

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 19 November 2009, commencing at 1.30 pm.

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

Also in attendance Councillors R J Kilworth, J A Kingsbury and J Sparks; Operations Manager, Manager Democracy & Community Services, Roading & Street Services Manager, Water Services Manager, Senior District Planner, Property Manager and Committee Secretary.

One member of the public attended.

APOLOGIES: Councillors I J Burgess and R C Beavan

Sustained

Extraordinary Business

“That pursuant to Section 7(2)(A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced and considered as extraordinary business with the public excluded as item 11:

- RDR Matter Sections 7(2)(h) & 7(2)(i) – Commercial activities & conduct of negotiation
Reason for urgency: To meet commercial deadlines

Mayor/Leadley

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 19 November, 2009, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Leadley/Holmes

Carried

Matters Arising

Wilkins Road wastewater site

The motion activated camera is successfully recording vehicle entry and exit at the wastewater disposal site. A further week's data will be collected before finalizing access arrangements with the parties who will be using the site.

Westpark Close drainage swale

The Operations Manager acknowledged the slow progress in meeting the residents' request for an upgrade of the swale site and advised that landscaping options are being prepared. An update will be provided to the residents who raised this matter.

Mill Creek

The Water Services Manager reported that the contractor will be clearing overgrown broom around the Argyle Park section of the creek. It was noted that the Pages Road section of the creek also needs clearing.

Designation of Recreation Reserves

The Manager Democracy & Community Services proposed that the matter be referred to the Finance and Community Services Committee. Mr Rollinson explained that this Committee has the necessary delegation and there is sufficient time for the matter to be considered before the District Plan review process is completed.

Councillors agreed that a workshop is required before the report is discussed.

The Senior District Planner reported that a Council workshop is proposed on 2 February 2010 to discuss open spaces (including domains, reserves and cemeteries) and their designation / zoning with all relevant staff and the Council's consultants present.

"That the report and recommendation become the business of the Finance & Community Services Committee and lie on the table until a workshop on designations and open spaces is held."

Lowe/Brown

Carried

The Manager Democracy & Community Services, Property Manager and Senior District Planner left the meeting at 1.40 pm.

Activity Reports

"That the reports be received."

Lowe/Everest

Carried

Financials

Financial reports for the period 1/07/09 – 30/09/09 were received.

Ashburton Business Estate

The Mayor reported that the Business Estate Project Board received an update at its meeting this week from the Site Supervisor, Bryan Ching. The Board is planning a site visit in early December and Councillors will also be included.

Second Bridge across Ashburton River

The Operations Manager agreed to make available to Councillors the criteria being applied to assess the sites for a second bridge. Mr Rouse explained that the first stage of this project is to develop an issues and options report, and this is programmed for completion at the end of the year. It was noted that consultation with the wider community will include information on all site options considered.

Aquatic Centre / Stadium

A report is being prepared which will be made available for Council's consideration on 17 December 2009. This information will be first presented to the Stadium Complex Project Group around 9 December.

Acton Irrigation proposal

A newsletter has been sent out today to farmer stakeholders updating them on the financial and consenting issues and confirming Council's support for the scheme. The Acton Irrigation Group will be visiting a similar scheme in the Waimakariri District on 26 November.

State Highway work

• Ashburton bridge

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that an upgrade of the pedestrian and cycleway attachments to the Ashburton River bridge has been identified by NZTA for funding from reserves, however because there is no reserve funding available it is unlikely this work will proceed. Mr Robertson confirmed that maintenance and temporary repairs, particularly on the cycleway, should be carried out because of safety concerns.

• Old Main South Road

NZTA have also identified part of the Old Main South Road for closure, south of Hinds. There is an option to close this unsealed section and reinstate it as a paper road. The matter will be the subject of a report to the next meeting of the Committee.

- **Rakaia stormwater**

It was reported that a stormwater pipe under SH1 at Rakaia is to be replaced to mitigate flooding which occurs near the Mobil garage. The Roding & Street Services Manager confirmed that the placement of this pipe won't affect the proposed pedestrian underpass which is to be located approximately 10 metres north of the pipe.

- **Reference groups**

The Operations Manager briefly updated the Committee on his involvement as a member of two reference groups working with LGNZ and NZTA on the proposed changes to heavy vehicle dimensions and masses and other Land Transport matters.

