

# MINUTES

**TITLE:** Engineering Services Committee  
**DATE:** Thursday 27 April 2006  
**TIME:** 9.30 am  
**VENUE:** Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond  
**PRESENT:** Crs T E Norriss (Chair), R G Kempthorne, S J Borlase, P K O'Shea, N Riley, J I Inglis, R G Currie, E E Henry, E M O'Regan, M J Higgins  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Motueka Community Board Member A C Fry, Engineering Manager (P W Thomson), Transportation Manager (R Ashworth), Utilities Manager (J C Cuthbertson), Utilities Asset Engineer (D Stephenson), Environmental Information Manager (R Smith), Minute Secretary (V M Gribble)

## APOLOGIES

**Moved Crs Borlase/Inglis  
WK06/04/01**

**THAT apologies from Mayor J C Hurley, Crs T B King, E J Wilkins and Chief Executive R G Dickinson for absence and for lateness from Cr S G Bryant be sustained.  
CARRIED**

### **1 PUBLIC FORUM**

#### **1.1 R Aberhart**

Mrs Aberhart, Positive Ageing Representative, spoke about Crescent Street traffic congestion and footpaths in Oxford Street being obstructed with wheelie rubbish bins etc. She asked for the island in Queen Street by the library to be signposted.

#### **1.2 C Robinson**

Mr Robinson commented about speeding traffic in Talbot Street.

#### **1.3 K Hodgson**

Mrs Hodgson spoke about rubbish being dumped outside their house at Kaiteriteri in unofficial bags and asked that the matter be urgently addressed. She suggested a rubbish cage should be provided somewhere.

#### **1.4 K Renwick**

Mr Renwick was concerned about the number of breakages in the Hope water main and asked that it be replaced in the near future.

## **2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Engineering Services Committee 16 March 2006**

**Moved Crs Inglis/Currie  
WK06/04/02**

**THAT the minutes of the Engineering Services Committee meeting held on 16 March 2006, containing resolutions numbered WK06/03/01 to WK06/03/12 be confirmed as a true and complete record of the proceedings of that meeting.  
CARRIED**

### **2.2 Engineering Subcommittee - Cemetery Road Closure**

**Moved Crs Inglis/Currie  
WK06/04/03**

**THAT the minutes of the Engineering Services Subcommittee meeting held on 16 March 2006, be confirmed as a true and complete record of the proceedings of that meeting.  
CARRIED**

### **2.3 Engineering Subcommittee - Trafalgar Road Closure**

**Moved Crs Inglis/Currie  
WK06/04/04**

**THAT the minutes of the Engineering Services Subcommittee meeting held on 6 April 2006, containing resolutions numbered WK06/04/01 to WK06/04/04 be confirmed as a true and complete record of the proceedings of that meeting.  
CARRIED**

## **3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cr Kempthorne noted that Council needs to be careful when processing gravel extraction consents.

Cr Higgins said the matter of community boards is relevant to the representation review.

**Moved Crs Kempthorne/Borlase  
WK06/04/05**

**THAT the Chairman's Report for April 2006 be received.  
CARRIED**

Cr Norriss left the meeting at 10.00 am.

Cr Bryant arrived at 10.20 am and took the Chair.

## **4 ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT – TRANSPORT**

### **4.1 Wensley Road**

Cr Henry advised that positive comments have been received from the public about the way the whole project has been managed.

### **4.2 Stopbank Review**

Mr Ashworth noted more information is awaited and it is hoped to present a report at the next Engineering Services Committee meeting.

### **4.3 Town Centre Upgrade**

The geometric design of the Richmond Town Centre upgrade is approximately 40% complete. The budget for the design is \$140,000.

**Moved Crs Borlase/Kempthorne  
WK06/04/06**

**THAT the Asset Management Report, Transport, be received.  
CARRIED**

## **5 ENGINEERING STANDARD – PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING RURAL/RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Mr Ley was in attendance to present the report on rural and residential lighting and, in particular, pedestrian lighting where footpaths are located.

Cr Borlase noted that in Borlase Avenue, St Arnaud, they had grassed stormwater swales which have the effect of improving the standard of stormwater. In some rural areas in Golden Bay, a grass swale is more fitting than concrete footpaths. He asked if they could be included as an option.

Mr Ley said grass swales are permitted in Council's Engineering Standards in certain areas.

