

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 29 May 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 Holmes, K W P Lowe, P W Reveley and J A Everest.

Also in attendance Councillors R C Beavan, R J Kilworth, J A 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 17 April, 2008, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Matters Arising

General Maintenance

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that, as requested, larger plants in the Moore Street roundabout have been identified for removal to meet the visibility requirements of pedestrians and mobility scooter users who have reported difficulty negotiating the roundabout. Mr Robertson said that the plantings have served the purpose of slowing the traffic and since the roundabout was installed there have been no reported accidents; he warned that removing the larger plants is likely to result in more speed related incidents.

Wastebusters

Mrs Sheryl Stevens and Mr Tony Dawson attended the meeting to update the Committee on initiatives being undertaken by Wastebusters. They presented information on composting, glass projects and waste education, including a new industry training qualification for resource recovery which is being developed to meet national standards.

The presentation concluded at 1.51 pm.

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Burgess/Holmes

Carried

Financials

The financial reports for the reporting period were tabled.

Reference was made to the Tinwald bore and the Water Services Manager confirmed that the Water Services Subcommittee has signed off on the site which has frontage to Lagmhor Road.

Development in Ashburton district

The Operations Manager reported on the status of the museum and art gallery consent and the stadium / aquatic centre projects. Technical information on the stadium is to be presented to the Stadium Trust in June.

Transportation Reference Group

It was noted that the Reference Group meeting scheduled for 4 June has been postponed until the end of the month. The Operations Manager attended a meeting with LTNZ last week where discussion took place on the assistance to be given to local government to meet the requirements of the Land Transport Amendment Act.

Stockwater Resource Consents

The Operations Manager reported that submissions on the consent replacements will be heard in August. As part of the process, the Water Subcommittee members will take part in a tour of the network on 5 June.

Acton Stockwater Race

The draft terms of reference were amended to replace the reference to 'subcommittee members' with 'project team'. The project team members include Murray Turley, John Wright, Graham Bassett and Dean Pye.

"That the Committee approves the terms of reference, as amended, for the Acton stockwater main, possible use for the conveyance of irrigation water."

Low/Brown

Carried

State Highway Work

The Roading and Street Services Manager confirmed that consultation will be carried out with the Hinds community before work is carried out on SH1.

New Cycleway

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that budget approval has been given for the extension of the cycleway from the Melcombe Street underpass to Havelock Street, however the work will not be undertaken for at least 12 months. The Operations Manager confirmed that Boffa Miskell Consultants will be part of the community consultation process to be carried out on the new cycleway and the parking strategy. The possibility of additional parking in West Street will be deferred until the parking strategy has been completed.

The Committee supported the recommendation contained in the Opus report to begin work on the cycleway.

"That Stage 1 of the cycleway extension be commenced immediately due to the availability of funding within the 2007/ 08 financial year; this stage to extend the cycleway from the railway crossing on SH1 to Moore Street to provide a link prior to the section through the West Street car park being constructed."

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Walking and Cycling Strategy

Submissions on the draft Strategy have been tentatively scheduled to be heard on 10 June, this date to be confirmed. The Roading and Street Services Manager said that four submitters have indicated they want to be heard.

"That Hearing Panel to hear submissions on the Walking and Cycling Strategy be Councillors Beavan, Everest and Tasker."

Leadley/Reveley

Carried

New Roads

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that design work for the construction of new road in Dobson Street has been completed but the project doesn't qualify for LTNZ subsidy. Options to build the road a cheaper cost are being investigated with a further claim is to be lodged with LTNZ. Mr Robertson said that LTNZ have approved the work as a reserve project and would accept a supplementary claim in the 2008/ 09 year.

Public Conveniences

The Roading and Street Services Manager confirmed that he will liaise with the Rakaia Community Association prior to the remedial work being undertaken on the Rakaia public toilets.