Major drainage

Staff were reminded of the need to consult with a property owner when sealing or reseal work is programmed to ensure they are given the opportunity to have their entranceways sealed. The Committee was reminded of Council's policy that provides for property owners to request this work when sealing of the adjacent road or highway is being undertaken.

Traffic Services and Parking

Recommendations from the Town Centre Subcommittee were received:

- **Mobility Park outside Library**

- “1. That the Subcommittee's resolution of 27/08/09 be altered in part; and
2. That the operation mobility parking space outside the Library be 60 minutes at all times.”

Leadley/Holmes

Carried

- **Installation of Parking Meters – Burnett & Cass Streets**

- “1. That the existing redundant vehicle crossing outside 246 Burnett Street is removed, and a new metered car park formed at the site of the old crossing, and the car park has a time limit of 60 minutes.
2. That the existing redundant vehicle crossing outside 57 Cass Street is removed, and two new metered car parks be formed at the site of the old crossing, and the car park have a time limit of 120 minutes.
3. That the cost to carry out the installation of parking meters and footpath reinstatement estimated at \$1500 is met from the Parking Reserve account.”

Leadley/Everest

Carried

- **Cycleway Extension – Moore Street to Havelock Street**

“That the decisions on the proposed cycleway construction and changes to the West Street car park be deferred until further information regarding future direction of the proposed cycleway is confirmed with Boffa Miskell.”

Holmes/Everest

Carried

Street cleaning

It was reported that the Methven Community Board has proposed a cash bond payment to be paid by the Methven Big Air organizers next year to ensure that adequate cleanup is undertaken in the surrounding areas after the event. The Roding & Street Services Manager confirmed that a bond will be implemented and event organizers will be charged if they fail to meet the required standard.

Minor improvements

- **Dunford Street**

Cr Brown reported that residents on a Dunford Street subdivision have asked for a road to be formed. While there are only two houses, the subdivision has the potential for more. The Roading & Street Services Manager advised that, because it is an existing subdivision, Council cannot seek a contribution from the property owners. Mr Robertson said that there is an option for the property owners to pay for construction of a four metre metal pathway and Council would then consider extending this. The work is not budgeted this year but could be included as a minor improvement item in the next financial year. A further report will be provided to the Committee.

- **Blands Road**

Cr Reveley reported that sections of Blands Road have been damaged by tracks carting shingle. The Roading & Street Services Manager confirmed that an inspection will be undertaken on this road and others where there is reported failing.

Public conveniences

Cr Leadley expressed concern at the condition of the floor surface in the recently upgraded Tinwald Reserve toilet block and asked whether the contractor had received full payment. It was noted that the uneven surface cannot be easily cleaned. The Roading & Street Services Manager advised that the contract has a retention clause and issues. The contract has a 12 month maintenance period and issues with the work standard are being addressed.

An upgrade of the Hinds Reserve toilets is planned with work to be carried out in the new year. It was reported that the Hinds Swimming Club had also planned an upgrade of the pool toilets and it has been suggested that the Reserve Board and Swimming Club combine resources to upgrade just one facility. The Roading & Street Services Manager will follow this up.

Footpath maintenance

The Mayor asked whether the accord between utility providers has been updated, noting the continual problem of footpaths and road reserve being dug up. He said there needs to be some ability to bring the parties together. The Roading & Street Services Manager confirmed that utility operators are required to consult with Council, however Council has no control over private developers. Mr Robertson said that the new national protocol is still waiting for Parliamentary signoff.

Hakatere water supply

The Water Services Manager reported that the Hakatere scheme has received CAP funding.

Water restrictions

Council will receive a report at the 17 December meeting on the summer water restriction management programme. The Water Services Manager confirmed the intention to reactivate the weekly summary of water restriction levels and consumption through the local media and on Council's web site.

Tinwald bore

The Water Subcommittee will be considering the proposal to deepen the bore at its next meeting which is programmed for 27 November.

Hinds water supply

Higher than normal minimum night flows have been identified and additional flow testing at off peak times has been undertaken to identify which zone requires detailed detection work.

Mt Somers water supply

Because of a number of leaks on the Hoods Road section of water main, it is proposed to bring forward the pipe replacement to the 2010-2011 draft annual plan. It was noted that this work was not programmed in the LTCCP.

Rakaia water supply

The commissioning of the new system was completed on 16 November, however it will need to operate for at least three weeks before the old system can be decommissioned. The Water Services Manager reported that early indications show that the upgrade has been successful but some minor issues with the telemetry are being addressed. The old water tower will be removed once decommissioning has taken place. Because of its historical significance the Rakaia community will be advised of the date that removal takes place.

