

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 10 June 2010, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: 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, Senior District Planner, and Committee Secretary. Jenna Scott and Steve Allen

APOLOGY: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley **Sustained**

Confirmation of Minutes

"That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 29 April 2010, be taken as read and confirmed."

Leadley/Kingsbury **Carried**

Matters Arising

Nuisance complaints

The Environmental Services Manager reported that some building work has been undertaken on a vacant, run-down property in Methven. The building owner had considered the work to be minor, however an inspection identified the need for a building consent. The building has been wrapped to prevent access, internal damage has been restored and the building owners have confirmed their intention to renovate the property.

Gambling Venue Policy Review

Cr Beavan declared an interest and refrained from discussion and decision.

The Committee noted that the dates proposed to hear and consider submissions will coincide with the period between the outgoing and incoming Council. It was suggested that the timeline be reviewed.

- "1. That the Environmental Services Committee establishes a working group of four Councillors to contribute to the review of Council's Gambling Venue Policy.
2. That the Environmental Services Committee establishes an appropriate timeline to facilitate the proposed process."

Leadley/Sparks **Carried**

Parking Enforcement Officer – Authority to Issue Infringements (Unregistered & Unwarranted Vehicles)

The Committee's agreement was sought to give Council's Parking Officers the authority to issue infringements to vehicles that are not displaying current warrants of fitness or registrations. The key driver is to maximise road safety by identifying unwarranted vehicles.

The recommendation was not fully supported. Some Councillors consider the activity to be a revenue gathering exercise and whether there's likely to be a reduction in road crashes was questioned.

"That the Parking Enforcement Officers be authorised to issue infringements for vehicles which are not displaying a current registration and/or a current warrant of fitness."

Burgess/Sparks **Carried**

Proposed Biodiversity Officer – Annual Plan

The Committee received a report on the proposed way forward in meeting Council's obligations under the Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy. It was recommended that the \$30,000 budget confirmed in the annual plan process be allocated to the preparation of a biodiversity action plan.

The recommendation to fund the action plan wasn't fully supported with Councillors recalling that the decision they made in the annual plan submission process was to allocate \$30,000 towards the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer.

The Chief Executive explained that a plan will need to be developed. The plan will integrate with the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and the regional council's operations and will involve the assistance of ECan staff and input from other stakeholders. Implementation of the plan may include the employment of a Biodiversity Officer.

Cr Leadley agreed that a plan is needed to progress the biodiversity strategy, but said there is no commitment to spend the full \$30,000. Cr Sparks also supported the plan but wants to see further progress and an improved scientific understanding.

Cr Tasker referred to the option of establishing an environmental enhancement fund that could be used for various biodiversity projects including contracting consultants with the necessary expertise.

Cr Kilworth agreed that a stand-alone fund would give Council better use of its money.

Cr Reveley spoke against the recommendation and wants to see a Biodiversity Officer employed as soon as possible.

- "1. That the report be received.
2. That Council approves the allocation of \$30,000 for an environmental enhancement fund; and
3. That Council approves the preparation of an Action Plan to identify specific actions for implementing the Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy and includes actions which align with the Canterbury water strategy at a district level"

Tasker/Sparks

Carried

Cr Reveley recorded his vote against the motion.

Ashburton Business Estate – Naming of Roads

- "1. That the report be received.
2. That the new roads for the Ashburton Business Estate be named *JB Cullen Drive, Ashford Avenue, Lynn Street, Crum Street, and Sim Place*, and the walkways be named *Arthur Cates Way, Drummond & Etheridge Walk, Gluyas Way and Rainey Way*.
3. That the developer is responsible for erecting name plates at the intersections of Northpark Road and Works Road, and at intersections within the subdivision to indicate the names of the roads and that this is done after consultation with and to the satisfaction of the Council's Roading Manager.
4. That the Developer be responsible for paying to the Council all costs associated with the manufacture and erection of all necessary name plates."

Tasker/Sparks

Carried

The Chief Executive left the meeting at 2.15 pm.

