested at two road sites in Dorie. Mr Robertson advised that all traffic counters are currently in use. He agreed to include the two roads referred to and if counts were sufficient, an application could be made to Land Transport NZ for their inclusion in the works programme.

Hakatere Potts Rd

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that design calculations for sealing this road are yet to be received. He explained that there are two solutions that could be used to address the road bleeding; if the problem is minor then fine material could be used. A more effective but costly option would be to mill up seal, mix aggregate and then reseal. Mr Robertson will continue to investigate where problems are occurring and the financial implications on the roading network.

Pasture Establishment

The Water Services Manager reported that with no irrigation on site, the pasture was planted at risk, however a good strike has been achieved.

The Operations Manager explained that work required on the wetland areas has impacted on establishing farm irrigation. Only the wetland areas are being used at present and it is proposed to commission the whole site within the next two months. Mr Rouse said that the underground irrigation will be tested with wastewater. The location of the well and how the wastewater will be supplemented by bore water is still being investigated.

Young Persons Forum

It was reported that the 'safe swimming' pamphlets prepared by St Josephs in conjunction with ACC have been completed and are now available to be distributed throughout the community.

Annual Plan 2007/ 08:

New Kerb & Channel, and Footpath, Buckleys Tce - Deletion from Programme

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that consultation with Buckleys Terrace residents has been completed and residents have confirmed that they are not in favour of new kerb and channel work being installed. Mr Robertson said that removing the work from the programme will provide funding for the proposed upgrade of Wills Street, and this was considered and agreed to by the Town Centre Subcommittee this morning.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

“That the proposed work in the 2007/08 Annual Plan for new kerb and channel, and new footpath in Buckleys Terrace, from Tarbottons Road to the west end, be deleted from the programme as requested by the majority of Buckleys Terrace residents.”

Leadley/Brown

Carried

Town Centre Subcommittee – Upgrade of Wills Street

1. That the Committee approves the use of the street frontage in Wills Street, in front of the new performing Arts Theatre, subject to a more detailed plan and specification from Stewart Ross Team Architecture.
2. That additional funding from the Ashburton footpath account in the sum of \$48,000 be provided by Council for this work.
3. That the work be carried out as part of the current building contract site works.”

Leadley/Holmes

Carried

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Holmes/Burgess

Carried

Financials

Financial reports were received for the period ending 31/12/07. It was noted that the solid waste report is to be finalised and forwarded to Council on 28 February.

NZ Land Transport Strategy and Government Policy Statement

The Operations Manager reported that submissions on the Strategy close on 29 February 2008. A draft submission will be forwarded to Councillors.

State Highway Work

The Committee requested an update on the work planned for the Marae entranceway on SH1. The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that the work has been further delayed awaiting written consent from an adjacent landowner to allow power wires to be installed by Electricity Ashburton. Until the existing poles are removed, work cannot commence.

National Land Transport Programme

The Operations Manager reported that Council’s FAR for 2008/09 will remain unchanged at 47%. As a member of the Land Transport Reference Group Mr Rouse said that he would continue to pursue the issue for this Council of reducing subsidies.

Subsidised Seal Extension

The Roading and Street Services Manager tabled a report on seal extension work for the 2007/08 annual plan.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

1. That the proposed subsidised seal extension on Cairnbrae Road (Line Road to Pole Road) and Wakanui School Road (Wilsons Road to River Road) be deleted from the 2007/ 08 Annual Plan; and
2. That a new section of road for subsidised seal extension, Blands Road (Methven Highway to Thompsons Track) be included in the Annual Plan 2007/ 08 at an estimated cost of \$175,000.”

Brown/Leadley

Carried

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

- “1. That the Council uses the non subsidised sealing budget of \$50,000 to provide short lengths adjacent to house sites on rural roads as a dust suppression measure; the cost of this work to be shared 43% by Council and 57% by the land owner receiving the benefit; and
2. That the maximum length of each seal section being laid at any one site is to be 300 metres; if there are multiple land owners contributing, then this can be increased in proportion.”

Lowe/Brown

Carried

The Roding and Street Services Manager said that a policy is being developed similar to that for seal extension with the main driver being traffic count then factors such as proximity of the property to the road. He agreed that the types of traffic using the road can be included as a factor. Mr Robertson confirmed that oiling roads is still permitted and requests for this work are regularly received with the cost of carrying it out being met by the property owner. ECan sets rules to avoid pollution and control the quantity used.

Traffic Services

The Committee requested staff to follow up traffic speed issues on West Street which appear to be the result of inadequate signage. It was suggested that an additional 50km/hr sign be installed on West Street and that the 70km/hr road marking on Racecourse Road be removed.

The Roding and Street Services Manager advised that he has discussed Council’s concern with Opus and Transit. It was reported that the Police support the request for a transitional speed zone.

“That Council requests Transit to provide a second 50km speed limit sign, or similar initiative on West Street between Racecourse Road and Walnut Avenue.”

Burgess/Leadley

Carried

Vandalism in CBD

In response to reports of litter bin vandalism in the CBD, the Roding and Street Services Manager said that Council’s contractor is responsible for responding to the clean-up. He will follow up with the footpath and roading contractors to discuss how they can work together to ensure that litter is removed from both areas.

Mr Robertson also referred to the amount of sign damage occurring throughout the district which has seen 74 signs replaced in the past two months. 34 of these signs were essential to public safety.

Carriageway lighting

Clarification was sought on the time that the daylight sensor is activated. The Roding and Street Services Manager said that Electricity Ashburton is able to alter the start / finish time and he will discuss this with them.

Minor Improvements

Cr Brown reported that there is difficulty for trucks turning off SH1 onto Michael Street in Rakaia resulting in them crossing to the other side of the road.

The Roding and Street Services Manager said that a joint approach will be discussed with Transit with the possibility of a splitter island being used.

Water Supply Usage

The Water Services Manager acknowledged that more information is needed to make the public aware of the methodology behind water consumption and the ability of Council to maintain a good supply. This will be followed up along with the daily / weekly water use figures that area being made available.

The Chief Executive attended the meeting at 2.50 pm.

The Committee discussed whether Lake Hood should have water restrictions imposed. The Operations Manager said that there is currently no demand on the scheme and an unconstrained supply is maintained at the request of the Lake Hood Management Committee.

Ocean Farm

It was agreed that a meeting of the Farm Management Subcommittee will be convened with terms of reference for that subcommittee to be considered.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.00 pm and resumed at 3.12 pm

Items transacted with the public excluded (3.22 pm)

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item no	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:
8	Contract C537 Footpath resurfacing, Ashburton district 2007/ 08	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Holmes/Brown

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

Awarding of Contract C537: Footpath Resurfacing, Ashburton District 2007/2008

“That the tender of \$431,101.70 from Isaac Construction Ltd for contract C537: Footpath Resurfacing, Ashburton District 2007/2008 be accepted.”

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.27 pm.