

MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ASSET AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FAIRLIE, ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014, AT 10.48am

PRESENT:

James Leslie (Chairman)
Claire Barlow (Mayor)
Cr Graham Smith
Cr Evan Williams
Cr Russell Armstrong
Cr Noel Jackson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Wayne Barnett (Chief Executive Officer)
Bernie Haar (Asset Manager)
Geoff Horler (Utilities Manager)
Suzy Ratahi (Roading Manager)
Angie Taylor (Solid Waste Manager)
Arlene Goss (Committee Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES:

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Asset and Services Committee held on July 24, 2014, including those parts taken in public excluded, be confirmed as an accurate record.

Claire Barlow/Graham Smith

REPORTS:

ASSET MANAGERS MONTHLY REPORT – AUGUST 2014:

The purpose of this report was to update the Asset and Services Committee on the progress on various projects and also the normal operation of the department for the past month. The following matters were included in the discussion of this report:

Bernie Haar said the council would be buying the pumps for the Twizel water upgrade as soon as we know what is needed. A draft layout of the pump building and where things will fit is now available on request. Opus is also looking at the best cost solution for water treatment.

He is keeping track of staff hours going into the 30-year infrastructure plan and to date there has been 438 hours. This indicates how big a job this is for the organisation.

Questions were asked of Geoff Horler regarding testing for cryptosporidium and other water matters.

Cr Smith asked if the Twizel water supply project was on time. It is programmed to start work in March/April and Opus is aware of this. That is why we are purchasing gear in advance, including pumps, generator and pipe work.

Regarding roading, Suzy Ratahi said in the first month of the financial year we have already spent \$40,000 from the environmental reinstatement budget. She also spoke about the implementation of an asset management tool to look at evidence based asset management. She spoke regarding the need to maintain unsealed and sealed roads and explained the work that was needed. With bigger vehicles on the road there was investment required over the next three years to catch up on the back-log.

The Mayor asked regarding the classification of roads. The charts that NZTA have produced take into account tourism use of roads. Suzy Ratahi said she hoped this would allow us to have real conversations with NZTA. The Mayor would like to see a standard classification for roads across the country so when councils are not doing their part they won't get the investment, whereas if we are doing a good job we should get funding quite easily.

Cr Smith asked regarding the application of gravel - we currently apply about 15,000 tonnes per year. He also asked for an update on the gravel clay mix that was being trialled. Suzy Ratahi said it's too early to say we are not going to get gravel loss off those roads done in the gravel clay mix, but there are potential savings there. Cr Smith congratulated Suzy Ratahi on the information she is gathering and work she is doing on the roads.

Cr Leslie asked how our 17mm gravel loss per year compares with other districts. Suzy Ratahi said she doesn't think other districts do gravel loss surveys. The new data tool will record data in the RAMM database.

Cr Armstrong asked for an update on road marking at Market Place, Twizel. She said the road markers will be there in the next week. She will confirm the date and email him. He asked if it was possible to put bigger arrows on the ground because people are going out the wrong way in the car park.

Mayor Barlow mentioned the loss of road markings in other areas. The district is due for road marking. This is happening soon.

Consent has been lodged for bridge replacements. There was discussion on how long this will take.

Cr Armstrong asked what the procedure is to change a stop sign to a give way sign. Suzy Ratahi said to contact her and she will look into it. The Asset Manager has the delegated authority to put signs in place, or modify signs. They would consider the guidelines regarding distance and speed before making a decision.

Suzy Ratahi provided an update on the roading collaboration. The group is concentrating on the road maintenance contract at the moment. Ashburton District Council has come on board.

Geoff Horler said he is collecting data on the spring at Charles Water's property in Fairlie and will know soon if it's a suitable source for Fairlie water. He went over other matters in the Asset Manager's report.

Cr Smith said Fairlie continually comes in over budget for water repairs and will the work that is planned stop this from occurring. Geoff Horler said he's not saying the works will solve all the problems, but will reduce it.

The chairman welcomed back Angie Taylor, Solid Waste Manager, who has been on parental leave. She said she was working on improving bins and signage to help improve recycling in public places. She hoped the new recycling line in Twizel would be starting soon.