**Moved Crs O'Shea/O'Regan  
WK06/04/07**

**THAT the resolution of the Resource Management Policy Committee is accepted by the Engineering Services Committee and that the items 1) to 4) included in the report be accepted as a guide and should be included in the Engineering Standards Review for 2007.  
CARRIED**

## 6

## EMERGENCY WORKS – GOLDEN BAY

Mr Ashworth presented the report which sought approval for funding from the General Disaster Fund for flood damage in Golden Bay. The total cost of works is estimated at \$300,000, subsidised by Land Transport New Zealand to 49% and \$153,000 is required from Council.

Cr Higgins opposed the recommendation. He said the fund has been established to put money aside to fund major disasters, ie like the flood in 1983 in Takaka, that could occur in Motueka River, washing out major wastewater or water infrastructure. This Council is exposed to that risk. The works proposed to be fixed are a series of small isolated events, not disasters. He said this is clearly a road maintenance cost and totally inappropriate to cost it to the disaster fund.

Mr Ashworth said emergency works funding that Council has typically applied for has, in the past, included this type of work. There isn't a budget available within the subsidised roading programme to pay Council's share.

Cr Henry asked the criteria for the use of this fund. Other departments can apply to use the disaster fund. It is either Council or Corporate Services that can make a final decision.

Mr Thomson said this is a recommendation to Council to draw against the general disaster fund. This has been standard practice and reported to Engineering who recommend through to Council. Since 1998 this has been the process. There is a policy for general disaster fund in terms of the use of that fund, with criteria established. That was last revisited in 1999.

Cr Henry asked that the criteria accompany the report to Council.

In reply to a question from Cr Currie, Mr Ashworth said Wainui Hill was recently sealed and in his view the seal extension has been a success. Separation Point granite is not an easy material to work with and suffers ongoing erosion problems. We don't have plans to upgrade the road any more.

Cr O'Shea asked for an update on the balance of the general disaster fund.

Cr O'Regan asked if further contributions will be made to the fund this financial year.

Cr Kempthorne asked if the report could look at how this fund is handled in the future. While the whole Council is on the Engineering Committee, it seems a waste of time to have to go back to Council.

Cr Bryant said we need to recommend to Council that it be approved, otherwise we will be putting up all the money to reinstate the road.

Mr Fry said the funds were originally set up from the Port Company dividend, one for rivers and one for general disaster. He supported Cr Higgins point of view.

**Moved Crs Riley/Borlase  
WK06/04/08**

**THAT Engineering Services Committee recommends to Council that it approves the local share of funding of \$153,000 from the General Disaster Fund.**

**CARRIED**

**7 CEMETERY ROAD**

**Moved Crs O'Shea/Kempthorne  
WK06/04/09**

**THAT the Engineering Services Committee ratify the decision made by the Hearing Subcommittee for the proposal to close Cemetery Road.**

**CARRIED**

**8 TRAFALGAR ROAD**

**Moved Crs O'Regan/Kempthorne  
WK06/04/10**

**THAT the Engineering Services Committee ratify the decision made by the Hearing Subcommittee for the proposal to close Trafalgar Road.**

**CARRIED**

**9 RIVER CARE GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Mr Ashworth presented the report that formalised and adopted terms of reference for River Care Groups.

Mr Fry asked that the groups be ratepayers, not interest groups.

Cr O'Shea said the whole process could be stymied if interest groups were not included.

Cr O'Regan said this re-formalises what has been standard practice and reiterated it has always been a somewhat lively group of river-frontage ratepayers. As it impinges directly on their property and they are paying into the rate, he believes the resolution should stand as it is. When it comes to general policy overall in the rivers, or resource consents, other people can have an input, but when it comes to the annual programme of work, the system has worked quite well and it should be reinforced.

Cr O'Shea said all Motueka pays river rates.

Cr Kempthorne said it doesn't stop canoeists, for example, being part of the group. He can't imagine any works being done on the river that are being detrimental to recreation groups.

Cr Henry said we shouldn't be putting up barriers to prevent them being involved in the future.

Cr O'Regan said everybody pays a Z rate, but those fronting X and Y pay a special rate that funds the work on X and Y rivers. At this point in time, he recognised a different situation in Motueka where the river rate is paid by most of the town. He would be prepared to include ratepayers who pay the X and Y rate.

Mr Fry suggested point one in the terms of reference be reworded totally as it is not clear. We need to know exactly where we stand when we are holding meetings.

