

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 5 February, 2009, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley; Councillors R J Kilworth (Chair), R C Beavan, L J Leadley, B A Tasker, I J Burgess, J A Kingsbury, P W Reveley and J Sparks.

Also in attendance Crs K W P Lowe, K L Holmes and J A Everest; Environmental Services Manager, Building Services Manager, Regulatory Manager and Committee Secretary.

Cr A McKay (ECan) in attendance from 1.45 pm.

APOLOGY: Cr N A Brown (lateness) **Sustained**

Confirmation of Minutes

"That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 27 November 2008 be taken as read and confirmed."

Beavan/Burgess **Carried**

Water Storage Reservoirs and the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987

The Mayor attended the meeting at 1.34 pm.

1. That the report be received.
2. That the position of the Ashburton District Council with regard to on-farm water storage reservoirs be that such structures are NOT swimming pools as defined by the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 unless they are used for bathing.
3. That Council carries out consultation with the community to raise awareness of this matter so that land owners are made aware of the implications of the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987, if they choose to use an on-farm water storage reservoir for the purposes of bathing; and that such consultation also raise awareness of the need to protect children from the risk of drowning where on-farm water storage reservoirs are located in close proximity to dwellings.
4. That Council opens dialogue with the Ashburton Aquatic Park Trust regarding Lake Hood and the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987, so that once the review of this Act is completed that the Trust can address compliance issues for the lake (this could involve an exemption being granted by the Council along with other measures such a warning signs and other water safety measures being taken)."

Tasker/Burgess **Carried**

Activity Reports

"That the reports be received."

Leadley/Sparks **Carried**

Cr Brown attended the meeting at 1.45 pm

Building Services

The Environmental Services Manager reported that there has been a decline in the level of building consents processed within the 20 day timeframe due to increased Building Code and accreditation compliance requirements. A deficiency in staffing levels is also a contributing factor.

The Building Services Manager has implemented changes to current systems and procedures and there will be an increased focus on cost recovery for time and charges associated with consent applications. Mr Fields reported that a meeting with local building industry representatives is being arranged so they can be updated on the new regime.

Mr McKenzie explained that applicants will have the IANZ requirements and processing charges explained to them at the beginning of the consent application stage. He agreed that a schedule of issues associated with meeting the new legislation could be compiled and be the basis of a submission to the Building Act review later this year.

Lake Hood Plan Change

To date no submissions have been received on the Lake Hood Plan Change. Submissions close on 10 February.

Ashburton Railway Station

Council's decision to decline the consent for demolition was appealed to the Environment Court and mediation took place on 12 December. The outcome has been the formation of a working party to look at options for the building. The first meeting of this group will take place on 9 February.

ECan / ADC Joint Air Quality Working Group

Cr Angus McKay was invited to speak to the Committee about the proposed hearing for submissions on Variation 13 (Chapter 3) of ECan's Air Quality Plan. Cr McKay reported that he and Cr Ross Little have been appointed to the hearing panel. The regional council also resolved that Ashburton District Council be invited to nominate one Councillor to be a part of the hearing panel. Cr McKay said that in accordance with the National Environmental Standards ECan is required to process the Plan; he noted that this is the first time a district or city councillor has been appointed to an Air Plan hearing panel. The hearing of submissions is expected to take place in mid March.

Bylaws - Signage

Cr Holmes expressed concern at the delay in finalizing the signage relating to the Methven glass ban zone, illegal dumping, camping restrictions and dog control. He asked whether signs from other parts of the district could be relocated to where they are most needed. The Environmental Services Manager explained that relocating signs would not always be possible, for example the Methven sign will define the area of the ban and as such it will be unique to that area.

Gravel pits

The Committee supported the joint approach being taken by the Regulatory, Property and Operations departments to prevent illegal dumping in Council owned pits. The proposal is to identify a system that will allow the legal disposal of specific waste in certain pits throughout the district. Cr Leadley spoke about his concern that hardfill is currently being transported out of the district (with the exception of some contaminated hardfill) at considerable cost; the inconsistency with both the use of consented pits and the use of non consented areas of land is also an issue.

The meeting concluded at 2.12 pm.