Water Main Extension

The extension for northwest Ashburton was completed on 30 April, this being the final key milestone for the water supply upgrade project. Work will now commence on the extension at Tinwald.

Hakatere Water Supply

A public meeting was held in the Hakatere Hall on 13 May, to address concerns relating to the water supply. The Water Services Manager acknowledged that the testing report and generator information had been omitted from documentation sent to scheme users and said that this will be provided.

Rakaia Water Supply

CAP funding has been agreed to, however contract documents are yet to be recieved. It was reported that Council will pay the contractor on monthly basis, and after a period of time will be able to lodge a claim for refund.

Wastewater

Positive comments were made on the work being carried out by the contractor replacing the stormwater and sewer pipes in Havelock Street. The Committee heard that traffic safety and the construction area has been well maintained throughout the process.

Rakaia Wastewater

The Operations Manager agreed to follow up the suggestion that responsibility for the Rakaia wastewater operation be given to the Farm Management Subcommittee.

Water Subcommittee

Minutes of a meeting of the Water Services Subcommittee meeting held on 14 May, were received.

Town Centre Subcommittee

Minutes of the Town Centre Subcommittee meeting held on 14 May, were tabled.

Parking Restriction Times at the New Car Park – 344 Burnett Street

“That no time restrictions or parking fees be applicable on parking in the new car park to be built at 344 Burnett Street.”

Holmes/Everest

Carried

Amendment to Parking Restrictions
Wills Street at Ashburton Trust Event Centre and Adjacent Cinema

“That the present 60 metre parking in Wills Street on the north east side from the north west boundary of Cass Street, for a distance of 58 metres, be changed from a 60 minute parking time limit to a 5 minute parking time limit, applicable for 24 hours of every day.”

Leadley/Holmes

Carried

Limited Parking Time at Netherby Shops Area

“That a 120 minute parking restrictions, as per clause 1304 of the Ashburton District Council Bylaw, between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm, Monday to Saturday, be applied to Chalmers Avenue on the south east side from 16 metres from the south west boundary of Albert Street for a distance of 64 metres.”

Holmes/Burgess

Carried

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.03 pm and resumed at 3.25 pm.

Transit Presentation

Colin Knaggs, Bill Rice and Michael Byleven were welcomed to the meeting to update the Committee on the Transportation Study which has identified present and future transport demands in this district through to 2026.

Key issues identified included –

- SH1 Ashburton bridge capacity and safety – Transit supports the siting of a second bridge. The options of widening the existing bridge or constructing an adjacent bridge have been discarded by Transit because of the significant additional work that would be required on the existing state highway system. The major advantage of using Chalmers Ave is that it would connect with the ring route (Oak / Walnut / Moore) which has considerable capacity. C Knaggs said that Transit sees a second bridge would benefit local users - he noted that central government funding (\$20m) is on the proviso that the community meets half the cost. Council will need to debate the benefits a second bridge will bring to the highway with the NZ Transport Agency if it is to attract funding from that agency.
The Operations Manager said that issues such as increasing heavy vehicle use on local roads and the highway needs further discussion with Transit.
- Tinwald traffic – once Council has adopted a strategy, Transit would then look at how the project fits and how funding should be invested – ie what Council’s priority is. Within the next 10 years Transit would like to have identified and prioritised projects in place. The Operations Manager has included more focused dates in the submission to Transit’s state highway programme. This will be included in a memorandum of understanding.
- Moore Street / SH1 – significant delays are starting to occur.
- Proposed stadium / pool complex - the proposed stadium / pool complex hasn’t been factored into Transit’s 10 year timeframe, primarily because the location hasn’t been defined. Information from the transportation study will have a bearing on that process - ie will make some locations less attractive. Transit would look at mitigation measures if the preferred site had traffic issues.

The presentation concluded at 4.16 pm and the Committee noted that Transfund and Transit NZ will be known as NZ Transport Agency from 1 July 2008.

The meeting concluded at 4.16 pm.