Mr Thomson said we are trying to provide guidelines, not a set of rules. The first point encourages these groups to get together and provides some administrative assistance. At least annually we publicly advertise that we are going to have a meeting and we anticipate the people most interested will be the people paying X and Y rates. If we restrict attendance to only those with a rate demand we'll defeat the whole purpose of the exercise. Point four says Council publicly advertises conducting an open meeting for all interested ratepayers who attend. The groups don't set policy, they provide feedback about proposed annual work programmes and level of service Council provides along classified rivers. It's a way to interact with public about maintenance matters. It's been working successfully for a number of years.

**Moved Crs Kempthorne/Henry  
WK06/04/11**

**THAT the following Terms of Reference be established for Council's River Care Groups to provide clear guidance for their function:**

- 1. That the Council encourages the formation and maintenance of River Care groups evenly distributed throughout the major river catchments and consisting of ratepayers along sections of classified river length.**
- 2. That the purpose of River Care groups be to assist the Council to maintain better communications between the Council and ratepayers generally regarding the level of service along the classified river length.**
- 3. That the Council meets formally with each River Care group on at least an annual basis to review the proposed annual operations and maintenance programme, receive expressions of opinion and given such explanations as may be requested.**
- 4. That Council publicly advertises annual meetings with River Care Groups, conduct open meetings for all interested ratepayers that attend and provide administration services.**
- 5. That complaints or other matters pertaining to individual ratepayers not be considered by River Care groups but be redirected to the Council.**
- 6. That River Care groups not make decisions on the Council's behalf, as such decisions must rest with the Council in terms of its statutory authority.**

**CARRIED**

**10 UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Mr Cuthbertson was in attendance to present this report.

In reply to a public forum enquiry, Mr Cuthbertson said the water main at Hope has been failing and Council is upgrading the main commencing 1 July 2006.

### **10.1 Hunt/Lowry Stormwater Upgrade**

A tender has been let to Works Infrastructure for this work which will be programmed to be carried out during the period May/June 2006 so as to have the least impact on the Holiday Park.

### **10.2 Motueka Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade**

Mr Cuthbertson said upgrading of the aeration lagoon and installation of the screen to capture incoming debris has now been completed. There are some unexplained odour problems occurring presently which are being investigated.

### **10.3 Refuse Bag Collection**

Mr Fry suggested that the Kaiteriteri Reserve Board be included in discussions about the siting of a refuse facility.

Mr Thomson said the Reserve Board no longer want to operate the publicly available shed where people used to put their refuse bags. In the last two seasons they have walked away from it and they see it is not their responsibility. This season they have gone through a reorganisation of their own refuse/recycling facilities. The manager says they have it working well and there is little likelihood of managing a refuse drop off point within their facility.

Mr Fry said there has been more talk about it lately and considers it is worth asking about again.

Cr Inglis said Kaiteriteri is the only area where we have this problem. We need to get alongside the Kaiteriteri Reserve Board to find a solution. It is a huge problem that needs to be addressed. He said Council should be prosecuting people.

Mr Cuthbertson said Streetsmart have contracted with Council to find markets and ways of disposing of glass economically. If there is no market Council also has a responsibility.

Cr Henry said there is a town down south with footpaths that have crushed glass in them.

Mr Cuthbertson said it was crushed by Oldfields and they are investigating putting it in their asphalt instead of sand.

**Moved Crs Borlase/O'Regan  
WK06/04/12**

**THAT the Utilities Management report be received.  
CARRIED**

## 11 CAR BODIES – ABANDONED VEHICLES

Mr Cuthbertson introduced Utilities Asset Engineer David Stephenson to the Committee. Environmental Information Manager, Rob Smith was also present for discussion on this item.

Mr Stephenson spoke to the report that outlined the current status of abandoned vehicles and car bodies. It is considered the high cost of disposing of a non-complying vehicle is a barrier to appropriate disposal. The report recommended a change from \$135 for non complying to \$50 per vehicle.

Mr Thomson said the draft LTCCP has the old charges listed in its schedule of charges, so if the Committee wanted to proceed, a submission would need to be made to the draft LTCCP to have it changed from 1 July 2006.

Cr O'Regan said it seems strange that the cost of disposing of a complying vehicle is higher than of a non complying one. Streetsmart will have recovery in terms of tyres, oil etc.

Mr Stephenson said it has been confirmed with Streetsmart. Part of it is they will be looking to recover parts from the vehicles.

