

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 6 March 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 and J Sparks; Operations Manager, Roding & Street Services Manager, Water Services Manager and Committee Secretary.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes were amended to remove the reference to Hakatere Potts Road, noting that the issue of road bleeding is being investigated on Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road.

“That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 31 January, 2008, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Matters Arising

Traffic counters

The Roding and Street Services Manager reported that sealing will take place on the Dorie roads this month.

Carriageway lighting

The Roding and Street Services Manager has requested information from Electricity Ashburton on why street lights are left on for extended periods of daylight hours. No response has been received to date.

Hakatere Marae – SH1

Electricity Ashburton have completed their work this week and the roading contractor is scheduled to start next week with work to be completed around 16 March.

Lake Hood – Wastewater Pipeline Cost Share

Cr Leadley declared an interest and withdrew from discussion and decision.

The Operations Manager reported that an approach has been received from the Rowing Club seeking Council's consideration for a wastewater connection from the Club's facilities to the new public toilets. This would require a generator and manual operation of the pump as it is not possible to service the Club using a gravity pipeline.

Reference was made to a letter sent to Councillors from the Rowing Club and a meeting held between the Aquatic Park Trust, the Rowing Club and Council staff. Mr Rouse said that he had not been involved in the meeting.

Cr Leadley was asked to clarify this. He reported that the item of concern is the ownership of the land on which Council would construct the public toilets. The land is not held in reserve and discussions have taken place in the past on the possibility of having a land exchange.

The Operations Manager advised that Council staff have spoken with a representative of the Trust and two options are proposed – either a number of separate toilet units or a single toilet block will be constructed. There is no detailed design at this stage and Council’s preference for a site and type of facility is yet to be determined. Once the plans are confirmed access to the most appropriate land will be sought.

The Operations Manager said that it would also be appropriate to look at the provision of power and potable water, and shared connections with the Club in conjunction with the wastewater connection. He explained that Council would supply the water and power to the Club and they would have the option to connect.

The Committee had some concern that discussion on the provision of public toilets has been ongoing for over three years with a number of parties, each with different views of an ideal outcome. Assurance was sought that designs will be drawn up and reported back to Council for sign-off.

The Operations Manager confirmed that the proposal has been put to the Rowing Club and no negative feedback has been received.

“That the Committee approves:

1. The design of the infrastructure to service the public toilets and Rowing Club; and
2. in principle, negotiating a cost share for the infrastructure where both the Rowing Club and Council are beneficiaries.”

Brown/Burgess

Carried

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Holmes/Reveley

Carried

Financials

Financial reports were tabled for the period ending 31 January 2008. The Operations Manager reported that no significant budget issues exist at this time.

Cr Kingsbury attended the meeting at 1.50 pm.

NE Ashburton Business Park

The Operations Manager reported that the design brief has been prepared and staff have been working with the preferred service provider. Council will be required to approve the service provider and it is anticipated that pricing will be finalised within the next fortnight after which a report and recommendation will be provided to Council.

The Committee heard that Council will engage a site representative to oversee construction and day to day issues.

Resource Recovery Park Design Guide

The Operations Manager is a member of a steering group set up to progress the development of a design guide for resource recovery parks. The group is currently reviewing the design guide.

NZ Land Transport Strategy

The date for the Ministry of Transport to consider and hear submissions is yet to be confirmed. A copy of the submission has been circulated to Councillors.

TNZ Land Transport

The Operations Manager will be presenting a submission to the Select Committee on 13 March.

Transportation Study

Following a presentation to Council's public forum on 28 February, the Operations Manager reported that the issues relating to the use of William Street by heavy vehicles was raised at his meeting with Transit last week and has been included in Council's submission on the Study. Council has also submitted on cycle safety issues on the Rakaia bridge.

The Transportation Study is to be finalised within the next month after which time Transit will be invited to make a presentation to Council. Councillors will still have opportunity to have input. The Committee agreed that the document has implications for the District Plan review.

The Roothing and Street Services Manager advised that Transit's draft report contains only capital works items, however there would be opportunity for some improvement work requested at Rakaia to be carried out as part of its minor safety works programme.

The Mayor expressed concern that no capital work has been programmed on the state highway network for the 2008/09 year which further disadvantages this district. He referred to the public forum presentation requesting Transit to improve access onto the highway from residential roads.

It was suggested that the issue of heavy vehicles using residential roads also be raised with the Road Transport Association with a request that they follow up with the transport companies.

State Highway Work

Reference was made to the proposed roading work on SH1 at Hinds and it was reported that this has been deferred pending removal of large Oak trees near the 100km sign.