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Burgess/Leadley

Carried

Building consent timeframes

The Environmental Services Manager reported that IANZ have not yet approved accreditation for the new period, however most of the corrective actions have been addressed with the final action given a clearance date of 31 October 2010. Mr McKenzie said that staff resourcing is important for statutory compliance and accreditation and reported that one of the two new building inspector appointments has been confirmed.

Plan changes

The Village Green private Plan Change is outstanding. The appeal period has ended and the matter will be further reported to Council on 29 June.

The Methven Trotting Club appeal has been resolved. A consent order has been issued by the Environment Court reflecting the agreed conditions with Lots 200, 202, and 204 and part of Lot 201 being accepted as reserve contribution, together with landscaping improvements to Lots 200, 201 and 202.

The Commissioner’s decision on the proposed Bridge Street camping ground is awaited.

The hearing date for the proposed Art Gallery and Museum is anticipated for late July / early August, subject to the outcome of discussions that are currently being held with submitters.

District Plan review

An indicative timetable has been proposed to consider submissions to the Proposed District Plan. The Senior District Planner advised that this will depend on the number of submissions received. To date 70 submissions have been received and it is anticipated there will be significantly more by the closing date of 18 June.

The Committee acknowledged the input of Mr McKenzie and Mr Stevenson at the recent public meetings held as part of the Proposed District Plan consultation process.

Regional Police Statement

A meeting of senior staff from Canterbury councils was held in Ashburton on 28 May to discuss opportunities for a collective approach in dealing with the draft Regional Policy Statement.

The outcome of the meeting is that a request for a TLA working party to work alongside the Regional Council staff has been made.

Staff vacancies

Mr William Liebisch has been appointed as an Environmental Health Officer and will commence on 1 July. The position of Planning Officer, vacant since July 2009, is currently being advertised.

Keep Ashburton Beautiful

The Regulatory Manager reported that a meeting has been held at officer level to progress the launch of the ‘Keep Ashburton Beautiful’ campaign. The aim is to reduce littering and illegal dumping and improve community pride.

Bylaws

Cr Kilworth spoke about the need for further discussion on how Council can enforce the bylaw to prevent heavy vehicles using roads that are not designated for that use. The Regulatory Manager said that enforcement is primarily a Police issue although Council has the ability to issue infringement notices when it can be prove that the bylaw has been breached.

It was reported that regular meetings are being held with the local transport operator group and the Road Transport Committee to improve awareness.

Dog control

It was noted that Council's District Plan states that there should be a 4.5m distance between a boundary fence and any structure built for the purpose of housing animals, such as dog kennels. Cr Leadley questioned whether this is realistic for urban sections where that distance is not always available. Staff will include this for discussion in the District Plan review process.

Dog control policy

The Regulatory Manager advised that submissions to the proposed dog control policy will be heard on Monday 14 June. A report will be made to Council on 29 June with a recommendation to adopt the new policy.

The Committee heard that there have been a number of reports of dogs killing sheep with four of the last five dogs responsible being pets kept by dairy farm workers. Federated Farmers have been advised of the issue which they reported in the members' newsletter.

Council's animal control contractor has reported that some recent call-outs appear to have been hoax as, on arrival, there was no sign of wandering stock or dogs. Cr Tasker spoke about past practice when Police would contact immediate neighbours in the area or road where reports of wandering stock came from and suggested a similar approach may be a quick way of determining whether or not the calls are genuine.

Business transacted with the public excluded (3 pm)

"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

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:	
10	Confirmation of Minutes (29/04/10) [now in open meeting] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methven Trotting Club	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
11	Proposed District Plan – Council's Submission	Section 7(2)(i)	Conduct of negotiations

Leadley/Sparks

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

Methven Trotting Club Appeal (29/04/10)

1. That the report be received; and
2. That the offer made by the Methven Trotting Club be accepted including Lots 200, 202, 204 and part of Lot 201 (2,442m²) being vested as reserve, and landscaping undertaken at the expense of the Trotting Club within Lots 200, 202 and 201. (The formation of a walkway path and works in Lot 204 would be the expense of the Council, if such work was necessary)."

Tasker/Beavan

Carried

Proposed District Plan – Council's Submission

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Environmental Services Committee approves the Council's submission to the Proposed District Plan subject to amendments to be made on 17 June 2010."

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.02 pm.