

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 18 March 2010, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors R J Kilworth (Chair), L J Leadley, B A Tasker, I J Burgess, P W Reveley and J Sparks.

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

APOLOGIES: Cr R C Beavan (absence); His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley, Crs J A Kingsbury and K W P Lowe (lateness) **Sustained**

Confirmation of Minutes

"That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 4 February 2010, be taken as read and confirmed."

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Crs Kingsbury and Lowe attended the meeting at 1.34 pm.

Proposed District Plan & District Plan Review

The Environmental Services Manager reported on the District Plan review process which has produced a draft Plan that will now involve more extensive consultation.

The Mayor attended the meeting at 1.36 pm.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

- "1. That the report be received.
2. That, pursuant to Clause 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Environmental Services Committee resolves to accept the draft District Plan prepared by the District Plan Review Subcommittee and recommend to the Ashburton District Council that it approve of and publicly notify the document as its Proposed District Plan and initiate the process of inviting the first round of public submissions on or about 21 April 2010 by public notice, with the closing date for submissions being at least 40 working days after public notification.
3. That the Committee recommends to the Council that, pursuant to Section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Ashburton District Council:
 - i has had regard to the matters specified in that Section;
 - ii has carried out an evaluation, which it is satisfied is appropriate to the circumstances, of the matters specified in subsections (3) and (4) of that Section; and
 - iii is satisfied that the rules and other methods contained in the draft District Plan are the most appropriate means of achieving the District Plan objectives, and those objectives are the most appropriate means of achieving the purpose of the Resource Management Act, having regard to efficiency and effectiveness relative to other means."

Leadley/Tasker

Carried

Warrant of Authority – Animal Control Officer

“That the contractor scheduled below be authorised under seal of the Ashburton District Council to act under the following legislation:

- Animal Control Officer within the Ashburton District under Section 11 of the Dog Control Act 1996.
- Authorised Officer under the Ashburton District Council Dog Control Bylaw 1999.
- Stock Ranger in accordance with the Impounding Act 1955.
- Noise Control Officer in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Litter Control Officer in accordance with the Litter Act 1979.

This warrant is issued pursuant to Sections 174 and 177 of the Local Government Act 2002, Section 13 of the Dog Control Act 1996, Section 63 of the Stock Impounding Act 1955, Section 38(5) of the Resource Management Act 1991 and section 5 of the Litter Act 1979.

Mr Jarrod Claydon

Statutory Function

The officer above may exercise all powers and duties including such power to enter land, conduct inspections, issue notices as provided by and for the purpose of the Acts and associated Regulations and Bylaws listed.”

Tasker/Sparks

Carried

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Burgess/Leadley

Carried

Consent processing and inspection times

It was reported that February saw a slight increase in the number of building consents issued compared to the same month last year. The Committee noted that there had been the equivalent of one new residence consent received for every working day of that month, however, while consent processing is being achieved within the statutory timeframes, it was reported that builders are having to wait longer than usual for scheduled inspections. Staff are making contact with builders to keep them informed about expected delays.

The Senior District Planning attended the meeting at 1.42 pm.

BCA Accreditation

The Environmental Services Manager reported that Council has been reassessed for continued registration as a building consent authority. IANZ identified some issues with some of the forms used, however these are mostly procedural and will be easy to correct. Mr McKenzie said IANZ have asked for a proposal to be submitted to show Council has adequate staff and facility resources.

Harris Scientific reserve

The Senior District Planner reported that the official opening ceremony of the Harris Reserve will be held at 3.30 pm today with representatives of Council, the QEII Trust, Forest & Bird, and the Harris family in attendance.

Plan Changes

Private Plan Changes which have now had decisions issued have appeal periods ending 20 April. The Committee will be updated on 29 April.

The Village Green, Lake Hood, application is awaiting decision from the Commissioner.

Methven Trotting Club

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 being set aside for stormwater retention be used as open space was declined.

The Senior District Planner advised that a policy will be developed on requirements for separate stormwater management to prevent similar proposals being put forward by developers. Workshops with Councillors are proposed for discussion on stormwater retention and open space areas, as well as briefings on the RMA and Making Good Decisions training.

Art Gallery & Museum

Submitters to the resource consent application have been advised that the pre-hearing has been scheduled for 19 April.

Staff

The Regulatory Manager reported that the Environmental Health Officer, Amy Hughes, has resigned. Applications for her replacement close tomorrow.

Compliant heating

The Regulatory Manager reported that a local business is promoting clean air appliances as an option for people who will be required to upgrade their home heating to meet ECan's air quality standards. Mr Humphries said that ECan's Clean Heat project provides financial assistance through a subsidy scheme and recommended that people wanting an assessment of their home heating should contact ECan first.

Court cases

The Regulatory Manager reported that two hearings challenging infringement notices were scheduled for Court with one being carried out and the other deferred until 8 May. While the hearing was successful, Mr Humphries said the defendant has appealed the decision which has now been referred to the District Court.

Earth Hour

Correspondence was received from a member of the public who asked Council to consider taking part in Earth Hour on 27 March. The Committee acknowledged that a number of local authorities throughout the country are participating, however because of the limited time now available to organise, it was agreed that Council would not officially recognise Earth Hour this year.

"That the correspondence be received."

Sparks/Kingsbury

Carried

The meeting concluded at 2.06 pm.