The Roothing and Street Services Manager advised that Transit is plans to carry out this minor improvement work in 2008/09. Consultation with the community is being carried out on the options of removing or pruning the trees. The contract has been let and this will be extended until the issue is resolved.

General Maintenance

Roads reported to be in poor condition were Lower Downs Road and Kyle Road. This will be followed up by the Roothing and Street Services Manager.

Traffic Services

The Roothing and Street Services Manager reported that the application for consent to develop the Burnett Street land as a car park has been prepared and will be lodged with Council's Planning department today.

Carriageway Lighting

The Roothing and Street Services Manager reported that Telecom contractors have been installing poles in some areas rather than underground cables. It was suggested that some lobbying of Telecom could be carried out through Zone 5 to increase the underground cabling. It was further noted that some poles are unsafely placed.

Minor Improvements

Following localized flooding on Wymouth Street at Fairton, contractors have been instructed to enlarge the soakhole.

The tenders for the Stranges / Grahams Road contract are on hold until agreement is reached with the adjoining land owner.

Bridge Cycleway

The Committee discussed the problem with motorbikes illegally using the bridge cycleway and the ongoing issues with these bikes causing damage to reserves. The Mayor reported that the matter has been referred to the Police and said that Council needs to be more proactive in mitigating damage. In addition, signs will be installed along the Melcombe Street reserve and the bridge cycleway.

Water Supplies

The Water Services Manager reported that all of the emergency generators have been delivered. Two have been installed to date with work being carried out on the remainder.

Work is being carried out in the Racecourse, Farm, Carters and Allens Roads area and is currently three weeks ahead of schedule.

There was some concern at the length of time being taken to finalise the Rakaia water take consent. The Operations Manager reported that Council's position has been supported in a peer review and has been referred back to ECan. The hearing for the consent will be held as soon as possible.

Council now has land access to the area around the Mt Somers reservoir and it will be necessary to redesign the tanks to stay within the footprint of the available area.

Lochhead Charitable Trust

The Committee welcomed representatives of the Trust, Mrs Alma Lochhead and Messrs Andrew Mason, John Goodwin and Trevor Croy.

Mr Mason thanked Council for the opportunity to speak about the purpose of the Trust which was set up in 1988 by Allan and Alma Lochhead who are longstanding residents of Methven. The Trust's focus is on investing in education (particularly agriculture) and supporting the welfare of people in the Canterbury region, in particular those of the Ashburton District and Methven.

The Trustees spoke about the community grants that have been made and the substantial financial commitment given to the Methven Heritage project. The Trust is also working with Council to enable more residential development around Methven and a private Plan Change is soon to be lodged.

The Trustees were thanked and the presentation concluded at 2.50 pm.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.50 pm and resumed at 3 15 pm.

Wastewater

A meeting of the Farm Management Subcommittee was held on 28 February. Terms of reference were considered and have been amended to include the Rakaia wastewater scheme. The Wilkins Road treatment plan is almost completed and ready to be commissioned.

Stockwater

Work carried out by the Water Rangers who maintained the supplies during the recent period of low water supply was acknowledged.

Acton Race

The Water Services Manager said that a revised report from Opus is due in mid March. Opus has been prioritizing work on the NE Ashburton business park over other work. This will be followed up and a meeting of the Water Subcommittee will be convened.

Stockwater Race Closures

The Committee asked the reason for declining one application for a race closure. The Water Services Manager will follow this up.

The Water Services Manager left the meeting at 3.22 pm.

Solid Waste

The Operations Manager was advised of recent reports about problems with service at the resource recovery park. Mr Rouse said that these concerns should be directed to Council staff and he is unaware of any formal approaches or complaints.

It was also suggested that additional information be included in the telephone listing for the resource recovery park be changed to make it easier to find.

Rakaia Fire

The Emergency Management Officer reported on the fire in the Rakaia River which broke out around 3 pm on 24 February. The Committee acknowledged the role of the rural fire fighters who assisted, along with the local Salvation Arm. Cost recovery is being followed up with DOC.

Items transacted with the public excluded (3 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:
7	Contract C543 New & replacement kerb & channel – Ashburton district	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Holmes/Reveley

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

Awarding of Contract C543

New and replacement kerb and channel, Ashburton District, 2007/2008

“That the tender from Ashburton Contracting Ltd for C543: “New and replacement kerb and channel, Ashburton District, 2007/2008”, for the sum of \$447,049.94 plus GST, be accepted.”

Leadley/Holmes

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.38 pm.