

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 19 March, 2009, commencing at 1.43 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 N A Brown, K W P Lowe and J A Everest; Environmental Services Manager, Building Services Manager, Regulatory Manager and Committee Secretary.

APOLOGY: Cr K L Holmes

Sustained

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 5 February 2009, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Beavan/Burgess

Carried

Heritage Grants Subcommittee

- “1. That the application from St Marks Church be declined, as it did not meet the criteria of the Heritage Grant Policy.
2. That the application from Church of St John the Evangelist be declined as the further information requested has not been received.
3. That the application of Ian Mackenzie of Akaunui, for \$5,000 to assist with the replacement of the existing decramastic tile roofing with iron, be granted.
4. That the application from Mayfield Mt Somers Anglican Parish in respect to St Aidans Church, Mt Somers, be declined as it does not meet the criteria of the Heritage Grant Policy.
5. That the Committee notes the balance of the Heritage Grant fund stands at \$28,881 as a result of these decisions.”

Beavan/Tasker

Carried

Town Centre Subcommittee – Town Centre Concept Plan

The Environmental Services Manager advised that there will be two main streams of funding for this project – one being for the renewal of existing services where there is potential to coordinate work through this plan, the other being additional capital work. Mr McKenzie said that a staff working group will be set up to coordinate planned work. He acknowledged that there may be some projects that won't fully fit the concept plan because of specific requirements, such as the safety considerations that will apply to the cycleway.

“That Council accepts in principle the Ashburton Town Centre Concept Plan.”

Leadley/Sparks

Carried

Sign Protocol for Council Facilities

“That the Town Centre Subcommittee proceeds with the sign protocol project to develop a standardised sign format to a maximum of \$11,650 to be sourced from an appropriate fund.”

Kingsbury/Leadley

Carried

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Tasker/Burgess

Carried

Building Services

The Building Services Manager reported that a successful information night was held for builders, designers and architects on 26 February. Positive feedback has been received from attendees who were updated on the changes to Council’s procedures and legislation. Attendees were also advised that Council will be carrying out more on-site inspections.

The Committee noted the decline in the number of building consent applications being processed within the statutory timeframe. The Environmental Services Manager explained that this reflects the amount of information now having to be assessed and the need to carry out more thorough inspections. It is anticipated that the additional staff resource in the new financial year will help this situation.

The Building Services Manager advised that the current backlog of applications is nearing completion and he anticipates that by June this year around 90% of the processing will be within the required timeframe.

Ashburton Railway Station

Cr Kilworth reported that the Working Party held a further meeting on 17 March.

Ashburton Community Water Trust

The Environmental Services Manager reported that a management plan is to be prepared for the Commissioners’ information to show that there will be no significant adverse effects created by constructing a canal on the Rakaia Terraces. Mr McKenzie advised that Selwyn District Council has now registered as an affected party.

Lochhead Charitable Trust Private Plan Change

The Planner’s report has been distributed and the hearing will take place on 31 March. Hearing Panel members are Councillors Beavan, Leadley and Tasker.

Aquatic Park Plan Change

The first round of submissions closed on 10 February, with a total of 8 submissions received. Further submissions have been invited, closing 20 March 2009. An independent commissioner will conduct the hearing.

KBK Childcare Centre Appeal

It was reported that the appeal has been withdrawn with the appellant citing costs of progressing this through the Environment Court as a reason.

District Plan

The Environmental Services Manager reported that the District Plan review workshops, scheduled for May and June, may not take place because of budget constraints. This matter is being addressed with Boffa Miskell consultants.

Liquor Ban Signage

The Regulatory Manager reported that an additional liquor ban sign will be installed in Methven, following a request from the Methven Community Board.

Littering

Reference was made to the area of Council land (River Tce / Alford Forest Rd) that is being used for the disposal of greenwaste by the Parks department. It was reported that some hardfill has been placed to build up the bank, however unwanted rubbish and iron was inadvertently dumped and this has now been removed. While acknowledging the intention to reinstate and beautify this land, Councillors expressed concern at the unsightliness that has resulted.

The Environmental Services Manager agreed to follow up this matter to determine whether the activity requires a resource consent.

Gravel Pits

Staff from the Operations, Property and Environmental Services areas will meet next week to discuss requirements for more effective management of Council's gravel pits. Boffa Miskell consultants will be included.

The meeting concluded at 2.25 pm.