Mayfield water supply

Confirmation from the Mayfield community on the progress of their investigations is awaited, however it is understood that the community is satisfied with the outcome of the alternative well supply trial and will be asking for this to proceed.

Ocean Farm wetland

It was reported that a number of factors contributed to the failure of plants to establish on the wetland including bird damage. The Water Services Manager reported that the purchase of new plants has been found to be more cost effective than transplanting cuttings from existing plants. The new planting will be undertaken in two stages and will be timed to avoid possible bird damage. The agreed contract provides a guarantee for 95% establishment after two years of planting.

Standing grass

The Operations Manager reported that grass has been harvested at the Ashburton Business Estate site using the Ocean Farm contracting rates. Revenue will be credited against the Business Estate.

Stockrace closures

It was reported that since 1 July 2009, around 90km of stockwater races have been closed with further applications pending. It was noted that the annual target is to close 100km of races. The Committee acknowledged the work undertaken to achieve this good result.

Emergency management

The Committee also acknowledged the commitment of approximately 15 new volunteers who have undertaken training in basic firefighting.

It was reported that two fire crews from Ashburton district were successful in the recent Canterbury / West Coast Annual Rural Fire Competition which attracted 33 crews from throughout Canterbury. The Pendarves and Ashburton Rural crews each achieving second place in their events.

The emergency response station at Mayfield was officially opened on 7 November. The facility which houses the fire unit and St John has been a joint project between the community, Council and the Trevor Wilson Trust. It also received NRFU funding of \$30,000.

Items transacted with the public excluded (2.38 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	Confirmation of minutes 8/10/09 [now in open meeting] • Contract 554 • Contract AM-AD10 • Ocean Farm Sileage	
8	Contract AM-AC10 – provision of operation and maintenance services for ADC utilities 2009-10	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
9	Wastewater Servicing – Tarbottons Rd	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
10	Contract AM-AJ10 – water pipeline renewals 2009-10	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
11	Extraordinary Business – RDR Matter	Sections 7(2)(h) & 7(2)(i) Commercial activities Conduct of negotiation

Leadley/Brown

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

AM-AC10 – Provision of Operation and Maintenance Services for Ashburton District Council Utilities, 2009/10

- “1. That Contract AM-AC10 with Ashburton Contracting Limited is extended for a further 12 month period; 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, subject to contractual cost escalations; and
2. That the Committee accepts for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 the negotiated amounts for the following items:
 - Lake Hood Water Supply, \$ 35,162.50
 - Ashburton Wastewater, \$ 260,888.46
 - Rakaia Wastewater, \$ 37,100.12
 - Ashburton Stormwater, \$ 28,628.03
 - Methven Stormwater, \$ 2,035.63
 - Mill Creek Stormwater, \$ 9,776.36; and
3. That the Committee approves the forecast over-expenditure in the Ashburton wastewater account in the amount of \$ 40,000.”

Leadley/Mayor

Carried

Wastewater Servicing – Tarbottons Road Subdivision

- “1. That the requirement for a single communal wastewater pump station as the servicing solution for this development be confirmed; and
2. That a cost sharing arrangement for the design and construction of the pump station only in the estimated amount for the Council share of \$ 73,200 (based on a cost share ratio of 35/99), be approved in principle.”

Lowe/Holmes

Carried

AM-AJ10 Water Pipeline Renewals 2009/10 – Tender Award

“That the tender for AM–AJ10 watermain pipeline renewals 2009/10 from Ashburton Contracting Limited in the amount of \$539,176.50 excluding GST, be accepted.”

Leadley/Holmes

Carried

**Extraordinary Business
RDR – Klondyke Storage Pond**

- “1. That Council supports the land purchase for, and feasibility study into, water storage to enhance irrigation efficiency by RDR;
2. That Council agrees to the land purchase holding cost and the feasibility study being funded by shareholders on the basis of water use, as per the shareholder agreement and only on that basis;
3. That Council will support any variation of the cost allocation referred to in 11.2.2 above between the other shareholders in RDR Management Ltd, provided the Council is not disadvantaged; and
4. That Council requires, as part of the feasibility, an economic evaluation of the areas of benefit to provide a framework for cost allocation if the storage scheme proceeds.”

Holmes/Leadley

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.30 pm.