

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 4 February 2010, commencing at 1.30 pm.

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

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

Extraordinary Business

- **NZ Historic Places Trust**

Cr Beavan reported on correspondence received from the Ministry of Culture & Heritage advising that a review of the New Zealand Historic Places Act 1983 is being undertaken. An outcome of the review is the Government's proposal to disestablish branch committees of the NZHPT.

There was no decision required of the Committee at this time.

Confirmation of Minutes

"That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 3 December 2009, be taken as read and confirmed."

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Proposed Dog Control Policy

The Chair sought the Committee's agreement to defer this decision. The Committee will adjourn later in the meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy then resume to address the recommendation.

Naming of Harris Scientific Reserve

– Lovetts / Scales Road kanuka reserve

The Harris family and the scientific reserve will be formally recognised with a ceremony at the site on 18 March 2010. The Senior District Planner reported that the land, which is in Council ownership, will be managed by the local Royal Forest & Bird Society through a licence to occupy. Councillors, representatives of the Harris Family, Forest & Bird and the QEII Trust will be invited to attend the ceremony.

"1. That the report be received; and

2. That the Committee resolve to name the land subject to this report as the Harris Scientific Reserve."

Tasker/Sparks

Carried

Activity Reports

"That the reports be received."

Leadley/Kingsbury

Carried

Building Services

Building consent data was received for the November / December 2009 and January 2010 periods. The Building Services Manager reported that the number of building consents issued in 2009 was approximately 24% less than the previous year.

BCA Accreditation

IANZ has reported satisfaction with the Council's application for reassessment. Assessors will be on site to carry out an audit in the last week of February.

Building Amendment Act 2009

The Building Services Manager outlined some of the major changes that are result of the 2009 amendment to the Building Act.

- **PIMS**

PIMs (project information memoranda) are no longer compulsory, if the building consent authority is also the territorial authority. This information will still need to be obtained in order to process a building consent and as such, processing times are unlikely to reduce.

- **National multiple use approvals**

The Building Services Manager reported that this approval of a building design is intended to reduce processing times at a local level with the timeframe reducing from 20 to 10 days. Mr Fields said there will need to be either two streams of processing (multi-use and regular) or multi-use applications (approximately 40% of applications).

It was noted that the Building Act and the Building Code will undergo full reviews this year. Council will be making a submission.

The Environmental Services Manager reported that Building Officials' competence continues to be developed with around 10-15% of staff time spent on in-house and external training.

Planning

The Senior District Planner reported on the four Plan Changes that are being processed. Decisions on Plan Changes 9 and 10 are awaited. Plan Changes 11 and 12 are awaiting hearings. Mr Stevenson encouraged Councillors to attend the hearings which are scheduled for 10 February and 2 March.

- **Aoraki Polytechnic**

It was noted that a panel will convene on 18 February 2010, to hear submissions objecting the Aoraki Polytechnic proposal. The Polytech has applied to build additional classrooms at the rear of the existing building and develop a car park.

- **Methven Trotting Club**

The Senior District Planner reported that the subdivision consent was granted on 15 January, requiring the Trotting Club to vest three lots with Council as open space. The applicant's request that the land set aside for stormwater retention be considered as open space was declined. Mr Stevenson said that between now and when the District Plan is confirmed a policy will be developed on requirements for separate stormwater management to prevent similar proposals being put forward by developers. It was noted that stormwater retention is the responsibility of the developer and becomes vested in Council once all requirements are met.

Cr Leadley reported that work commenced this week on the upgrade and beautification of the Westpark Close stormwater swale and surrounds.

- **Irrigation ponds**

It was reported that an issue has arisen with the construction of irrigation ponds in areas of high flood risk. The District Plan requires landowners to obtain resource consent for structures over 20m² within a high flood risk area. Mr Stevenson said that an opinion has been sought on whether the utilities rule in the Plan doesn't override the flood risk rule.

- **District Plan review**

The next review workshop will be held on 23 February. A meeting of the Town Centre Subcommittee has also been scheduled on 22 February to finalize design options for Baring Squares East and West. Mr Stevenson reported that there has been overwhelming response to the consultation process.

- **Discount policy**

Council's requirement to adopt a policy on discounting resource consent fees, where an application is not processed within the statutory timeframe, will be addressed in a workshop at the conclusion of this Committee meeting.

Environmental Health

- **Montalto water supply**

A precautionary 'boil water' notice was issued to the scheme users when bacteriological contamination was detected on 9 January. The supply source was turbid at the time and the supply was cleared by 14 January.

- **Trade waste**

The Regulatory Manager reported that 33 conditional consents and 333 permitted consents have been issued.

- **Overhanging vegetation**

A number of properties (73) have been found to have vegetation obstructing footpaths and walkways, including 19 Council related situations where clearing is being undertaken. Property owners have been contacted and reminded of their requirements to ensure trees and shrubs are kept clear of public walkways.

- **Liquor licensing**

A meeting to discuss the Ashburton Trotting Club's Boxing Day race meeting was held on 3 February, and attended by Council's Licensing Secretary and Inspector, along with representatives of the Police, Licensing Trust and First Security. The group addressed issues relating to the way private functions were managed at the event.

- **Air quality**

The Regulatory Manager reported on information received from ECan (Proposed Variation 16 of NRRP Chapter 3 (Air Quality)) regarding the use of non-compliant heating devices i.e. open fires and non compliant woodburners in the event of an emergency. The variation would allow such devices to be used when there is a planned power outage of 3 hours or longer, or a power outage of unknown duration. Ashburton District Council will submit in support of the recommendation.

- **Animal control**

Contact has been made with Federated Farmers, and associated groups, in an effort to address the number of attacks on stock being made by dogs from neighbouring farms.

Council's contractor has been instructed to carry out 'spot checks' on farms to find out whether unregistered dogs are being kept.

The Committee adjourned at 2.25 pm to discuss the dog control policy and resumed at 2.51 pm.

Proposed Dog Control Policy

In the workshop discussion, the Regulatory Manager noted minor modifications to the proposed policy including designated dog exercise areas and the need for clear signage. Mr Humphries reported that provision has been made in this year's budget for signage and bylaw enforcement.

- “1. That the report be received; and
2. That the Special Consultative Procedure be commenced before the new Dog Control Policy is considered for adoption by Council.”

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

The meeting concluded at 2.52 pm.