

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.44AM ON WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST 2016 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.

PRESENT: Councillor D Morgan (Chair), Mayor W Gray, Councillors T Blunt, J Diver, J Howden, C Mackle, D Millton.

IN ATTENDANCE: A Oosthuizen (Chief Executive Officer), S Syme (Committee Secretary), M Hoggard, R Vaughan (District Planners).

APOLOGIES: Councillor G Harmon.
Moved by Councillor Howden, seconded by Mayor Gray and resolved that apologies be accepted.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

a) Resource Planning

Court mediation for the R J Ross consent had been attended.

Multiple people had expressed concern regarding the high base fees for recourse consent. The fees had been set by reviewing actual costs and actual time spent on consents as well as what other Councils were charging. Fees and charges were assessed annually and were also assessed to ensure they were fair and reasonable to the general ratepayer to ensure they were not paying for development. It was suggested that if base fees were too high people undertook work without obtaining consent.

b) District & Environmental Planning

Land and Water Regional Plan – Plan Change 4

Decisions on the Land and Water Plan – Plan Change 4 had been released by Environment Canterbury. Council's submission regarding further protection for small community drinking water supplies had been rejected. Council needed to decide if it was happy with the rules which had been put in place or whether it wished to make a formal appeal to the Environment court.

It was generally felt advice should be sought from Councils resource consent solicitor and then discussed this with the Chief Executive Officer. The decision, the reason for the decision and a copy of the legal opinion to be circulated to Elected Members.

Harbour Safety

The Cultural Impact Assessment was to be completed early September. Timing would be of the essence in terms of tenders for the work as the best time to undertake the work was between September and December with work commencing two hours after sunrise and two hours prior to sunset. Operators had requested work be undertaken early in the season. Writing of the tender document had commenced so that tendering could be undertaken as soon as consent was granted.

Concern was expressed regarding Council being unable to obtain a competitive price when estimates, which effectively set a price for work, were provided.

Freedom Camping

Information had been circulated on a site assessment approach to freedom camping. The issue for Council was that last time a survey had been undertaken regarding freedom camping 50% of respondents had felt a bylaw was unnecessary. Council did not have evidence or complaints on file to support the need for a bylaw. Site assessments were the first part of the process with regard to management of and education around freedom and responsible camping.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.08am.