

CONFIRMED MINUTES
OF THE ASSETS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR,
OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL, 20 THAMES STREET, OAMARU
ON TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 9.00AM

PRESENT: Cr Bill Kingan (Chair), Mayor Gary Kircher (Associate Chair), Cr Peter Newton (Associate Chair), Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Kelli Milmine, Cr Guy Percival, Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale and Cr Colin Wollstein

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Ross McRobie
Fergus Power (Chief Executive)
Neil Jorgensen (Assets Group Manager / Deputy Chief Executive)
Paul Hope (Finance and Corporate Development Group Manager)
Roger Cook (Acting Heritage, Environment and Regulatory Group Manager)
Ainslee Hooper (Governance and Policy Advisor)

IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:

Martin Pacey (Water Services Manager)
Mike Harrison (Roading Manager)
Erik van der Spek (Recreation Manager)
Renee Julius (Property Manager)

MEETING OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.00am and welcomed everyone present, including members of the public watching the livestream of the meeting on Council's Facebook page.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

3.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE ASSETS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED AC 2020/015

Moved: Cr Jeremy Holding

Seconded: Cr Kelli Milmine

That the Assets Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Assets Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2020, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

4 DECISION REPORTS

4.1 DRAFT POLICY ON DRINKING WATER QUALITY

The report, as circulated, sought Council's approval of a draft Policy on Drinking-Water which aligns with Council's strategic priorities and formalises its commitment to the provision of safe drinking-water to the Waitaki community.

Group Manager Neil Jorgensen introduced the report and noted that each council throughout the country is required to have a policy on drinking water quality. It is part of the wider commitment of councils to update water safety plans using a new framework which has a very rigorous process. Each water supply now has to have a plan to show what the Council response would be to different scenarios. Water Services Manager Martin Pacey added that the Waters team had been committed to upgrading water safety plans for a while, and this overarching policy was building on what was brought to Council at its 24 September 2019 meeting.

It was queried whether clauses 1 to 12 which mentioned Corriedale could be considered pre-emptive given that the Corriedale water system might need to change. In response, Mr Jorgensen advised that Council needed to get all water supplied sorted including Corriedale and needed to start that process now. Corriedale is a small water supply and details were still being worked through, including discussions with the community about future contributions and how they would fit into the package. Other priorities were not enabling that conversation to happen now, but approval of the policy was required for the rest of the district.

RESOLVED AC 2020/016

Moved: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale

Seconded: Mayor Gary Kircher

That the Assets Committee recommends:

That Council:

1. Having regard to the Ministry of Health's framework and guidance for Water Safety Plans, approves the appended draft Policy on Drinking-Water Quality.

CARRIED

5 MEMORANDUM REPORTS

5.1 WATER NEW ZEALAND 2018 / 2019 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW RESULTS

The memorandum, as circulated, presented for the Assets Committee's information, the Water New Zealand 2018/19 National Performance Review results for the Waitaki district, and to provide some further comment on specific results.

Group Manager Neil Jorgensen introduced the report and then he and Water Services Manager Martin Pacey responded to questions from Elected Members.

Discussion topics included fire hydrants, opportunities for improvement in the investment of professional development for staff; water and wastewater charges presenting challenges for lower income earners (it was noted that Waitaki's cost is charged per supply scheme so is an average, with some paying more and some paying less).

The unique nature of the Waitaki water supply network (by virtue of it being a very large rural network) was discussed, with the Clutha District Council identified as a better comparison than Mackenzie (even though the former had double the length of pipe than Waitaki).

It was suggested that making comparisons across districts could be problematic, given that testing was done for different purposes. Waitaki tested in order to check the pipes and used the broken ones in its sample. It would be for the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) to do the comparisons across the country. In response to questions, Mr Pacey provided details on the pipe testing process used by Waitaki. He added that the team had addressed a lot of the problematic pipes across the district, but there were still some where funding did not allow the team to replace them (eg in the Waihemo area) and some of the tranche funding would be used to look at renewals for those.

It was noted that Council was spending millions of dollars to fix the pipe problems and having that information alongside the national performance review results would be helpful. Asked if Waitaki had volunteered to be one of the sample councils for DIA, Mr Pacey confirmed that it was not one of the initial ones, but Council had opted to be part of the group that would follow on from those initial councils.