Cr O'Shea asked how we get the message out to the public. She said seasonal workers buy a cheap car and then abandon it when they leave the district. She suggested a radio programme.

Mr Stephenson said it should be managed over time to give the contractor time to get processes in place.

Mr Cuthbertson suggested the employers of seasonal workers be approached and also the stock car club.

Cr Kempthorne said the issue is real for Carter Holt Harvey. He asked if the report satisfies the needs of CHH.

Mr Smith said there are other forestry owners who have cars that have been abandoned and we will communicate with them. There have been issues with cars being moved into public space which makes it a Council responsibility.

**Moved Crs O'Regan/Kempthorne  
WK06/04/13**

**That a submission be made to the draft LTCCP to decrease the cost of non complying vehicles to \$50 per vehicle from 1 July 2006.  
CARRIED**



**12 TAKAKA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE –  
SUBSIDY**

Mr Cuthbertson presented the report which informed the Committee on the status of the Sanitary Works Subsidy Scheme application submitted by Council for the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade.

**Moved Crs Borlase/Henry  
WK06/04/14**

**THAT the report on the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade –  
Subsidy be received.  
CARRIED**

**13 REFUSE AND RECYCLING**

Mr Cuthbertson spoke to the report prepared by Mr Stephenson on Refuse and Recycling that was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Cr Kempthorne said we adjusted the refuse recycling rate and expected the increase in target rate would balance the account.

Mr Thomson said because the bag charge wasn't amended when Council decided to reduce the cost from \$1.80 down to \$1.10 there was an over-estimation of income from bag sales. We did adjust the target rate as a result of lowering the bag price. Basically we have an over-estimation of \$159,000 income.

Cr Kempthorne said it is extremely important to balance the account. Recycling and Council bag service is a core component which our ratepayers expect. We want to make sure funding is adequate to do it.

Mr Thomson said we will report back to Corporate Services on 11 May 2006 regarding the adequacy of the proposed budgets for 2006/2007.

Cr Inglis said supermarkets sell all refuse bags at the same price. We should look at charging \$2 per week for recycling.

Mr Cuthbertson said if recycling had not been brought in, we would have needed new capital expansion within ten years at Eves Valley.

We are applying for new operational consents for Eves Valley and Murchison. Those costs have exceeded the budgets.

Cr O'Regan said there is an area where perhaps it may be advantageous if he and Engineering Chairman and managers of departments had a discussion about the processes. He considers there are times when the processes have taken somewhat longer than was necessary.

Cr Henry said the report does not tell us what is happening out there in relation to how many bags people are putting out in Richmond, compared to the number of

people who have opted for wheelie bins. It seems private contractors are taking away a lot of our business in Richmond. Half of Richmond households are using wheelie bins and not our service. The rubbish bags are too small. A wheelie bin is much easier and Council should investigate using them. She said in Richmond there are more recycling bins than rubbish bags. People have private contractors collecting wheelie bins on the same day as we collect recycling and our own rubbish bags.

Mr Thomson said we haven't presented a lot of that information because we don't have that commercial information. Would be good to have access to it. Even our own customers don't give us a good indication of how many households use them and where they come from. In reply to the comment about supermarkets charging well above the \$1.10, he said a large number of bags are still bought there rather than at Council offices where the price is \$1.10. We have limited information about how we are competing and what our market share is. In the future when we bring a proposed bylaw back to this committee members might like to think about those comments. Some of the things a draft bylaw may consider will be compulsion of private contractors to provide information and will propose a one-day a week operation so we don't have bags and wheelie bins out every day of the week. Council doesn't operate in the same commercial mode as private companies do.

Cr Currie agreed with Cr Henry. He asked if compact waste will be charged per tonne or cubic metre when the weighbridge goes in.

Mr Thomson said the intention is to charge on a per tonne basis. One of the challenges Council has is it can put charges up, but it drives revenue down because we lose the bulk customers to York Valley. Council is trying to encourage recycling, minimise waste. Other companies are not as active in this area. He doubted Council's service is more expensive in the district. This service is serving 80% of the district. The public is avidly supporting kerbside recycling and exceeding our expectation. That is an exceptionally good news story.

Cr O'Shea believes the issue is the fact that people can dispose of unsorted rubbish at a very cheap rate. The pressure needs to come onto local government in New Zealand to not allow disposal of unsorted rubbish unless there is a very high premium put on the end product. We have to work with Nelson City on a strategy that very much restricts or penalises the disposal of unsorted waste to landfill.