The graphs in the report show trends in waste. The Mayor asked regarding the Four Square in Twizel. They have met with her to say they can't recycle everything, so can we come up with a solution to help them. Bernie Haar said he and Angie Taylor are keen on using this business as a trial site. Any good systems could then be shared with other businesses.

Cr Smith asked if the wheelie bins were working given that the waste carted to landfill was increasing. The chief executive said the amount of waste in the community is connected to the wealth of the community.

Cr Armstrong said he carted steel for Meridian to the dump and was not charged for dumping steel. Bernie Haar said this was a previous council decision and council can change this. We make money out of steel that is dumped. He suggested that Angie Taylor look at the policy and bring a paper back to the committee on this matter.

Cr Cox asked regarding commercial waste. Was this going to Twizel? Yes it comes through the Twizel Park and then goes down to Winton. It was not included in our figures so does not show on the graphs.

Resolved that the report be received.

Claire Barlow/Noel Jackson

The committee meeting adjourned for lunch at 12pm and reconvened at 12.45pm.

WARREN LESLIE INVOICE FOR FENCING:

The purpose of this report is to present to the committee the invoice received from WJ and AG Leslie for fixing a small amount of fencing by McKercher's Bridge on Gorge Road.

Cr Smith said he initially got involved because he did not know if the staff had acted correctly, but after investigating he saw the staff had done everything they could.

He said Warren Leslie blamed council for the flood. Roading Manager, Suzy Ratahi and Cr Smith went to meet him and explained that council cannot be responsible for a flood, but he was irate so council agreed to do some extra work. Council shifted the shingle off his paddock, put a dozer around the edge and levelled the stock bank so he could fence on it, and did some extra work in the river to protect his property. He was happy with this and it was a surprise to receive the invoice from him.

Cr Smith phoned Warren Leslie on receiving the invoice and Mr Leslie said he was not happy with the arrangement agreed between them on the day of the meeting.

Cr Jackson asked if any agreement was put on paper. No, the agreement was verbal.

The Mayor asked if Mr McKercher, who was present at the meeting, would be able to confirm Cr Smith's version of events. Cr Smith believed yes.

Cr Smith said rivers are Environment Canterbury's responsibility and the council has never paid compensation for a flood.

Cr Leslie asked if the farmer would have insurance. Maybe for their dwellings but not for damage to a paddock.

Cr Smith said we were very fair. We spent more money in the river than we needed to and cleaned up the mess on his paddock. It is an insult for Warren Leslie to send us an account. We could equally send him an account for the extra work that was done, but this would just inflame the situation.

Cr Leslie asked if claiming three days' work was reasonable for that small amount of fencing. No. It would not take three days.

The Mayor wants to know if someone had spoken to Mr McKercher. No. She would like to hear his version of what happened at the meeting.

The chief executive asked Roading Manager Suzy Ratahi for her version of the discussion. Suzy Ratahi confirmed that her version of events was outlined in the report on the agenda, and that she was very surprised to receive the account. "It's a riverbed paddock and the river has gone through there in the past. We shook hands on it."

She explained that Warren Leslie now has more flood protection than he would have if the original job had been done. Cr Armstrong asked if she kept notes from the meeting. She did not.

Cr Smith said he wished to withdraw from voting on this issue as he could be seen as having a conflict of interest. He would like to put a motion that council sends Warren Leslie a bill for the cost of removing the gravel from the paddock. This was not seconded.

The chief executive said the only reason council undertakes maintenance on the river is to protect the council-owned bridge, not to protect farmland. If a farmer wants maintenance done to protect their farmland they need to work with Environment Canterbury and do it themselves. A letter to Warren Leslie needs to reflect this.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That council do not pay the invoice from WJ and AG Leslie for fencing and loss of production.

Claire Barlow/Noel Jackson

Russell Armstrong/Murray Cox

Cr Smith did not vote on this matter.

PUBLIC EXCLUDED:

Resolved that the public, be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely Road Maintenance Management Contract 1186.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Previous minutes July 28, 2014.	Enable Commercial Negotiations	48(1)(a)(i)
Road Maintenance Management Contract 1186	Enable Commercial Negotiations	48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows: *Previous minutes of the Asset and Services Committee and Road Maintenance Management Contract under section 7(2)(i).*

Russell Armstrong/Claire Barlow

The Asset and Services Committee continued in open meeting.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE
CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1.13PM**

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____