RESOLVED AC 2020/017

Moved: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale

Seconded: Cr Colin Wollstein

That the Assets Committee receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

5.2 ASSETS GROUP ACTIVITY REPORT

The Assets Group Activity Report, as circulated, provided insight into recent work the Assets departments have undertaken.

Group Manager Neil Jorgensen advised some 'hot off the press' news – Waitaki's delivery plan has been approved and it would now be signed and sent back to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) so that the first tranche of money could be paid. The team had been doing a lot of preparatory work ahead of this news in order that it would be ready to get underway as soon as the approval came through. Mayor Gary Kircher congratulated Mr Pacey and his team on that news and the work they had done so far, especially in pulling all the information together so quickly to be able to submit the application and to show how Waitaki planned to spend the \$7M tranche funding over the next year.

Cr Ross McRobie requested direct communication from officers to the Ōmārama Residents' Association regarding the Ōmārama drinking water upgrade, and also that officers speak with the neighbours of the Otematata tank farm to keep them in the loop.

ACTION: Group Manager Neil Jorgensen and Water team

Mr Jorgensen briefed the meeting on the Request for Information (RfI) process from DIA, which was "huge", noting that it would take considerable resource from Council including other business units and the Water team. He asked the community to bear with the Water and Information Systems teams while they worked through the task. He also noted that many councils around the country were expected to struggle to meet the February deadline.

Congratulations were extended to the team for the new block wall in Severn Street.

There was discussion about the work on footpaths in Ōamaru, and the reports of dissatisfaction from residents about the disruption. Roding Manager Mike Harrison explained that the investigative work would enable the team to programme the works in priority order and mitigate residents' concerns. The Roding, Water and Telecom teams are coordinating activities to facilitate that process. It was also clarified that the recent footpath survey focused on the condition of footpaths to inform the repairs and maintenance programme. It did not identify where additional footpaths may be wanted or required. It was noted that the communities know best where footpaths are required, and that it would be useful for communities to feed that sort of information through community boards.

At the request of Committee members, a brief update on Eden and Humber Streets and an explanation of the role of Waka Kotahi were provided.

The meeting heard that there had been a lot of feedback from heavy vehicle operators about intersection upgrades, and it was noted that the temporary arrangement had worked well at the Gardens intersection to make sure it worked for larger vehicles and perhaps a similar trial could be considered for others. Mr Harrison advised that a trial is being considered as part of the design phase. The suggestion of having a Transport Advisory Group was raised, and Mr Harrison believed that that could work well. Mr Jorgensen endorsed this and asked Elected Members to email the names of people who could be invited to participate in such a group to Mr Harrison.

ACTION: Elected Members, with Roding Manager

It was noted that the Aquatic Centre was doing well in the COVID-19 circumstances but may need some further assistance during the LTP process. Recreation Manager Erik van der Spek acknowledged this, and also reported that the signs for term 1 in 2021 were looking good.

Some concerns were raised about grass going to seed and needing to be cut. Mr van der Spek asked Elected Members to advise the Recreation team of any locations they were concerned about to facilitate follow up.

ACTION: Elected Members, with Recreation team

Congratulations were extended to Mr van der Spek for successfully sourcing funding for freedom camping ambassadors again. There was brief discussion about anecdotal evidence of New Zealand being 'alive with motorhomes and caravans right now', and the opportunity the summer period would provide to observe the camping behaviour of Kiwis.

Mayor Gary Kircher provided more detail about the navigation lights at the entrance to the boat harbour. ECan had put in reflectors and new poles at the boat harbour and also a number of other places around the lakes. The discussion at the recent Shoreline Meeting was that there was a need for Fire and rescue teams to be able to find those entrances in the dark, and therefore it was the addition of the navigation lights was a good step in providing services for the boating community.

Mr van der Spek also briefed the meeting on the upcoming discussion session for the Recreation Centre advisory group; on the planned opening of the Alps 2 Ocean new section; and the proposal to submit on the Department of Conservation's Southland Management Strategy, primarily in relation to the increased number of cycleways which had not been predicted in the first version of that strategy document and the potential now for rules to change to reflect the larger numbers.

RESOLVED AC 2020/018

Moved: Cr Jeremy Holding

Seconded: Cr Peter Newton

That the Assets Committee receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

6 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed, at 9.56am.

CONFIRMED at the Assets Committee Meeting held on 9 February 2021.

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CHAIRPERSON