Mr Thomson suggested Councillors go to Beach Road and watch the contractors empty loads from wheelie bins. There are tin cans, bottles etc that we want to go to recycling.

Mr Thomson said private contractors or public make choices based on charges as to which direction they go. We can report on Nelson City Council's proposals in its ten year plan. They have done true cost of landfill exercises and isolated their expenditure and income accounts to reflect that and they are currently charging on that basis. Their cost structure is different to Tasman. Nelson City has a very confined, mainly urban area to serve and we have the direct opposite. Our transportation costs alone are significantly higher.

Mr Stephenson said to date we can't measure material across the border we're looking to get hold of district and city totals.

Cr Henry said we talk about refuse and recycling and that is where our problem lies. In future we should talk about waste management.

Cr Bryant said in Tapawera area there is no choice other than Council, it has good support and recycling has good support because most people are taking all they can out. While we continue to allow contractors to bring mixed refuse to the transfer stations will have problems. Wheelie bins don't solve the problems, they encourage people to throw everything in. Council is committed to Zero Waste, and aiming at 2010/2012. At this stage to achieve zero waste will be a very big ask to Council and the district.

Cr Kempthorne said Mayor Hurley wanted a report on how we can run the recycling without a loss.

Mr Thomson said the 2006/2007 budget will be re-examined in light of new income and expenditure information and we will report to Corporate Services Committee.

Cr Currie said if recycling is going to cost too much, should we still pursue it. He said it will be a cost to the ratepayer.

Cr Kempthorne said the way forward is for both Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council to work together on it.

**Moved Crs O'Regan/Riley  
WK06/04/15**

**THAT the Refuse Recycling Report be received.  
CARRIED**

**14 DEVELOPMENT/CUSTOMER SERVICE – THREE MONTHLY  
UPDATE – JANUARY TO MARCH 2006**

Mr Ley presented the report on the previous three months engineering development around the region, customer service enquiry volumes, plus a discussion document.

In reply to a question from Cr O'Shea, Mr Ley undertook to investigate the reasons for the increase in streetlighting complaints.

Cr O'Regan congratulated Mr Ley for putting the matter of global warming on the agenda. He has concerns about global warming and said we will lose the focus on what we should be looking at if we focus on postulating global warming. The real risks along the coastline are major storm surge that occurs from time to time. The second major risk is earth movement. He agreed the climate will change, but is sceptical about the prognosis of global warming, and said the risks we face in the district are earthmoving through slippage and storms.

Cr Currie said there are climatic cycles. If you build at sea level you will be subject to natural occurrences at some stage that will cause problems. We need to be aware of it.

**Moved Crs O'Shea/Borlase  
WK06/04/16**

**THAT the Development/Customer Services – Three Monthly Update January to March 2006 be received.  
CARRIED**

**15 MANGARAKAU SWAMP**

Cr Riley tabled notes from a meeting held in the Mangarakau Swamp Field Centre on Sunday 23 April 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to involve all residents and affected organisations in fire protection methods in the Mangarakau area. They want provision of suitable water ponds or drains and safe access to them by fire fighters and their equipment, including the ability to retreat or relocate quickly if required. He advised that he would be discussing the issues raised at the meeting with Mr Ashworth.

**16 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

**Moved Crs Bryant/Kempthorne  
WK06/04/17**

**THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:**

**Motueka Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade  
Extension of Waste Education Services Contract  
Carlyon Road Sealing Extension**

**The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for passing this resolution are as follows:**

| <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Reasons</b>                 | <b>Grounds</b>  |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Motueka Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrade</b>      | <b>Consideration of Report</b> | <b>To enable the Committee to carry out discussions without prejudice or disadvantage</b> |
| <b>Extension of Waste Education Services Contract</b> | <b>Consideration of Report</b> | <b>To enable the Committee to carry out discussions without prejudice or disadvantage</b> |
| <b>Carlyon Road Sealing Extension</b>                 | <b>Consideration of Report</b> | <b>To enable the Committee to carry out discussions without prejudice or disadvantage</b> |

**CARRIED**

(Refer to Confidential Minute Book, resolutions numbered WK06/04/18 to WK06/04/20).

**Moved Crs Inglis/Bryant  
WK06/04/21**

**THAT public meeting be resumed and the business transacted while the public was excluded be confirmed in open meeting.  
CARRIED**

The meeting concluded at 2.30 pm.

Chair:

Date: